



POLICY, FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

PARKSIDE, STATION APPROACH, BURTON STREET, MELTON MOWBRAY

15 APRIL 2015

PRESENT:-

Councillors J.B Rhodes (Chairman), R. de Burle, A. Freer-Jones, E. Hutchinson, J. Moulding, J.T Orson, P.M Posnett, J. Simpson, J. Wyatt

Chief Executive (LA), Strategic Director (KA), Head of Central Services (DG), Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods (HR), Head of Regulatory Services (JW), Corporate Property Officer (DB), Community Planning Officer (SS), Welland Procurement Officer (CE), Committee Support Officer (DS)

P64. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Wright

P65. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 27th January 2015 were confirmed and authorised to be signed by the Chairman.

P66. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Rhodes, Posnett and Orson declared personal interests in any items related to the County Council due to their positions as County Councillors.

Councillor Freer-Jones declared a personal and pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 16 – Me & My Learning due to her employment linked to the Me & My Learning Centre.

P67. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

There were no recommendations from other committees.

P68. UPDATE ON DECISIONS

The Chief Executive submitted an update on decisions from previous meetings of the Committee regarding P53. Recording Council Meetings – Feedback from Trial.

RESOLVED that Item (P53.) will go on to the Governance Committee in June as a Constitutional Update and then on to the Council.

Prior to beginning the meeting formally, the Chairman here advised that the Exempt Item 20 – Leisure Vision had been withdrawn.

Here the Head of Central Services introduced the Welland Procurement Officer (CE).

P69. SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT STRATEGY

The Welland Procurement Officer submitted a report giving Members an update to the Sustainable Procurement Strategy employed by the Council.

The original Sustainable Procurement Strategy was approved in 2010 and a review was agreed given the many changes in procurement policy and practice that have taken place since the original policy was implemented.

The Strategy is a high level document that provides the framework to ensure that best practice is embedded and implemented in regard to Corporate Procurement. The Strategy in conjunction with the Procurement Toolkit provides Officers with details on procurement methods and processes to ensure consistency and compliance.

The Strategy seeks to balance three priorities, which are (1) to deliver year-on-year efficiency, but not at the cost of quality, (2) to develop and embrace socially responsible procurement that delivers value for money by engaging local and regional suppliers to promote the local economy and finally (3) to ensure that equalities issues are fully taken into account in all procurement decisions.

The overarching purpose of the strategy is to support the delivery of high quality public services that offer value for money and procured in a way that takes into account sustainability, best procurement practices and all legislation that governs those activities.

All recommendations were moved by Councillor Rhodes and Councillor Posnett seconded.

All Members were unanimously in favour.

RESOLVED that the adoption of the revised Sustainable Procurement Strategy 2015-18 be approved.

P70. ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN AND CAPITAL STRATEGY 2015/16-2017/18

The Corporate Property Officer submitted a report to Members giving an update on the revised Asset Management Plan and Capital Strategy for 2015/16-2017/18.

The Asset Management Plan and Capital Strategy 2015/16-2017/18 (Appendix A), details a three year plan that identifies key areas of work, priorities and objectives for asset management. The AMP also gives an overview of the on-going development of Melton Borough Council's property assets and sets the strategic direction for the management of its smart portfolio over the coming three years.

The Corporate Property Officer advised Members of the progress on some of the Capital Projects which will be delivered through the AMP including re-development of the Cattle Market and the Foyer Project.

A discussion was held and Members were in agreement that the AMP sets out a good vision of the projects being undertaken by Melton Borough Council.

All recommendations were moved by Councillor Wyatt and Councillor Posnett seconded.

All Members were unanimously in favour.

RESOLVED that

- 1) The Progress made on the previous Asset Management Plan be noted;
- 2) The new Asset Management Plan for the period of 2015/16-2017/18 and the delivery of the Action Plan for its implementation be approved.

P71. BUSINESS RATES – DISCRETIONARY RELIEF (LOCAL DISCOUNTS) FOR CHILDCARE PROVIDERS

The Head of Central Services submitted a report to Members requesting approval of a scheme that would support Child Care Providers within the Borough through discretionary powers available to Local Authorities to support businesses throughout the whole Borough.

The Government encouraged local authorities to consider using their business rates local discounts powers to support access to local high quality childcare provision.

The scheme would enable the Council to further support child care providers through reducing the business rates payable, and would enable the child care provider to focus resources back into providing that high quality child care provision.

Officers have undertaken work to identify those properties which would qualify for the relief. Investigation showed that 12 properties may be eligible to receive the discretionary rate relief.

The relief would be awarded for one financial year, and would thereafter be reviewed annually, and this is to meet the requirements of giving one year's notice to businesses if there is a change in the award of any relief.

The scheme would be publicised on the Council website and the People and Place Manager would also market the scheme as appropriate.

Questions were raised by Members regarding the awarding of relief, and queried how the Council aimed to determine who would qualify and who would not, given how different child care providers run their businesses.

The Head of Central Services advised that the relief would only be payable to those child care providers who are actively working with the Council and not to those

providers which run a purely for profit private business. The Council would award relief on a case-by-case basis, but only if a Child Care Provider also met one or all of the following criteria:

- Accept 2 year old fee clients
- Link to Sure Start Centres
- Good or Outstanding (from Ofsted)
- New Business

The Head of Central Services also advised that at the time of the meeting, in regards to para 5.1 about the consultation with partner providers, Leicestershire County Council had responded and were content with the scheme, while the Combined Fire Authority had yet to respond.

Members agreed that the scheme would assist in young children getting the best start in life, as well as being a scheme supported by the Government.

All recommendations were moved by Councillor Rhodes and Councillor Simpson seconded.

All Members were unanimously in favour.

RESOLVED that

- 1) The Business Rate – Discretionary Relief (Child Care Providers) as set out in Appendix A be adopted from 2015/16.
- 2) Delegated Authority be given to the Head of Central Services in consultation with the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods to make any necessary changes to the above scheme (including adding additional criteria and changing percentage relief granted based on experience from delivery of the scheme).

P72. ITEMS FOR APPROVAL UNDER FINANCIAL PROCEDURE RULES

The Head of Central Services submitted a report seeking approval of this Committee under Financial Procedure Rules and to provide information on amounts approved under delegated powers and to report the impact of these on the Council's reserves and balances.

Since the last meeting the Head of Central Services has approved forty-eight requests for virement within the same service totalling £429,470 and thirty requests for virement between services totalling £178,070. The Head of Central Services advised that further details regarding those requests that were in excess of £10,000 could be found in Appendix A.

The Head of Central Services advised that at a meeting of the Community and Social Affairs Committee on 18 March 2015, the Business Case for the Melton Skate Park was approved and that a request be made to this Committee for a supplementary estimate of £10k to be funded from capital receipts.

A budget of £300k was approved when the budget was set by Full Council on 25 February 2015. The Business Case identifies the initial cost as £318k, and the

additional costs from the original approved budget to be funded by £8k of external funding and a £10k from capital receipts.

The Head of Central Services also advised that at a meeting of this Committee on 27 January 2015, the implementation of New Intensive Housing Management Service was approved. The new model has resulted in an on-going savings of £42,000 within the General Fund, however, there was a one-off redundancy cost of £20,600. Those monies would be apportioned between the General Fund and the HRA based on how those posts were previously funded.

The Head of Central Services advised that £2,950 is to be charged to the HRA, and would be funded by existing budgets, and the remaining £17,650 would be charged to the General Fund, in turn, this would require a supplementary estimate to be funded from the Corporate Priorities Reserve.

All recommendations were moved by Councillor Orson and Councillor Posnett seconded.

All Members were unanimously in favour.

RESOLVED that

- 1) The virements approved under delegated powers (para 3.1.1 refers) be noted and;
- 2) The Business Case in para 4.2 be approved and the total budget in the Capital Programme be increased to £318,000 and a supplementary estimate of £10,000 towards the Skate Park be approved from Capital Receipts to fund the shortfall after allowing for the external funding.
- 3) A supplementary estimate of £17,650 from the Corporate Priorities reserve for one off costs of the Intensive Housing Management Service detailed in para. 5.1 be approved.

P73. PROVISIONAL CAPITAL PROGRAMME YEAR END POSITION 2014-15

The Head of Central Services submitted a report seeking approval from Members following the provision of information on the Provisional Capital Programme Year End Position for 2014-15, and to advise Members of requests that would carry forward unspent budgets in 2014/15 to 2015/16 in respect of specific schemes.

The Head of Central Services informed Members that the overall level of spending achieved was 37% of the authorised amount, and this compared with a figure of 57% in 2013/14. Any surplus from the underspent monies would then go back to the appropriate reserve when the year end is closed down.

The Head of Central Services updated Members on the scheme for the Waterfield Leisure Car Park extension because it had been slightly amended in order to create extra car parking provision within the current footprint of the facilities. The revised Business Case was directed to Members as Appendix D.

Members queried risk of carrying the £25,000 from the Disabled Facilities Grant

(underspend) to the Warm Homes Grant for 2015/16.

The Head of Central Services advised that in the 2015/16 year, the Disabled Facilities Grant would be handled differently in terms of how the grant funding would work and therefore it would be better to not carry forward all of the underspend to fund DFGs to avoid complications in a new funding regime.

All recommendations were moved by Councillor Posnett and Councillor Simpson seconded.

All Members were unanimously in favour.

RESOLVED that

- 1) Those schemes in the 2014-15 Capital Programme totalling £4,727,000 and shown in the column headed "Amount to Carry Forward to 2015-16 Scheme Specific" at Appendix A be included in the Capital Programme as funded schemes and be carried forward.
- 2) Delegated Authority be granted to the Head of Central Services to vary the amount of the agreed carry forward on any scheme subject to the spending on any scheme not exceeding the total approved amount.
- 3) £25,000 from the Disabled Facilities Grant, underspend be carried forward to the Warm Homes Grant for 2015-16
- 4) The Business Case attached at Appendix B and Appendix C to approve the replacement of the Pest Control Van and Front Line Mower in respect of the 2015/16 Capital Programme be approved
- 5) The Business Case attached as Appendix D which approves the revised Waterfield Leisure Pool Car Park Extension as part of the 2014-15 Capital Programme be approved.

P74. **CARRY FORWARD OF REVENUE BUDGETS**

Here the Head of Central Services notified Members that there were two additional papers being submitted with the report. One was an additional recommendation (2.3) and the other a revised version of Appendix A with two additional Carry Forwards included

The Head of Central Services provided a report for Members seeking approval requests from Budget Holders to carry forward underspent budgets from 2014/15 to 2015/16.

Current financial procedures allow for underspent budgets below £50,000 to be carried forward to the next financial year subject to approval by this Committee by 30th April in any year.

In agreeing to such Carry-Forward requests, it should remove the need for any associated supplementary estimate requests being made in 2015/16.

The Head of Central Services also advised of an additional recommendation (2.3) that requested that those carry forward requests in excess of £50,000 go forward to Full Council for approval in accordance with Financial Procedure Rules.

Requests submitted have been set out in Appendix A and total £588,940 for General Expenses. The list has been sub-divided to show those items related to general under spends (totalling £373,260) and those which are part of a longer term project nature and total £215,680. The Head of Central Services advised that these budgets have been scrutinised and approved by Management Team after looking at historical Carry-Forward requests and approvals.

At the end of 2015/16, a review will be undertaken to establish the impact on the budget performance for those areas who have carried forward their underspends. The information will then be used to inform the decision making processes for requests in subsequent years.

Members queried which specific carry forwards would be expected to go forward to Full Council's approval.

The Head of Central Services specified from the Revised Appendix A that the following would go forward for approval to Full Council: Communities and Neighbourhoods for underspends on the Rent Rebates and Rent Allowances, Local Plans and the Cattle Market Redevelopment.

Recommendations 1 & 2 were moved by Councillor Rhodes and Councillor Posnett seconded.

Revised Recommendation 3 was moved by Councillor Rhodes and Councillor Posnett seconded.

All Members were unanimously in favour.

RESOLVED that

- 1) The requests set out in Appendix A for budgets to be carried forward from 2014/15 to 2015/16 be approved and;
- 2) Once the final year position is known, the actual under spend be compared to the amount requested and the Head of Central Services be given Delegated Authority to amend the actual amount carried forward
- 3) Council be asked to approve those items shown in Appendix A which are in excess of £50,000 in accordance with Financial Procedure Rules.

P75. BUDGET MONITORING APRIL TO DECEMBER 2014

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

The Head of Central Services informed Members that the overall position on Key Service Areas showed a potential surplus of £137, 834.

The overall predicted position, up to 28 February 2015 showed a net underspend of £384,470, with significant underspends coming from Customer Services (£101k), Development Control (£130k) and IT (£90k).

The Head of Central Services reported that Officers are still working on the closure of accounts as there are a number of adjustments required and invoices were still being posted to the 2014/15 financial year, the approved carry forward requests would also impact before an overall outturn position can be presented to Members. This final figure will be reported to Members at the July 2015 meeting of this Committee.

All recommendations were approved by Councillor Rhodes and Councillor Posnett seconded.

All Members were unanimously in favour.

RESOLVED that the final position on each of this Committee's Services to 31st December 2015 be noted along with the year end forecast.

P76. INSURANCE POLICY RENEWALS 2015/16

The Head of Central Services submitted a report to Members regarding the renewal of the Council's insurance policies, and seeking approval of awarding the contract to the Council's current insurer, Zurich Municipal (ZM), with effect from 1 July 2015. This would be for an initial period of five years with an annual option to extend the contract up to seven years.

The Council's current insurance contract will expire on 30 June 2015. Two bids were received after a joint tendering exercise involving two local authorities (Melton and South Kesteven) led by Procurement Lincolnshire. Tenders were invited for a period of up to seven years. ZM scored highest on both price and quality and was therefore the preferred bidder.

The tender figure provided by ZM is £230k per annum which includes the addition of Insurance Premium Tax (IPT) at 6%, VAT and a 10% five year long-term agreement discount and a 5% package discount, and compares to the overall budget of £213k.

The Head of Central Service advised Members that there are still some issues left to resolve as detailed in para 3.5, but will be agreed at a post-tender meeting. The split of the cost between the General fund and the HRA still needed to be completed.

All recommendations were moved by Councillor Rhodes and Councillor Posnett seconded.

RESOLVED that

- 1) Zurich Municipal (ZM) be appointed as the Council's insurers to provide the Council's various insurance policies for an initial period of five years

- commencing 1 July 2015 subject to agreeing suitable terms and conditions; the annual cost being as shown in paragraph 3.3;
- 2) The Head of Central Services be granted Delegated Authority to renew the policies on an annual basis up to a maximum period of seven years subject to the terms remaining the same;
 - 3) The level of excess on the Employers Liability Policy be increased from £0 to £5,000 for an annual saving of £2.8k (para. 3.4 refers);
 - 4) The proposed changes to the new cover compared to the existing made in consultation with the Management Team as outlined in para 3.5 A to F be noted.
 - 5) Any overspend on the HRA be funded from the HRA working balance and any general fund overspend be funded from suitable savings or the inflation contingency.

P77. DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN AND PRIORITIES

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods briefly gave an overview of the report stating that the approach to Corporate Planning 2015-2020 had been presented to Members at the Strategic Planning Away Day in January 2015, and was approved at the Budget and Strategic Planning Working Group on 11 June 2014.

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods introduced the Corporate Policy Manager who submitted a report advising Members of the Draft Corporate Plan and Priorities seeking comments in support of the formal Corporate Plan & Priorities report that will be presented to Members at the first meeting of the new administration.

The Corporate Policy Manager advised Members of the 8 priorities for Members' consideration based on the Place, People and Agile Council. The priorities are set out in Appendix A. The 8 priorities were developed through engagement activities including surveys, focus groups and public engagement sessions with over 500 people actively engaging and directly contributing to the formation of the draft Corporate Plan and Priorities.

The evidence collected through the engagement sessions which took place from February 2015-March 2015 has provided confidence and reaffirmed the strong agreement that respondents have in regards to the draft Plan & Priorities. This reflects the good work undertaken by the Council and was achieved through the "Turning the Tanker" initiative.

Cllr Freer Jones expressed their disappointment that more people did not comment on the priorities, especially given the amount of marketing and advertising the Council had put into promoting the consultation regarding the Draft Plan & Priorities. The Head of Communities & Neighbourhoods advised Members that while there was a low response to the Priorities through the Melton Mail, the priorities themselves had been developed in consultation with a wide range of local residents, MBC staff, Members, Community and Voluntary Sector Groups, Businesses, Melton Community Partnership delivery groups such as a the Seniors Forum, Family Voices, etc.

The Head of Communities & Neighbourhoods informed Members that when the formal report to the New Administration is presented for approval, Officers would then highlight the various consultations that had been undertaken.

All recommendations were moved by Councillor Rhodes and Councillor Orson seconded.

All Members were unanimously in favour.

RESOLVED that Comments on the Draft Corporate Plan and Priorities and Corporate Management Framework, as attached at Appendix A and B, be considered and presented to this Committee for formal approval at the first meeting of the new administration.

P78. TRANSFORMATIONAL CHANGE PROGRAMME

The Strategic Director (KA) submitted a report to Members that provided an update on the progress of the programme, stage milestones and the delivery of critical success factors set out in the business case agreed in 2012.

The Transformation Programme has two key themes, (1) to deliver significant channel shift through the development of digital services and (2) reduce demands on reactive services through a more proactive focus on vulnerable people. The Strategic Director (KA) informed Members that the report presented focussed more on digital services.

Within the report the successes of the Programme were report My Account, which is live on the website. A breadth of transactions available to customers which will be extended through 2015. Officers are pleased with the increasing number of customers accessing services online. The Strategic Director (KA) mentioned that as a result of this digital service, more than 50% of new benefit claims are being received through digital self-serve.

Furthermore, the Strategic Director (KA) informed Members that the intent was for digital services to be fully integrated to back office systems, thereby reducing re-keying of data by staff. This was already the case for all new planning applications submitted through the planning portal.

Overarching the Transformation Programme is the scope to continuously improve the most used customer processes by making use of digital technology, eliminating waste and meeting the customer's need the first time, every time.

The Strategic Director (KA) is mindful of concerns that face-to-face interactions with the Council will still continue, but with the understanding that up-skilling staff and people is important, to provide high-quality user experience so that customers will choose the digital channel for their services. The Strategic Director (KA) reported to Members that there are still cultural barriers in terms of corporate leadership, service capacity/capability, technology and corporate culture to overcome before the Council can become a fully digital organisation.

Members raised concerns that the Council cannot in effect become an impersonal entity and that face-to-face interactions must still exist because not every person

has access to the internet or is capable of using the internet, especially where vulnerable people are concerned, there is a risk that they could be missed in this initiative.

The Strategic Director advised that those face-to-face services will not fully disappear. A primary initiative is to help customers understand the digital services offered. The Council is working on initiatives to up-skill people and one of those is through Me & My Learning.

All recommendations were moved by Councillor Rhodes and Councillor Posnett seconded.

All Members were unanimously in favour.

RESOLVED that

- 1) The critical success factors of the Transformational Change Programme be noted;
- 2) The customer digital take-up figures at Appendix A be noted;
- 3) The progress of key product delivery milestones and the future link to the ME2E Programme be noted;
- 4) The focus on 'Life Events', customer need, processes and an iterative agile approach to deployment be noted.

Here Councillor Freer-Jones left the room, having declared a personal and pecuniary interest in matters relating to the Me and My Learning Programme.

P79. ME AND MY LEARNING – PHOENIX HOUSE

The Strategic Director (KA) submitted a report to Members seeking consideration of the future of the Me and My Learning Programme.

The Council has had visits from many interested parties in the last few months, who have left inspired at the work being done through the Me and My Learning.

The Me and My Learning Programme began in 2014 when the bid for European Social Fund money (ESF) had been successful. Melton Borough Council secured just under £400k to establish Me and My Learning. A Further sum of Transformation Challenge Award Money had now secured funding until 31st March 2016.

The Me and My Learning Programme has developed over the last 12 months as an ethos and way of working which aims to help all working age residents in Melton live their lives as independently as possible. There is a focus on services that address digital independence, financial independence and social independence. The Programme aims to tackle barriers that prevent some of the most vulnerable residents from achieving sustainable employment.

The success of the Me and My Learning Programme has seen 53 people moving into sustainable employment as of 31 March 2015, from some 520 referrals and 355 individual clients. In addition, 6 people have entered full-time education and there

are now 17 different providers delivering over 20 services to the clients engaged with the Me and My Learning centre.

The Strategic Director (KA) advised that the crux of the issue at the moment is that while there is sufficient money to continue with the existing Business Partner arrangements as outlined in para 3.3 and para 3.4 of the report, one of the Business Partners has come to the end of a secondment from the DWP. Whilst she would remain on loan to the Programme until the end of May 2015, there would be a gap arising from June 2015. Section 3.10 of the report outlined a proposal for Members' consideration for a new permanent post to attract the right type of person to continue to drive the service forward.

Members commented that the Me and My Learning Programme has been a great success for Melton and that they are very happy with the outcomes achieved through it.

All recommendations were moved by Councillor Orson and Councillor Posnett seconded.

RESOLVED that

- 1) The outcomes achieved to 31st March 2015 be noted;
- 2) Subject to normal HR procedures a new T3 post be created within Communities and Neighbourhoods – funded as necessary from Transformation Challenge Award funds and money allocated to the Council for Universal Support – delivered locally;
- 3) The forward plan for Me and My learning for 2015/16 be noted; and
- 4) All potential funding opportunities be pursued for 2016/17 onwards.

Here Councillor Freer-Jones re-entered the room.

P80. MELTON EXTENDING TO EXCELLENCE

The Head of Paid Service submitted a report to Members advising of the next programme to be implemented across the Council following the conclusion of "Turning the Tanker". The report focuses on moving forward the culture, performance and innovation within the Council.

As New Corporate Priorities are pursued in a continuing climate of economic challenge and further national debt reduction which will impact on local government as well as other parts of the public sector, the Council is progressing its direction of travel and embedding an ethos related to the Melton Method as a further programme of activity required across the Council to continue developing its capacity, confidence, performance and innovation.

The Programme is being badged as "Melton Extending to Excellence" (ME2E). This Programme recognises that Melton Borough Council is at the cutting edge of innovation in several services and its approaches in relation to social inclusion, worklessness and recently the recognition round economic development and

business support. The Programme will enhance the journey of the Council towards achieving the Corporate Priorities and delivering excellent services in a challenging environment.

The Programme is broken down into three sections, the first being “Making Good Better” and reinforces the messages already included within the Council around the working ethos of “First Time Right”, “Doing the Right Thing” and dealing with those areas which may have not moved in their trajectory of improvement to the same level of other areas. This includes ensuring there are skills within the Council to make better use of technology, and to ensure that practices and procedures are clear and easy to follow. It also includes the ability to challenge where poor practice has occurred and to develop an approach to learning from the difficulties faced so that the Council will move forwards through problems. The result will be an opportunity to create capacity within the organisation.

The second area of work is “Expanding the Comfort Zone” and focuses on the productivity of the Council to harness new skills and learning to ensure that the Council remains abreast of developments and supports training, guidance and good systems that will enable confidence and encourage empowerment to redesign processes so they are as efficient as possible.

Finally, the third limb of the Programme is called “Two Steps Beyond” – (It’s Not Madness). The Council has a good reputation for innovation and creativity, especially with respect to its “People Services”. This has also been recently extended to acknowledgement in planning, property and economic development with regards to the development of Parkside. In order to continue this development of creativity and innovation, staff need a good platform from which to work in relation to moving the Council forward. This area will give where appropriate, acknowledgement that on occasion initiatives can fail, but the importance of doing so will improve confidence in learning so that the Council can move forward.

Support for the Programme will come from HR and the T3 Team to move the ME2E forward in the coming months.

All recommendations were moved by Councillor Orson and Councillor Posnett seconded.

All Members were unanimously in favour.

RESOLVED that the approach for the next programme of activity for staff called the “Melton Extending to Excellence” (ME2E) be endorsed.

P81. CORPORATE ISSUES

The Chief Executive submitted a report to Members which gave an overview of the continued expansion and information about Melton Borough Council and its approach to service delivery across a range of activities.

The Chief Executive informed Members that visits from informed parties continue to occur and focus presently on groups, councils and partners attending to understand how the potential integration of services can work.

Melton Borough Council had been featured in two recent case studies, as outlined in Appendix A, an extract from the Cabinet Office Publication of "State of the Estate" included Parkside as a case study on how it achieved its aims and objectives in relation to property matters. At Appendix 2, an extract is given from the most recent publication from DWP which showcases Me and My Learning.

From 1 April 2015, the rollout of Me and My Learning into Leicestershire occurred with the commencement of the service in Blaby District Council. The rollout was funded by the Public Services Transformation Programme Network Funding that the Council received for this purpose. Discussions with other District Councils in Leicestershire continue to progress regarding developing early plans for inclusion of the approach in their service deliveries.

The Chief Executive reported that the Council was invited to be part of the Bishop of Leicester's Poverty Commission and that the Financial Inclusion Officer attended and took part in the development of the published draft document currently being distributed for consultation. In addition the Council's Wheels to Work manager had been invited to the House of Commons and made a presentation on the W2W scheme to interested partners.

In February 2015, the Council was awarded a Certificate of Excellence by iESE for its work around economic development, particularly in regards to those relationships with businesses, citizens and support concerning grant availability and business support.

All recommendations were moved by Councillor Rhodes and Councillor Posnett seconded.

All Members were unanimously in favour.

RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted.

Here the Chairman iterated that the Exempt Report had been withdrawn.

The meeting which commenced at 6.30pm, closed at 8:04pm.

Chairman