



RURAL, ECONOMIC & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

16 NOVEMBER 2011

Present :-

Councillors J Orson (Chairman),
P. Baguley, M.W. Barnes, G.E. Botterill, M. Gordon, M.C.R. Graham,
M. O'Callaghan, M.R. Sheldon, J Simpson

As Observer

Councillors Chandler, Wyatt

Strategic Director (CM)
Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods
Head of Regulatory Services, Chief Accountant,
Corporate Property Officer, Principal Policy Officer,
Planning Policy Officer
Administrative Support Officer

Prior to the commencement of the meeting the Chairman paid tribute to Councillor N Angrave who died recently. His tributes were endorsed by all members and officers.

R25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Rhodes and Councillor Horton.

R26. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 07 September 2011 were confirmed and authorised to be signed by the Chairman.

R27. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Orson declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest in any items related to Leicestershire County Council due to his role as a Leicestershire County Councillor. Councillor O'Callaghan declared an interest at Item 15 as Chair of the Melton Mowbray Food Partnership.

R28. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

There were no recommendations from other committees.

R29. MEMBER QUESTION

A written response was provided in response to the member question raised in accordance with Procedure Rules 10.4 and 10.5a.

Following changes to the Constitution made this year additional questions relating to the review into Tourism in Leicestershire and the role of Leicestershire Promotions by the County Council were now allowed after the Agenda had been sent out. A written response was also given to these questions.

A member expressed concerns about Melton Borough Council being able to comment on the Tourism review. The Head of Communities & Neighbourhoods reassured members that there would be an opportunity for all stakeholders to make representations regarding the review.

R30. NOMINATION TO MELTON MOWBRAY BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT BOARD

The Chairman asked for a nomination to the BID Board.

RESOLVED that Councillor P Posnett be nominated to serve on the BID Board

R31. APPOINTMENT TO LEICS & NORTHANTS RAIL ACTION COMMITTEE (LANRAC)

The Chairman asked for nominations for a member to attend the meetings of LANRAC and bring back any relevant issues and advise of opportunities for the Melton Borough.

RESOLVED that Councillor J Douglas be nominated to attend LANRAC.

R32. CAPTIAL PROGRAMME MONITORING - APRIL to SEPTEMBER 2011

The Chief Accountant presented a report (copies of which had previously been circulated) to update Members on the progress of Schemes within the Capital Programme to 30 September 2011.

With regard to Car Park Ticket machines, members questioned whether the machines could be made capable of taking credit card payments and also whether the machines would be able to cope with any changes to coinage and provide change to customers.

The Strategic Director responded that the machine specification would be looked at to confirm coinage change capabilities and the addition of credit card functionality.

In response to a member question regarding under spend, the Chief Accountant explained that savings had been made as additional works were not required on the car parks. A member asked that it be noted that some repairs were required to the Wilton Road car park including the replacement of some kerbstones and repainting of yellow lines.

RESOLVED that:

1. the progress made on each capital scheme be noted;
2. the car park ticket machine replacement scheme and related sources of funding be submitted for approval to the Policy, Finance and Administration Committee.

R33. CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2011 – 2016

The Chief Accountant presented a report (copies of which had previously been circulated) to Members to determine the Committee's Capital Programme for 2011-2016 based on a review of spending in the current year's programme and schemes included in the programme for later years.

In response to a member question regarding the purchase of vehicles, the Head of Communities & Neighbourhoods explained that the purchase of vehicles was being included within the budget 'in principle' and that a business case would be brought to REEA when the need to proceed occurred.

RESOLVED that

1. the Capital Programme for 2011 - 2016 be noted,
2. the schemes being considered be submitted in 2011-2016 for funding as part of the budget setting process to ensure they meet the Council's priorities, and
3. the Project Mandate be approved for inclusion in the Capital Programme.

R34 CAR PARKING UPDATE

The Head of Communities & Neighbourhoods presented a report (copies of which had previously been circulated) on behalf of the Corporate Property Officer seeking authorisation for the necessary processes be undertaken to implement the decisions of REEA dated 7 September 2011 and give the Corporate Property Officer the delegated authority as set out in the recommendations.

A member asked that any plans to change recommendation 2.5, which related to free parking in the run up to Christmas, be brought back to committee. It was agreed that this would happen.

With regard to the pre Christmas free parking period, a member questioned whether there was a record of the loss of income incurred at this time. The

Strategic Director (CAM) stated that this information may be available from a previous report.

RESOLVED that

1. the Corporate Property Officer revokes the current Melton Borough Council (Off Street Parking Places Order 2010) Order and drafts a new Order and undertakes the necessary consultation process including the advertisement of the Notice of Proposal, with an implementation date of February 2012;
2. delegated authority be granted to the Corporate Property Officer in consultation with the Chair of this committee and the Head of Central Services to consider and determine any objections received;
3. that the staff car parking schemes be incorporated into the car parking order to enable any necessary enforcement to be undertaken under the new car parking order;
4. delegated authority be granted to the Corporate Property Officer to instruct the Solicitor for the Council to take any necessary action in respect of the implementation of the new Order; and that
5. members note that Councillors have supported the proposals for free car parking (as in previous years) for the 5 Fridays before Christmas in the long stay pay and display car parks and the Chief Executive exercised delegated powers to agree free parking in urgent circumstances to facilitate this change in charging policy for the Christmas period. Members further delegate to the Head of Communities & Neighbourhoods in consultation with the Head of Central Services approval to continue this [Free Christmas Car parking] initiative on an annual basis.

Councillor P Baguley joined the meeting at 6.55 pm

R35. STREET TRADING

The Head of Regulatory Services presented a report (copies of which had previously been circulated) outlining a request made by the Melton Highways Forum to consider the introduction of a licensing regime for street traders within Melton Borough.

In response to a question regarding exemption from the need for such a regime because of the town's Market Charter several members stated that this charter referred only to specific days of the week.

RESOLVED that the current situation regarding Street Trading in Melton Borough be maintained and that Melton Borough Council should not adopt legislation which would allow the Council to licence Street Traders in the Borough of Melton.

R36. HACKNEY CARRIAGE TARIFF INCREASE

The Head of Regulatory Services presented a report (copies of which had previously been circulated) asking Members to consider a request made by the Hackney Carriage drivers within Melton for an increase in the tariff charges.

In response to a member question regarding taxi competitiveness, the Head of Regulatory Services explained that this item related to charges for hackney carriages that are flagged down in the street and not pre booked taxis.

RESOLVED that

1. the tariff is proposed to be increased in line with the prevalent opinion of the drivers expressed at the Drivers Meeting on 19 October 2011;
2. the Head of Regulatory Services be delegated the authority to consider any objections against an increase of the tariff. If the objection is considered to be contentious, the objection will be reported back to the Committee at the next meeting for consideration; and that

3. the Head of Regulatory Services be delegated to consider an annual increase to the Hackney Carriage Tariff, i.e., authority to determine an increase up to, but not exceeding, the RPI on an annual basis.

R37. PROPOSED TAXI BYELAW

The Head of Regulatory Services presented a report (copies of which had previously been circulated) proposing the adoption of a hackney carriage byelaw.

RESOLVED that

1. the proposed byelaw be adopted, and that
2. delegated authority be given to the Head of Regulatory Services to consider any objections against the adoption of the byelaw. If an objection is considered to be contentious, such objection/s will be reported back to the Committee for consideration.

R38. REQUEST FOR SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE : PLANNING INQUIRY
ADVOCACY (OLD CLAY PITS, GRANTHAM ROAD, BOTTESFORD)

The Head of Regulatory Services presented a report (copies of which had previously been circulated) to seek authority for funding (estimated as £10,000 initially) to support advocacy and legal costs for a planning appeal submitted in respect of the above site, that is to be determined by formal Public Inquiry likely to be held in early 2012.

RESOLVED that subject to approval of the Policy, Finance and Administration Committee, a sum of £10,000 be committed from the General Fund Working Balance to support legal advocacy, to enable full participation at a standard that maximises the prospects of success in the appeal Inquiry.

R39. TOURISM BLUEPRINT FOR ACTION 2011-2016

The Head of Communities & Neighbourhoods presented a report (copies of which had previously been circulated) seeking members' comments and approval on the Tourism Blueprint for Action 2011-2016.

Prior to updating the meeting on various potential initiatives relevant to towns with a food heritage, Councillor O'Callaghan declared an interest as Chair of the Melton Mowbray Food Partnership. He felt that every opportunity should be taken to promote Melton's food heritage and suggested that lining the Olympic torch route with pork pie lanterns be considered.

These views were well supported, but concern was raised regarding a lack of promotion for Melton's built heritage.

RESOLVED that the Blueprint for Action Development Plan 2011 – 2014 be noted and approved.

R40. MLDF TASK GROUP UPDATE

Prior to presentation of this item, the Chairman asked for a nomination to the MLDF Task Group. Councillor J Simpson was proposed by Councillor M Sheldon. This proposal was seconded by Councillor G Botterill and Councillor Simpson was elected.

The Principal Policy Officer presented a report (copies of which had previously been circulated) updating Members on the work undertaken by the Melton Local Development Framework Task Group and seeking advice from the Committee on any areas which require additional consideration at this time.

RESOLVED that

1. the progress on the Melton Core Strategy be noted, and that
2. Councillor Simpson be elected to the MLDF Task Group

R41. MLDF – HOUSING REQUIREMENTS

The Principal Policy Officer presented a report (copies of which had previously been circulated) to seek agreement for the Melton Core Strategy to reflect the East Midlands Regional Plan housing requirement.

In response to a member question regarding the timescales for preparation of new housing figures and delivery of a Core Strategy informed by such figures, the Principal Policy Officer responded that it had taken approximately 5 years to reach the current advanced stage for the Core Strategy and it might be expected that new housing figures would take the same time to culminate in a plan if resources were of a comparable level.

RESOLVED that the Melton Core Strategy be prepared to reflect the East Midlands Regional Plan housing requirement of 3,400 dwellings between 2006 and 2026.

R42. MELTON GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY; REVISED MELTON BOROUGH BIODIVERSITY & GEODIVERSITY STUDY; AND MELTON OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY

The (Planning) Policy Officer presented a report seeking approval of the Melton Green Infrastructure Strategy with the Committee noting the priorities set out within the report, and that the Committee note the completion of a Revised Melton Borough Biodiversity and Geodiversity Study and a Melton Open Space, Sport & Recreation Study which would be used to inform the development of planning policy, and development management decisions.

In response to member questions relating to sports facilities within Melton Town, the Principal Policy Officer clarified points regarding the context of the reports which had been written with an awareness that Waterfield Leisure Pool will be undergoing refurbishment.

A member raised concerns relating to young people meeting around Macdonalds in the Town Centre and that they felt they had nothing to do and were bored. The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods agreed to circulate information to young people via schools and youth groups on places they could meet and gather together.

The Chairman stated that he would ensure this matter was followed up with the Community and Social Affairs Committee.

RESOLVED that

1. the Melton Green Infrastructure Strategy be approved and priorities noted; and that
2. the Revised Melton Borough Biodiversity & Geodiversity Study and Melton Open Space, Sport & Recreation Study be noted.

R43. URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

The meeting which commenced at 6.30 pm closed at 7.40 pm.

Chairman