

CABINET

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, 4th December 2018 at Worksop Town Hall

Present: Councillor S A Greaves (Chair),
Councillors K Dukes, J Evans, J Leigh, D Pidwell, S Scotthorne and
S Shaw

Advisory Member: Councillor H Brand.

Liaison Members: Councillor H Burton, T Critchley and S Fielding.

Officers: B Alderton-Sambrook, S Brown, D Hill, C Hopkinson, L Prime, N Taylor,
R Theakstone and S Wormald.

(The meeting opened at 6.30pm.)

(The Chair welcomed all to the meeting and read out the Fire Evacuation Procedure. He also enquired as to whether any member of the public wished to film the meeting or any part thereof; this was not taken up).

75. QUESTION TIME - PUBLIC

Council Procedure Rules were suspended for fifteen minutes to allow questions from the public; the following question was asked:

Hermn Warmington and Abena Marfo, Worksop Junior Council:

“How can the Council stop littering?”

The Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods responded that littering is a really important issue for young people and the Council. She commented that she is not sure that littering can be stopped however it can be reduced. Last year fly tipping, sweeping and other cleaning collected 2,411 tonnes of rubbish that could have been out in bins or taken to the tip.

The Council are doing things to reduce littering. Letters have recently been written to all schools in the District asking if they want to join in the spring clean which takes place every year.

In Worksop town centre there is a lot of rubbish which comes from smoking, the message needs to get across to people that cigarette ends are still rubbish and the Council are trying to educate people.

Fixed penalty notices of £100 are issued if someone is caught littering. Currently the Council do not have a lot of staff to enforce this however there is a report on tonight's Agenda to look at a pilot for an external company to carry out this work.

The Council has cleaning equipment to clean the town centres and the sides of the roads. The parks and town centres are cleaned every morning. New bins have also been installed to encourage people not to drop litter.

She commented that the Junior Council are the next generation and she was pleased that they have attended the meeting and that littering is important to them. She suggested that they tell their parents, schools and others the importance of putting litter in the bin.

The Chair thanked Hermn Warmington and Abena Marfo for attending the meeting and asking a question. He thanked the young people for taking part in the Junior Council and commented that he is always keen for them to come to meetings in the future.

76. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors T Taylor and J White.

77. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

(a) Members

Councillor J Evans declared non-pecuniary interests in Agenda Items No. 17(b) (Land Sale of Common Lane, Harworth) and 17(c) (Commercial Development and Funding Proposal). She remained in the meeting.

(b) Officers

D Armiger disclosable pecuniary interests in Agenda Items No. 17(b) (Land Sale of Common Lane, Harworth) and 17(c) (Commercial Development and Funding Proposal). He left the meeting during the Items.

C Hopkinson and S Wormald declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in Agenda Item No. 19(a), Pay and Grading Review. They left the meeting during the Item.

78. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12TH OCTOBER 2018

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 12th October 2018 be approved.

79. MINUTES FOR ACTION AND IMPLEMENTATION

RESOLVED that the Minutes for Action and Implementation be received.

80. OUTSTANDING MINUTES LIST

RESOLVED that the Outstanding Minutes List be received.

81. FORWARD PLAN

RESOLVED that the Forward Plan be approved.

SECTION A – ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION IN PUBLIC

Key Decisions

82. REPORT(S) OF THE CABINET MEMBER – CORPORATE SERVICES – COUNCILLOR K DUKES

(a) Welfare Reform Update (Key Decision No. 556)

Members were presented with a report which provided an update on the Welfare Reform agenda and the Council's response to Welfare Reform.

The Cabinet Member for Corporate Services commented that the implementation of Universal Credit (UC) has been difficult and the roll out continues to have issues. He advised that:

- The Council has continued to provide support to vulnerable people who need help to claim UC or who are having difficulties managing the transition. The support is provided by Customer Service staff and the Money Advice Team, based in the Benefits section. The service is partly funded by the DWP. On the 1st October, local authorities were notified that this funding will cease from 1st April 2019 and Citizen's Advice will deliver Universal Support. There is a concern that the loss of knowledge will have a detrimental impact on claimants going forwards and the Council are currently in discussions with the CAB.
- Attention was drawn to the figures at 3.3 of the report which highlights the issues:
 - There are 554 households currently on Universal Credit.
 - 443 of the households are in arrears.
 - UC households represent only 8% of tenancies but accounts for 31% of the current rent arrears debt.
- There is an additional pressure also on foodbanks. There has been a 12.5% increase this year to date on parcels issued.
- There are a number of wards in Bassetlaw where child poverty is above average, this data is from two years ago and is likely to have increased.
- A letter to the Secretary of State has been drafted with officers.

He thanked frontline officers for the great help that they provide claimants.

Members made comments in relation to:

- The issues highlighted.
- The disappointing child poverty figures for Bassetlaw.
- The failure of Universal Credit.
- The CAB's capacity.
- The support and help provided by officers.
- The loss of half a post in the Customer Services Team.
- The timescale for the delay of Universal Credit.

Options, Risks and Reasons for Recommendations

Other than dealing with its statutory responsibilities through the administration of benefits, housing services and housing needs, the Council can choose to do little else to respond to the potential impacts of welfare reform.

The Council has already determined that it has a much wider remit to play in responding to these changes, as indicated in the Corporate Plan. Its primary response is through initiatives to encourage and support local business and educational development. These all require partnership working as the Council does not hold all the answers, or responsibilities. The impact on individuals, families and communities as a result of financial exclusion is of direct importance to the Council. It is on this basis that the proposals have been presented for consideration.

RESOLVED that:

1. The actions taken by the Council and its partners to respond to welfare changes, particularly about Universal Credit be noted.
2. Joint working with the Bassetlaw CAB in the future provision of Universal Support be supported.
3. A letter be sent to the Secretary of State to express concern of how this matter has been handled and its inconsistency with the feedback received locally from the DWP about the

quality of the support and partnership work and to ensure that the level of support does not drop below that currently available.

83. REPORT(S) OF THE CABINET MEMBER – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – COUNCILLOR J WHITE

(a) Approval for Consultation on Revised Statement of Community Involvement (Key Decision No. 519)

Members were presented with a report which sought approval to consult on the revised Statement of Community Involvement (SCI).

The SCI sets out the Planning Service's approach to public consultation on preparation of new planning policy documents. It also looks at how people are consulted about planning applications that the District Council is responsible for determining.

The SCI has been revised and updated, to account for changing legislation. This includes the requirement for SCIs to set-out how the Council, as local planning authority, will support groups undertaking neighbourhood planning.

Options, Risks and Reasons for Recommendations

Option 1; Update the document

The current SCI (adopted 2016) is not fully compliant with Section 6 of the Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017, namely the requirement for SCI's to set out how the Council as local planning authority will support groups undertaking neighbourhood planning; the revised document seeks to address this, alongside other refinements and will prevent a challenge. The proposed consultation will allow views to be sought on the draft document, ensuring that it meets the needs of all parties. The comments received through the consultation will then enable a publication version of the document to be produced (for subsequent Cabinet approval).

Option 2; Do not update the document

This option will leave the Council open to challenge through a lack of compliance with the Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017.

RESOLVED that the commencement of consultation on the revised Statement of Community Involvement be approved.

84. REPORT(S) OF THE CABINET MEMBER – FINANCE – COUNCILLOR J EVANS

(a) Fees and Charges 2019-2020 (Key Decision No. 711)

Members were presented with a report which sought to determine the level of fees and charges for 2019/20 with the Corporate Charging Policy and to adopt the latest Corporate Charging Policy effective November 2018 for 3 years.

The Cabinet Member for Finance advised that Fees and Charges are a significant income stream for the Council. The Corporate Charging Policy forms the basis of all fees and charges set within the Council. It establishes clear principles for charging, and integrates charging into service management linking with corporate objectives.

The report detailed:

- The Corporate Charging Policy
- Pricing Principles
- Fees and Charges for 2019/20
- New Charges for 2019/20
- Housing Services

In response to a question raised regarding the Green Waste scheme Members were advised that as a new service the fee was set for three years. A nil % increase to the fees for 19/20 is therefore proposed, and a 6.67% increase to be applied in 2020/21 which equates to £2.

The Chair thanked officers for the work undertaken to produce the report.

Options, Risks and Reasons for Recommendations

To adopt the revised Corporate Charging Policy appended to this report.

Not to adopt the revised Corporate Charging Policy appended to this report.

To accept the recommendations and adopt the fees and charges set out in accordance with the revised Corporate Charging Policy and its underlying principles, as detailed in the Fees & Charges schedule 2019/20 appended to this report.

Not to adopt the fees and charges set out in accordance with the revised Corporate Charging Policy and its underlying principles.

When setting fees and charges, attention needs to be paid to the level those fees are set at. They need to support the underlying principles of the Corporate Charging Policy, but with an aim to secure maximum income levels for the Council. Pitching the fee and charge at the correct level is vital. Too high and it may encourage people to find an alternative service provider meaning the Council could lose income, too low and the Council would not be recovering its costs.

RESOLVED that:

1. The revised Corporate Charging Policy be adopted.
2. The individual fees and charges as set out in the Fees & Charges schedule 2019/20 appended to the report be approved, subject to the ratification of the licensing fees by the Licensing Committee (which has the constitutional responsibility for setting licensing fees).
3. That the new fees applicable from 1st April 2019 be noted, as detailed in Fees & Charges schedule 2019/20 appended to the report.
4. That the level of concessions and discounts to be applied to any relevant in year new or amended charges be delegated to the relevant Head of Service and the Head of Finance & Property to agree (para 3.7 & 3.9).

(b) Budget Monitoring Quarter 2 2018/19 (Key Decision No. 713)

Members were presented with:

- The spending position for the period 1st April to 30th September for the Council's General Fund, Housing Revenue and Capital Programme.
- Updates on any significant variances from the approved budgets.
- Information on the proposed resourcing of the Capital Programme and the level of Council capital resources available, including capital receipts.
- Updates on Treasury Management budget issues.

- The regular quarterly update on performance against the approved Treasury Management Prudential Indicators for the period ending 30th September 2018.

Members' approval was sought for the new additions, variations and re-profiling to the existing Capital Programme.

The Chair thanked officers for their ongoing work.

Options, Risks and Reasons for Recommendations

The budget monitoring section of this report provides Managers' forecasts and is for information only. There are always some risks that the actual outturn variance could be substantially different from that currently shown, (mainly due to the volatility of income), but the report sets out officers projections, and as such the financial risks that may occur by 31st March 2019.

The Council has responsibility for delivering its Capital Programme on time and not doing so could undermine the achievement of its objectives. The bi-monthly capital monitoring meeting will continue into the future.

RESOLVED that:

1. The position with regard to revenue and capital budget monitoring be noted.
2. The proposed resourcing of the Capital Programme and the level of capital receipts currently available to fund any further capital expenditure be noted (paragraphs 3.22 – 3.27).
3. The quarterly update on performance against the approved Treasury Management Prudential Indicators for the period ending 30th September 2018 (Appendix 5) be noted.
4. The weekly investment balances made throughout the second quarter of the financial year, in conjunction with the Security, Liquidity and Yield benchmarking data for the Council (Appendix 6) be noted.
5. The Treasury Management Strategy and Investment Strategy mid-year review report (Appendix 7) be noted.

85. REPORT(S) OF THE CABINET MEMBER – HEALTH AND WELLBEING – COUNCILLOR S SHAW

(a) Children and Young People's Action Plan Annual Update (Key Decision No. 501)

Members were provided with an update on progress against the Council's Children and Young People's Plan over the last year.

The Cabinet Member for Health and Well-being advised that the five outcomes from 'Every Child Matters' form the basis of the Action Plan for the Council. A summary of activity against the objectives was given. She thanked the Active Communities Team for their excellent work and all officers who support events.

The Chair commented that work and engagement with young people continues to grow, opportunities to develop the agenda are always taken. He recognised the input from officers across the Authority and Members to support young people.

Councillor S Fielding thanked the young people involved in the piece of work with the Charter Trustees and the Royal British Legion for their hard work hand writing over 500 poppy's for remembrance day that were displayed around Worksop.

Options, Risks and Reasons for Recommendations

The report is presented as an update on activity.

RESOLVED that the progress of activity against the Children and Young People's Plan be noted.

(b) Equality Objectives 2016-20 – Progress Update (Key Decision No. 502)

The report provided an update on progress against the equality objectives for the authority for 2016-2020.

The Cabinet Member for Health and Well-being advised that within the list of the nine protected characteristics listed within the report, sex had been omitted and gender duplicated. A summary of activity over the past twelve months was given.

The Cabinet Member thanked officers who have taken part in Bassetlaw Conversations.

Options, Risks and Reasons for Recommendations

This report is presented in line with Cabinet's previous decision that it receives six-monthly updates and an Annual Report on progress against the Equality Objectives.

The authority is required to approve and publish an Annual Report in respect of our activity in delivery our duty under the Equality Act 2010.

Cabinet has the opportunity to consider whether or not to recommend to Council that definition of anti-Semitism as set out by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance is formally adopted.

RESOLVED that:

1. The Annual Report be noted and approved for publication, subject to editorial amendments, as an accurate record on the outcomes delivered against the Equality Objectives.
2. That the definition of anti-Semitism as set out by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance be referred to Council with the recommendation that it be formally adopted.

86. REPORT(S) OF THE CABINET MEMBER – HOUSING – COUNCILLOR S SCOTTHORNE

(a) Supported Living Scheme Update (Key Decision No. 653)

Members were provided with an update on the success of the first phase of the Community Living Network Project in Bassetlaw.

The report demonstrated a case to continue to support the network in partnership with the County Council and Nottingham Community Housing Association and to seek the ring-fenced use of up to 4 no. further units of accommodation for the same programme.

Members were advised that Bassetlaw currently has a total of 24 supported living services with a total of 137 tenancies, where support packages are funded by social care or a combination of social care and health care. It had been identified that a number of the tenants in these services do not always require the continuing intensive level of service they currently receive and if supported appropriately, could move into independent tenancies creating capacity within the 24 hour services for the more vulnerable clients who do need greater levels of assistive support.

The target group for this scheme is adults with eligible social care needs, (for example learning disabilities, mental health difficulties who are currently in existing 24-hour care supported living services).

It is proposed to realise four further units as part of this programme follow the success of the scheme where residents are supporting each other.

Members commented on the excellent initiative.

The Chair commented that he was pleased to support the initiative however there must be support available for those that need it.

Options, Risks and Reasons for Recommendations

Option 1 – Do not allow the release of 4 no. low demand units for supported independent living.

There is no obligation for BDC to host the scheme or any timeframes associated with the release of stock for this purpose. However, a clear ‘need’ for local people within the District has been established.

Option 2 – Given the positive outcomes to date, Cabinet allow the release of up to 4 no. further units for single person accommodation to support the intended network.

This provision will free residential places for individuals who are in greater need within Bassetlaw. It is highlighted that single person accommodation is the lowest demand stock.

Research into similar ‘keyring’ schemes hosted by neighbour Local Authorities shows high levels of success rate in tenancy sustainment.

Risks

Although Notts CC have identified a further 8 individuals who reside in Bassetlaw in residential supported accommodation; there is no guarantee that these individuals will meet the local connection within the BDC Allocations Policy, however it is likely that the properties in question would be longer term voids and be eligible for persons via Band F where there is no Local Connection criteria. These individuals are specially selected for the scheme and are already established service users.

RESOLVED that:

1. The recommendations set out at 5.2, option 2, be agreed to release 4 no. units of single person’s accommodation in close proximity to those already successfully established.
2. The Community Living Scheme to be continually monitored with feedback on an annual basis to Cabinet Members.

(b) Priory Court Independent Living Scheme (Key Decision No. 732)

Members were updated on the progress of building Priory Court Independent Living Scheme. The report also sought agreement in principle for additional charges for running and maintenance of the scheme.

Priory Court Independent Living Scheme is a new development under construction on the former Abbey Grove Sheltered Scheme Worksop. Priory Court will be a flagship new build

scheme of 52 units over 4 floors comprising a mix of 1 and 2 bedroom flats with various facilities.

The Cabinet Member for Housing advised that given the additional facilities for residents proposed at Priory Court the general running costs are anticipated to be greater than for other schemes across the District and one of the key additional cost will be the employment of two staff to support residents.

At present it is not clear what the full additional costs would be for the improved facilities. The cost of these staff and ongoing running costs can be covered by adding on a service charge to the weekly rent, most of which may be covered by housing benefit where applicable to individual tenants. The proposed charges would be presented to Cabinet as part of a future report.

In response to questions raised the Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods advised that the service charge would not be profit making and would be under constant review. Residents would elect to go into the facility and the charges for the additional benefits would be made clear. There are similar independent schemes that charge substantially more.

Options, Risks and Reasons for Recommendations

There are alternative options to charge a weekly rent only and subsidise the running costs and staffing from other income within the housing revenue account. However, the risk of this option is that all other tenants will be subsidising the enhanced facilities and places extra burden onto the housing revenue account.

This is not considered to be acceptable as the residents of Priory Court should pay for the improved facilities at Priory Court. The reasons for recommending a charge for running costs and staffing are as detailed above.

RESOLVED that:

1. The ongoing progress of construction of Priory Court be acknowledged and the operation of a charge added to the weekly rent to cover the running costs and staffing be approved in principle.
2. A further report be brought back to Members detailing the service charges for Priory Court, which will include costed and evaluated staffing requirements.

87. REPORT(S) OF THE CABINET MEMBER – NEIGHBOURHOODS – COUNCILLOR J LEIGH

(a) Environmental Enforcement Pilot (Key Decision No. 723)

Members were presented with a report which proposed that the Council engage in a one-year Pilot Project in respect of Enforcement in partnership with a commercial organisation with the aim of increasing visibility of enforcement throughout the District, and particularly within the towns and parks.

This project would be assessed during operation, with formal consultation to also take place with the public during the pilot period, with a view to then formally tendering for a longer period if it is deemed a successful approach for the future.

Members were advised that a number of other Local Authorities use a similar approach. The pilot would be largely funded by income generated, a small budget of £10,000 is proposed. The Council want to work with an ethical company who do not pay performance related pay.

In response to questions raised Members were advised that the scheme would be publicised before it is introduced. In relation to covering rural areas it is a possibility but costs would need to be covered, leaflets could be an option to highlight officer presence.

Options, Risks and Reasons for Recommendations

The Authority could decide to maintain the status quo and not to carry out a pilot environmental enforcement scheme. There would be no direct financial risk from a decision of this nature, however there could be a risk to business from a reduced footfall if residents and visitors do not perceive the towns as a place they want to be.

The Authority could decide to recruit and train its own staff to operate a pilot scheme. This brings significant financial and reputational risks as it is likely that the costs of trying to run a pilot in house would exceed any scheme run in partnership with an external enforcement company, and the Authority would bear all the risk of any difficulties associated with the recruitment, training and retention of such temporary staff during the operation of the pilot.

The Authority could determine to carry out an environmental enforcement pilot in partnership with an external enforcement company and cap its financial risk at £10,000 for the pilot scheme, and also benefit from the expertise and experience of such a partnership to minimise other reputational risks for the duration of the pilot. This approach could ensure that the outcomes identified in 3.7 above are incorporated into any operational SLA or contract.

RESOLVED that:

1. The Environmental Enforcement Pilot be approved for 2019/20 to be operated in partnership with an external enforcement company in line with the identified outcomes contained within 3.7 of the report.
2. A budget of £10,000 to the project for 2019/20 be approved.
3. Delegated authority be given to the Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods and the Head of Neighbourhoods to agree the contractual arrangements and extent of the Pilot.
4. A consultation exercise to be run in 2019 be approved to determine public and business perception of the operation of the enforcement approach being piloted with a view to reporting back to Cabinet in late 2019 / early 2020 on the feasibility of a permanent scheme.

88. REPORT(S) OF THE CABINET MEMBER – POLICY, STRATEGY AND COMMUNICATIONS – COUNCILLOR S GREAVES

(a) Armed Forces Covenant Action Plan (Key Decision No. 716)

The report gave an update on the progress against the Council's Armed Forces Covenant commitment to sought approval for proposed future actions.

The Chair acknowledged the work of Members and officers and commented on the work with other local authorities and the Royal British Legion. He commented on events that had taken place over the past year and the fantastic work with the armed forces community and Royal British Legion.

Members thanked Councillor S Fielding for her role in the Royal British Legion and raising the profile.

Options, Risks and Reasons for Recommendations

As the Council has already committed to the Armed Forces Covenant the action plan is consistent with those commitments.

RESOLVED that:

1. That the development of the Plan, as part of the Council's ongoing commitment to the Armed Forces Covenant, and its associated actions, be supported.
 2. An annual report on progress against the action Plan be submitted to Cabinet.
 3. That Council, in recognition of their eminent services to the people of the District over many years, be recommended to confer the Honorary Freedom of the District on the local branches of the Royal British Legion and to make the necessary arrangements.
 4. Thanks be recorded to Councillor S Fielding for her role in the Royal British Legion and raising the profile.
- (b) Council Plan Update and Performance Indicator Outturn Report – Q2 2018/19 (Key Decision No. 718)

The report updated Members on progress against the Council Plan priorities and underpinning ambitions and an analysis of the Performance Indicator Outturn for Q2 2017/18 for Members to consider performance in Q2 2017/18.

Options, Risks and Reasons for Recommendations

In presenting the Council Plan Update report to Members we ensure Portfolio-holders take responsibility and are committed to ensuring the Council is delivering against the Council Plan priorities and ambitions.

Monitoring of performance allows us to respond to both under-performance and over-performance. The risk associated with the failure of this monitoring is that poor performance may be adversely affected without regular scrutiny.

RESOLVED that:

1. The contents of the report and appendices on the Council Plan update be noted.
2. The contents of the report and appendices analysing performance for Q2 2018/19 be noted.

Other Decisions

89. REPORT(S) OF THE CABINET MEMBER – NEIGHBOURHOODS – COUNCILLOR J LEIGH

(a) Registration of Registered Parks and Gardens

The report sought approval to apply to Historic England to register Kings' Park, and the Canch and Memorial Gardens, as Registered Parks and Gardens. Both the Parks are sited within conservation areas already and registration would provide additional protection to these important open spaces for the future.

Officers have been working on a number of Heritage Lottery Funding applications for the Parks within the District. There is a concern that being non-registered parks and gardens may impact upon on any future applications.

By applying to Historic England to register the parks this does not threaten any future development or improvements to the parks, and neither will it incur any financial strain on the Council. The main reason for registering the parks is to hopefully unlock further funding potential to allow more investments to the public parks for the enjoyment of the communities that use them.

Options, Risks and Reasons for Recommendations

Whilst it would be possible to progress the Heritage Lottery Funding without registering the parks with Historic England this would increase the risk that the Council may be unsuccessful in securing significant sums of funding towards the improvements of the parks because they are not formally registered.

RESOLVED that:

1. The proposal be approved in respect of The Canch and Memorial Gardens in Worksop, and an application is made to Historic England to formally designate this park as a Registered Park and Garden.
2. The proposal be approved in respect of Kings' Park in Retford and an application is made to Historic England to formally designate this park as a Registered Park and Garden.

90. REPORTING MINUTES

(a) Health and Safety Committee – 11th July 2018

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Health and Safety Committee held on 11th July 2018 be received.

(b) Joint Employee Council – 11th July 2018

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Health and Safety Committee held on 11th July 2018 be received.

91. LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RESOLVED that, in accordance with Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, and after considering the public interest test as set out by the officer in the body of the report, Members agreed that the following items of business involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 and therefore, in accordance with Section 100A of the Act, the press and public be excluded from the meeting:

Agenda Item No. 17(a) – (a) Sale of Land at Junction of Bridge St. and Newgate St. Worksop (Key Decision No. 667) - Paragraph 2

Agenda Item No. 17(b) – Land Sale of Common Lane, Harworth (Key Decision No. 621) – Paragraph 2

Agenda Item No. 17(c) - Commercial Development and Funding Proposal (Key Decision No. 730) – Paragraph 3

Agenda Item No. 18(a) - Review of Environmental Health Restructure – Paragraph 2

Agenda Item No. 19(a) – Pay and Grading Review – Paragraphs 2 and 4

SECTION B – ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION IN PRIVATE

Key Decisions

92. REPORT(S) OF THE CABINET MEMBER – FINANCE – COUNCILLOR J EVANS

(a) Sale of Land at Junction of Bridge St. and Newgate St. Worksop (Key Decision No.667)

The report updated Members with regard to the sale of land at the junction of Bridge Street and Newgate Street, Worksop.

Options, Risks and Reasons for Recommendations

The offer as detailed within the report be accepted with an obligation in the contract that they will actively market the A3 unit for a period of up to 3 years after which if they fail to find a tenant they may approach the Council with suggested alternative uses for the space.

The other options would be to pursue an agreement with the company who made the other offer by further negotiating the terms of the initial offer or to refuse the offer and leave the land vacant.

The land has been derelict for some time and is an unused asset, which is not providing a return to the Council. An option do not sell the land would mean this situation would continue.

There is less risk to the Council from the recommended option.

RESOLVED that the site be sold as detailed in 6.1 of the report.

(D Armiger left the meeting)

(b) Sale of Land at Common Lane, Haworth (Key Decision No. 621)

The report sought approval for the sale of the land as shown on the plan appended to the report.

Options, Risks and Reasons for Recommendations

The Council could accept the offer as detailed within the report or reject it and dispose of the land on the open market.

If the offer was to be accepted there would be associated income streams generated in terms of a share of the development profit and finance charges from a loan made to the development company.

RESOLVED that the site be sold as detailed within the report subject to the report from the Head of Finance and Property confirming that in overall terms the offer represents best value to the Council with regard to para 6.2 of the report.

(c) Commercial Development and Funding Proposal (Key Decision No. 730)

The report sought approval to invest shareholder equity and make a commercial loan to fund the development of a residential site at Common Lane, Harworth.

In response to questions raised Members were advised that any planning application would be subject to the normal planning process. The Senior Solicitor advised that the Council has well established protocols for planning applications where the Local Authority is the applicant.

Options, Risks and Reasons for Recommendations

Any development exposes the Council to a range of risks. These include costs and sales values, which are estimates subject to variation for a number of reasons; variations in local housing demand and the wider national economic position. There are a number of measures that have been put in place to mitigate these risks. The Operational team has developed a robust Business Plan, and specialist legal and professional advice has been taken where appropriate.

There is some risk with making a commercial loan to a private company although the conditions in the loan agreement should minimise his risk.

Should the development not proceed to completion as planned the Council will be well placed through its loan to the company to recover both the land and the work completed on site.

In assessing the risk of entering into any scheme, the Council needs to consider the benefits arising from the scheme. There is a clear and significant financial benefit and the Council will secure the prompt and controlled development of a key site stimulating house building and economic growth in the District.

RESOLVED that:

1. The investment of shareholder equity funded from the Invest to Save Reserve be approved as detailed within the report.
2. The commercial loan as detailed within the report be approved on commercial terms benchmarked from the HCA or alternative commercial source.
3. Delegated authority be given to the Head of Finance and Property Services to enter any such agreements to facilitate the equity and loan investments outlined in the report.

Other Decisions

93. REPORT(S) OF THE CABINET MEMBER – NEIGHBOURHOODS – COUNCILLOR J LEIGH

(a) Review of Environmental Health Restructure

The report detailed the consultation process on the proposals to review the structure of the Environmental Health Service, and sought approval to implement the proposals.

Options, Risks and Reasons for Recommendations

Option 1

There is the option to leave the service structures as they are, but this would be a missed opportunity to focus resources into priority areas, and provide for less ability to respond to the ever-increasing demand pressures on the services, and also to further pressures from responding to failure demand.

Option 2

To agree to the proposed changes as set out within the report. The intention of these amendments is to deliver a structure that will enable services and officers to cope effectively with priorities and demands going forwards.

RESOLVED that Option 2 be approved, to agree the proposed changes to staffing structures as set out within the report.

94. REPORT(S) OF THE CABINET MEMBER – POLICY, STRATEGY AND COMMUNICATIONS – COUNCILLOR S GREAVES

(B Alderton-Sambrook, S Brown, C Hopkinson, L Prime and S Wormald left the meeting)

(a) Pay and Grading Review

The report sought approval to the implementation of Single Status in Bassetlaw District Council, via a collective agreement with the trade unions effective from 1 April 2019.

Options, Risks and Reasons for Recommendations

To approve the implementation of the Single Status Agreement via a collective agreement with the trade unions, subject to a positive trade union vote by employees to accept the proposals.

Not to approve the implementation of the Single Status Agreement. This will mean that the requirement to implement will remain an outstanding legal obligation and corporate priority, still to be completed. It will also mean that additional work will need to be undertaken to identify how to assimilate employees from the existing to the new national pay spine, prior to the implementation of the Single Status Agreement at a future date.

RESOLVED that:

1. The implementation of the pay and grading proposals be approved under a collective agreement with the trade unions (UNISON, GMB and UNITE subject to confirmation) subject to a positive trade union vote by employees to accept the proposals.
2. The collective agreement incorporates the proposals set out in Appendices 1 and 2 of the report.
3. The collective agreement implements the Single Status Agreement with effect from 1 April 2019.

95. ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS TO BE URGENT

As there was no other urgent business, the Chair closed the meeting.

(Meeting closed at 9.00pm.)