



RURAL, ECONOMIC & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

3RD September 2014

Present:

Councillor P. Baguley, G.E Botterill, J. Douglas, E. Holmes, V. Manderson, J. Moulding, J.T Orson (Chairman), J.B. Rhodes , M.R. Sheldon.

As Observer

Councillor P. Chandler, J. Simpson

Chief Executive, Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods, Central Services Manager,
Head of Regulatory Services, Corporate Policy Manager, Town Centre Managers (LB and SC), Environmental Protection & Safety Manager
Administrative Assistant for Communities and Neighbourhoods.

R13. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Hutchinson, Bush and Moncrieff.

R14. MINUTES

The public minutes from the meeting of the 4th June 2014 were confirmed and authorised to be signed by the Chairman with the following to be noted.

R15. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Rhodes declared a personal interest in relation to any issues concerning the Leicestershire County Council by virtue of him being a County Councillor. He also declared a bias to item 15,16 and 17 and stated that he would not take part in these discussion due to being part of the decisions at County level.

Councillor Orson declared a personal interest in relation to any issues concerning the Leicestershire County Council by virtue of him being a County Councillor. In relation to item 15,16 and 17, Councillor Orson stated that he would not be part of the discussions at county level and therefore would take stay in this meeting for these items.

R16. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

There were no recommendations from other Committees.

R17. UPDATE ON DECISIONS

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods submitted an update on decisions from the previous meeting of the 8th January 2014 and 5th March 2014, which was noted by the committee.

R18. TOURISM- STEAM TREND REPORT

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods submitted a report asking Members to note and comment on the Tourism Scarborough Tourism Economic Activity Monitor (STEAM) trend report for Melton 2009-2013.

The Town Centre Manager explained to members that previously STEAM report have a year on year comparison however this report outlines the performance of tourism during the period of 2009-2013.

The Town Centre Manager (LB) stated that there has been a positive increase across the board and that Melton is showing good economic recovery since 2013.

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods gave a presentation outlining the STEAM reports findings in the following areas; economic impact, visitor numbers, employment and sectoral analysis.

Discussion took place about the historical promotion of the town and the Town Centre Manager explained that the Heritage Trail and the audio heritage trail have had very good feedback from visitors to the town.

RESOLVED that the Scarborough Tourism Economic Activity Monitor (STEAM) trend report for Melton 2009-2013 be noted.

R19. MELTON MOWBRAY- FAIR TRADE TOWN

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods submitted a report to update Members on the Towns Fairtrade status and progress over the last two years.

The Town Centre Manager (SC) brought Members attention to para 3.0 outlining the background of the councils Fairtrade Town Status. The Town Centre Manager also stated that the Fairtrade town steering group have been increasing the number of outlets that sell/use Fairtrade products in the town.

It was noted by the Members that previously this report had been asking for renewal of the Fairtrade status within the town, and that this renewal is to support the borough status.

RESOLVED that the Melton Mowbray Fairtrade Town Steering Group be supported in their 2014/15 renewal application to renew Melton Mowbray's Fairtrade status

R20. AMT TOWN CENTRE BENCHMARKING REPORT 2013

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods submitted a report on the AMT Town Centre Benchmarking Report 2013, comparing performance against comparable large market towns and against national statistics.

The Town Centre Manager (SC) explain that unlike previous benchmarking reports reporting a year on year trend, this paper makes comparisons between Melton and other similar large towns as well as the national average.

Members attention was brought to para 3.6 Consumer and Business Perception reporting that 91% of businesses expected their turnover to remain the same or increase in the next 12 months.

The Town Centre Manager stated that this reports key findings will be used to shape future action plans.

Discussion took place about Town centre car parking signage. The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods stated that the car parking strategy will take into account car park accessibility, signage and the split between long and short stay car parks.

RESOLVED that the AMT Town Centre Benchmarking Report 2013 be noted.

R21. BUDGET MONITORING APRIL TO JUNE 2014

The Head of Central Services submitted a report to provide information on the actual expenditure and income incurred on this committees services compared to the latest approved budget for the period 1st April to 30th June 2014.

The Central Services Manager brought Members attention to para 3.2 summarising the councils overall position. Attention was also drawn to 3.6 Overspends and underspends.

RESOLVED that the financial position on each of this committees services to 30th June be noted.

R22. CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING APRIL TO JULY 2014

RESOLVED that the progress made on each capital scheme be noted.

R23. **REVIEW OF CHARGES 2015/16**

The Head of Central Services submitted a report to provide information on the various fees and charges that are made by this committee and to recommend changes to these charges to operate from 1st April 2015.

The Central Services Manager brought Members attention to Appendix A which outlined charges that fall outside increases in inflation.

It was clarified that the cattle market, car parking and bus stations will all be outlined in the car parking strategy that will be coming to this committee at an appropriate time.

RESOLVED that

- 1) the recommended level of charges for 2015/16 for each of the services set out in the attached table be approved to operate from 1st April 2015.
- 2) a 25% increase in the licensing fee as a movement towards cost recovery be approved with the proposed charge for 2014/15 set out in appendix A.

R24. **EMT VEHICLE AND FRONTLINE SERVICE MACHINE REPLACEMENT POLICY AND PROGRAMME**

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods submitted a report to seek Members support for the adoption of a replacement and renewal programme.

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods stated that this policy and programme will outline a strategic evaluation of equipment including the optimum life of service machine and a refreshment programme.

Discussion took place about the best time and places to buy the equipment and the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods explained that these issues will form part of the policy to ensure the Council secures good value for money.

RESOLVED that:

- 1) The vehicle & machine replacement/ renewal policy be approved
- 2) The Vehicle and frontline machine replacement programme be approved.

R25. **LANDSCAPE CAPACITY AND SENSITIVITY STUDY: WIND POWER**

The Head of Regulatory Service submitted a report to present the Landscape Capacity and Sensitivity study for Wind Energy and to facilitate a discussion regarding the next steps to be taken.

The Head of Regulatory Services drew Members attention to para 4.3 outlining the option of going forward.

Discussion took place about the different options and a Member moved option 1 and 3. Members showed support of the paper being approved to advance developing policies.

RESOLVED that

- 1) the draft Landscape Capacity and Sensitivity Study be approved, with authority delegated to the Head of Regulatory Services to make minor amendments and subsequently accept as a complete document, for use as part of the Local Plan evidence base and in assisting the assessment of any planning applications for wind energy development in the Borough.
- 2) the Head of Regulatory Services prepares a 'position statement' highlighting the Landscape Capacity and Sensitivity Study as technical evidence and state that the Borough Council will use it to inform its assessment of wind energy proposals

R26. **URGENT BUSINESS- SUPPORT THE LEADER BID**

The Chief Executive submitted a report to request Members support for the allocation of resources to the LEADER Bid for 'East' Leicestershire.

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods brought Members attention to para 3.6 outlining the priorities to be covered by the Bid through individual programmes which link closely with the councils Economic Development Strategy.

Members attention was also brought to para 3.7 suggesting a continued allocation of one day per week of the Economic Development Officers time in support of the LEADER programme.

RESOLVED that the allocation of one day a week of the Economic Development Officer's capacity be approved to be allocated to support the LEADER Programme for its period of operation.

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED that the Public be excluded during the consideration of the following item(s) of business in accordance with Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (Access to Information: Exempt Information under Paragraphs 1 and 2.

R27. EXEMPT MINUTES

The exempt minutes from the meeting from the 4th June 2014 were discussed and confirmed as an accurate record.

Councillor Rhodes left the meeting due to an interest in the following items.

R28. GREEN WASTE CREDITS- COUNTRY PROPOSALS AND OPTION FOR RESPONSES

The Head of Regulatory Services submitted a report to present the committee with options as to how to respond to changes proposed by Leicestershire County Council in relation to the management of 'green' waste.

The options presented in the report were discussed.

RESOLVED that option 4.3 be approved subject to LCC following the due process as outlined in paragraph 4.4.

R29. WASTE CONTRACT: GREEN WASTE CLUB SUBSCRIPTIONS

The Head of Regulatory Services submitted a report inviting Member to consider the options available in respect of the price of Green Waste Club subscriptions in 2015/16 and 2016/17 (the remaining two years of the contract)

The level of subsidy was discussed

RESOLVED that option 2 be approved in part

R30. NEW WASTE MANAGEMENT CONTRACT PROJECT AND FUNDING

RESOLVED that the recommendations be approved.

The meeting which started at 6:36pm finished at 8:31pm

Chairman