

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 26th February 2015 at Retford Town Hall

Present:

Councillor J C Shephard (Chairman)

Councillors: D Challinor, D Foley, G Freeman, G A N Oxby, D Pidwell, J Sanger and T Taylor.

Officers: D Armiger (Agenda Item No. 6 only), G Blenkinsop, J Bowler (Agenda Item No. 12(a)), S Brown, C Crossland and R Theakstone.

Also present: Councillor J White (Agenda Item No. 6 only).

(Meeting commenced at 6.30pm.)

(The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, read out the Fire Evacuation Procedure, and also enquired as to whether any member of the public wished to film/record the meeting or any part thereof; no members of the public were present.)

109. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor D R Pressley.

110. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

(a) Members

There were no Declarations of Interest by Members.

(b) Officers

There were no Declarations of Interest by officers.

111. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20TH JANUARY 2015

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 20th January 2015 be approved.

112. MINUTES FOR ACTION AND IMPLEMENTATION

RESOLVED that the Minutes for Action and Implementation be received.

113. OUTSTANDING MINUTES LIST

RESOLVED that the Outstanding Minutes List be received.

114. FORWARD PLAN

Members had requested an update on the Local Plan process and the creation of a new Site Allocations document.

Councillor J White gave examples of other local authorities who do not have a Local Development Framework (LDF) in place. She advised that some authorities have

progressed their plans to the inspector stage and had to withdraw the plans, only 25 have had a LDF granted since 2012.

National Planning Policy Guidance states that evidence which dates back several years should be borne in mind and strategies may not adequately reflect current needs. It also states that the latest full assessment of housing needs should be considered. The Council's Core Strategy was adopted in 2011 prior to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

An appeal was allowed in Beckingham for a residential development on the grounds that the Council does not have a five year housing land supply. Examples of appeal decisions elsewhere were given. At Sevenoaks an appeal was allowed by the inspector noting that their core strategy was adopted in 2011 prior to the NPPF and therefore the housing allocation was not up to date.

Members were advised that the Council had significant doubt and felt that if submitted their plan would have been turned down. The only option was to withdraw the document and begin the process to develop a new Local Plan. In the interim, developers will submit applications and NPPF guidelines must be considered.

Neighbourhood Plans will reference the Core Strategy until is superseded by the New Local Plan. Adopted Plans will carry weight when determining planning applications.

Members were advised that the Council want the new LDF to take into account the needs and aspirations of communities. A number of consultation events have been held with Councillors and public consultation events are scheduled.

Members asked questions in relation to:

- The timescales
- How many houses need to be built to meet government targets
- Consultation events in rural areas
- Support offered by the Council to communities producing a Neighbourhood Plan
Funding available to produce a Neighbourhood Plan
- Brownfield and greenfield sites

In response to questions raised the Interim Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods advised that there are various processes to produce a local plan that are set out in national guidance, each stage takes around six months. Some work has recently been undertaken in Sheffield with an ambitious timescale of 18 months. Officers are looking at how realistic this would be and if it could be considered. He explained that the correct processes and consultation must be carried out.

The Council is currently behind on its housing target. The target is 425 dwellings per year, this is compared to a current rate of around 300 houses per year. The Council is working with the Sheffield City Region and D2N2 in terms of their economic plans and housing supply.

In relation to rural areas the Interim Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhood Services explained that the best mechanism in rural areas is a Neighbourhood Plan. A lot of Neighbourhood Plans are coming forward driven by the local community. Neighbourhood Plans provide some planning weight and give the communities some control.

The Council has two officers dedicated to neighbourhood planning. The officers take the community through the initial stages and help them to obtain grant funding. Some communities are using consultants; the Council is looking to see if it can provide those services. The Council hopes to be able to offer a beginning to end process.

An elected Member stressed the importance of consulting with all communities.

The Chairman thanked Councillor J White and D Armiger for their attendance.

(Councillor D Pidwell joined the meeting during the discussion of this item.)

RESOLVED that:

1. The Local Plan update be received.
2. The Forward Plan be noted.

115. CHANGE OF AGENDA ORDER

The Chairman advised that Agenda Item No. 12(a) would be considered next.

Other Decisions

116. REPORT(S) OF THE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE RESOURCES

(a) **Bars Contract Update**

Members were presented with an update on the current position of the hospitality contract. The hospitality contract for the running of the bars at Worksop and Retford Town Halls was put out to tender in 2013. Every Occasion Limited (EOC) was awarded the contract from August 2013. EOC pays the Council 10% commission on all bar sales. A breakdown of events from August 2013 to March 2014 and information on previous income was included in the report. EOC is due to submit their accounts for the current financial year in April 2015.

The Facilities Manager advised that there has been an increase in Town Hall bookings and EOC are providing a good service. Steps have been taken to promote the venues. The Council's Communications Team is producing a wedding promotion to be included in the Worksop Guardian. EOC includes the Town Halls on their publications and website. A floristry company also includes a link to the Town Halls on its website.

In response to questions raised, the Facilities Manager advised that EOC have been pleased with the bookings. They have raised concerns that some people are bringing their own refreshments to events and are concerned how this can be controlled. Security is also a concern and the possibility of a link with Pub Watch is being looked into.

The Chairman thanked J Bowler for his attendance.

RESOLVED that:

1. Information about the number of complaints received be circulated to Members.
2. The income details from BPL for the period Aug 12 – July 13 be sought and circulated to Members.
3. Information about the insurance cover be circulated to Members.
4. The number of bookings and income generated for the Council since EOC has taken over the contract be provided compared to BPL and the Council.
5. The report be noted.

Key Decisions

117. KEY DECISIONS OF CABINET – 12th FEBRUARY 2015

- (a) **Local Government Association Peer Review – Improvement and Transformation Plan (Key Decision No. 485)**

RESOLVED that Minute No. 113(a) of the Cabinet Meeting held on 12th February 2015 be endorsed.

(b) Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Combined Authority (Key Decision No.489)

RESOLVED that Minute No. 113(b) of the Cabinet Meeting held on 12th February 2015 be endorsed.

(c) Bassetlaw Transactional Web (Digital by Default) – Post Launch Update (Key Decision No. 383)

RESOLVED that Minute No. 114(a) of the Cabinet Meeting held on 12th February 2015 be endorsed.

(d) Children and Young People's Issues (Key Decision No. 486)

RESOLVED that Minute No. 114(b) of the Cabinet Meeting held on 12th February 2015 be endorsed.

(e) Budget Monitoring and Capital Programme Update Report to 31st December 2014 (Key Decision No. 478)

RESOLVED that Minute No. 115(a) of the Cabinet Meeting held on 12th February 2015 be endorsed.

(f) General Fund Revenue Budget 2015/16 to 2017/18 (Key Decision No. 479)

RESOLVED that Minute No. 115(b) of the Cabinet Meeting held on 12th February 2015 be endorsed.

(g) General Fund Capital Programme 2015/16 to 2019/20 (Key Decision No. 471)

RESOLVED that Minute No. 115(c) of the Cabinet Meeting held on 12th February 2015 be endorsed.

(h) Treasury Management Policy and Strategy 2015/16 to 2017/18 (Key Decision No. 480)

RESOLVED that Minute No. 115(d) of the Cabinet Meeting held on 12th February 2015 be endorsed.

(i) Capital Investment Strategy 2015/16 to 2019/20 (Key Decision No. 481)

RESOLVED that Minute No. 115(e) of the Cabinet Meeting held on 12th February 2015 be endorsed.

(j) Property Asset Management Plan 2015/16 to 2019/20 (Key Decision No. 482)

RESOLVED that Minute No. 115(f) of the Cabinet Meeting held on 12th February 2015 be endorsed.

(k) Abbey Grove, Worksop – Development Options (Key Decision No. 484)

RESOLVED that Minute No. 116(a) of the Cabinet Meeting held on 12th February 2015 be endorsed.

(l) Community Infrastructure Levy – 'Local Infrastructure Money' (Key Decision No. 493)

RESOLVED that Minute No. 117(a) of the Cabinet Meeting held on 12th February 2015 be endorsed.

(m) Local Economic Partnership Growth Plans Update (Key Decision No. 494)

RESOLVED that Minute No. 117(b) of the Cabinet Meeting held on 12th February 2015 be endorsed.

118. WAIVE OF CALL-IN/ DECISION TAKEN WITHOUT SUFFICIENT NOTICE

(a) Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Combined Authority (Key Decision No. 489)

Members were advised of a waive of call-in. Membership of Bassetlaw District Council to the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Combined Authority was discussed and endorsed at full Council on 17th February 2015.

RESOLVED that the waive of call-in of the Delegated Member Decision be endorsed.

Other Decisions

119. REPORTING MINUTES

(a) Health and Public Services Sub-Committee – 12th January 2015

Members commented on the Nottinghamshire Integrated Recovery Service presentation and the performance data to be presented to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee.

The Director of Corporate Resources advised that performance information will be presented to the County Substance Misuse Strategy Group. The Strategy Group understand the differences moving from different models of service provision and that some areas need to catch-up. The model focusses on recovery and not maintenance. The Bassetlaw Newark and Sherwood Community Safety Partnership has piloted a 12 step recovery model which provides peer support and is in addition to the CRI services. Bassetlaw is the only area in Nottinghamshire that have has the benefit of this additional project. The Director of Corporate Resources advised that she will monitor progress and advise the Sub-Committee when it is appropriate for an update.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 12th January 2015 be received.

120. POSSIBLE CALL-IN OF DECISIONS MADE BY CABINET OR BY CABINET MEMBERS

None.

121. REFERRAL(S) FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

(a) Review of East Midlands Ambulance Service

Members were presented with a referral from the Health and Public Services Sub-Committee. The Corporate Development and Policy Manager advised of positive developments since the review – an additional dedicated vehicle for Bassetlaw based in Harworth and serving primarily the north corridor of Bassetlaw and co response with retained fire fighters in Harworth. Members were asked to endorse the recommendations within the report.

RESOLVED that the recommendations within the report be endorsed.

122. REPORT(S) OF THE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE RESOURCES

(a) Q3 Complaints 2014/15

Members were presented with a summary of complaints dealt with by the Council during Quarter 3 which covers the period October – December 2014. A summary of the complaints received was appended to the report. An example of a complaint received and the outcome was given.

RESOLVED that the Quarterly Complaints Report for Quarter 3 2014/15 be received.

(b) Overview and Scrutiny Committee Programme 2014/15

Members were provided with an overview of the meeting programme for the Committee for 2014/15.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

SECTION B – ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION IN PRIVATE

Key Decisions

None.

Other Decisions

123. WAIVE OF CALL IN/DECISION TAKEN WITHOUT SUFFICIENT NOTICE

None.

124. POSSIBLE CALL IN OF DECISIONS MADE BY CABINET OR BY CABINET MEMBERS

None.

125. ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS TO BE URGENT

The Chairman advised that it was G Blenkinsop's last meeting as she is leaving the Authority. He gave his personal thanks for her professionalism, support and preparation. He thanked her and wished her well on behalf on the Committee.

Councillor G A N Oxby gave his appreciation and commented that G Blenkinsop had been an outstanding officer, colleague and friend.

As there was no other business to be discussed, the Chairman closed the meeting.

(Meeting closed at 7.45pm.)