



RURAL, ECONOMIC & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

4th March 2015

Present:

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

As Observer

M.M Gordon

Strategic Director (CAM), Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods, Head of Regulatory Services, Central Services Manager, Administrative Assistant for Communities and Neighbourhoods.

R57. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence received.

R58. MINUTES

The minutes from the meeting held on the 7th January 2015 were confirmed and authorised to be signed by the chairman.

R59. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Rhodes declared a personal and pecuniary interest in any item relating to the County Council by virtue of him being a County Councillor. Councillor Rhodes declared that he would be leaving the meeting during discussions on item 12 and partaking in the discussion at County level on the matter.

Councillor Orson declared a personal and pecuniary interest in any item relating to the County Council by virtue of him being a County Councillor, and declared that he would be involved in discussions taking place regarding item 12 and not taking part at any discussions regarding the matter at any County Council meetings.

R60. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

There were no recommendations from other Committees.

R61. UPDATE ON DECISIONS

The update on decisions was noted by the committee.

R62. WASTE TASK GROUP

The committee was asked to nominate Members for the Waste Task Group which will provide guidance in respect of the procurement of a replacement waste contract. The chairman clarified that 7 nominations were needed as well as a political balance.

RESOLVED that the Members of the Waste Task Group are; Councillors E. Holmes, G. Bush, G. Botterill, J. Orson, M. Sheldon, P. Baguley, J. Douglas

R63. CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING TO 31 JANUARY 2015

The Head of Central Services submitted a report to update the committee on the progress of schemes within the Capital Programme to 31 January 2015.

The Central Services Manager brought Members attention to Appendix A outlining the 2 programmes in this committees remit.

RESOLVED that the progress made on each capital scheme be noted along with the year end forecast position.

R64. BUDGET MONITORING APRIL TO DECEMBER 2014

The Head of Central Services submitted a report to provide information on actual expenditure and income incurred on this Committee's services compared to the latest approved budget for the period 1st April 2014 to 31st December 2014.

The Central Services Manager summarised the key variances bringing Members attention to the overspends in para 3.6.1 and underspends in paras 3.6.2 also outlined in Appendix A.

RESOLVED that the financial position on each of this Committee's services to 31st December be noted.

R65. FOOD AND FARMING LOCAL DEVELOPMENT ORDER

The Head of Regulatory Services submitted a report regarding the Council's successful submission of an 'Expression of Interest' for funding to support the development of a Local Development Order (LDO) relating to the food and farming industries within the Borough and to seek authority to proceed with a formal submission for support.

The Head of Regulatory Services outlined that the Local Development Order is a tool to alleviate the need for planning permission and to encourage people to invest in and grow the food/farming industry.

Discussion took place regarding the links to the second phase of the Cattle Market regeneration and the links to local tourism.

RESOLVED that

- 1) The Expression of Interest and response from DEFRA be noted
- 2) The establishment of a Local Development Order be authorised on the basis described at paras 3.8 to 3.11
- 3) The formal submission for funding be supported.

R66. **REVIEW OF CHARGES 215-16: TAXI LICENSING**

The Head of Regulatory Service submitted a report asking Members to consider the charges that will operate from 1st April 2015, with regards to the provisional conclusions agreed on 3rd September 2014 by this committee.

The Head of Regulatory Services explained that the time recording had not been able to be fulfilled due to staffing shortages.

The Head of Regulatory Services brought Members attention to para 3.3 explaining that the recovery level of these cost are approximately 51%, the recommendations asking for the level of recovery to be taken up to 60%

Members discussed the recommendation and the Leader proposed that further analysis of the figures were needed to ensure transparency, before any decision is made on increasing the charges.

It was clarified that compared to other Councils recovery level, Melton Borough Council are mid-range.

The motion proposed by the Leader was seconded by Councillor Bush

RESOLVED that a report analysing the recovery levels and time recording be brought back to this committee.

R67. **URGENT BUSINESS- COUNSELLORS FOR CATTLE MARKET FARMERS**

The Chairman of this committee agreed that an urgent item be brought to this committee regarding Counsellors for Cattle Market Farmers.

Councillor M. M Gordon presented a verbal report to the committee asking that a room be provided in the Cattle Market for farmers to speak to a Counsellor, as senior figures in agriculture warned that Farmers were being pushed to breaking point by financial pressures and many were going bankrupt.

Councillor Gordon outlined some ideas to tackle this issue and suggested some contacts with charities that were already established within this field.

RESOLVED that the viability of provision for a Counselling services for Cattle Market Farmers be investigated by relevant Officers.

R68. **URGENT BUSINESS-TOWN CENTRE PEDESTRIANISED AREAS INCLUDING MARKET PLACE.**

The Chairman of this committee agreed that an urgent item be brought to this committee regarding the pedestrianized areas within the town centre.

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods presented a report outlining the increasing issue regarding vehicles entering and parking within the pedestrianised area of the town centre.

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods stated that a report will be brought back to this committee in June to outline some long term solutions, ensuring a solution that restricts parking whilst also allowing access for emergency service access.

RESOLVED that a report outlining a long term solution to alleviate the issue of people parking within the pedestrianised area be brought back to this committee in June.

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.

Councillor Rhodes left the meeting due to an interest in this item.

R69. **GREEN WASTE CREDITS.**

The Head of Regulatory Services present a report to update the Committee on the progress that has been made with regard to various issues relating to our waste collection services

RESOLVED that the recommendations be approved.

The meeting that started at 6:30pm finished at 7:12pm.

Chairman