



RURAL, ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

04 SEPTEMBER 2012

Councillor J.T. Orson (Chairman)
P. Baguley, M. Gordon, E. Hutchinson, J.B. Rhodes,
M.R. Sheldon, J. Simpson

As Observer

P.M. Chandler, N. Slater

Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods, Corporate Director (CM)
Head of Central Services, Principal Assistant (Environment), Environmental Protection
& Safety Manager, Administrative Assistant for Communities and Neighbourhoods

R9. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr L.Horton, S.Dungworth and G. Botterill.

R10. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 30th May 2012 were confirmed and authorised to be signed by the Chairman subject to the following amendment;

- 1) Councillor M. O'Callaghan was recorded as an observer when he was actually a Member.

R11. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

R12. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

There were no recommendations from other committees.

R13. UPDATE ON DECISIONS

The Chief Executive submitted an update on decisions from previous meetings of the Committee.

RESOLVED that the Update on Decisions document be noted.

R14. BUDGET MONITORING APRIL TO JUNE 2012

The Head of Central Services submitted a report (copies of which had previously been circulated to Members) which provided information on actual expenditure and income incurred on this Committee's services compared to the latest approval budget for the period 1st April 2012 to 30th June 2012.

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

R15. CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING TO 31 JULY 2012

The Head of Central Services submitted a report (copies of which had previously been circulated to Members) which updated the Committee on the progress of schemes within the Capital Programme to 31st July 2012.

The Head of Central Services explained to Members that they are currently awaiting a Business Case on bus shelter improvements for the 15 bus shelters in Melton town.

RESOLVED that

- 1) the progress made on each capital scheme be noted.
- 2) The business case as outlined in para 5.3 be submitted to Policy, Finance and Administration committee for approval.

R16. CORPORATE REVIEW OF CHARGES 2013-14

The Head of Central Services submitted a report (copies of which had previously been circulated to Members) which provided information on the various fees and charges that are made by this committee.

The Head of Central Services drew attention to Recommendation 2.2 and corrected that this should refer to para 3.11 instead of 3.6. It was also noted that in Appendix A the charge for the collection of stray dogs is not impacted by whether the dog is micro-chipped or not as suggested in the Appendix.

The Head of Central Services explained that there is a need to increase Building Control fees compared with other Local Authorities and that these fees will also be priced in comparison with commercial services to keep the fee competitive.

Discussion took place about pre application advice fees and whether or not the Council should start charging applicants again. Some Members expressed concern that the Council Service will suffer if this is continued to be offered free of charge and that the cost should fall on those asking for the advice.

RESOLVED that

- 1) the proposed level of charges for 2012-14 be approved as set out in the table to operate from 1st April 2013, with the exception of Building Control fees where a report showing comparisons with the commercial sector will be brought back to the October Committee.
- 2) a further report be brought back for a scheme on pre-applications advice for domestic application.

R17. **PARTNERSHIP SCHEMES IN CONSERVATION AREAS- MELTON MOWBRAY**

The Head of Regulatory Services submitted a report (copies of which had previously been circulated to Members) which informed Members that the English Heritage has invited a joint bid from the Melton Borough Council and Leicestershire County Council to extend the Partnership scheme in Conservation Areas for Melton Mowbray for an additional year.

It was explained to Members that every pound that the Council contributes, up to an additional nine pounds worth of repair work is secured.

The Environmental Protection & Safety Manager stated that 30 of the Town Centre properties have been benefitted from this funding.

RESOLVED that

- 1) the Committee authorises the extension of the Partnership Scheme in Conservation Areas for Melton Mowbray for a further year, in order to maximise potential funding for repair and restoration works within the Town Centre conservation area.
- 2) the Committee delegates authority to the Head of Regulatory Services to sanction repair and restoration projects for buildings within the Melton Mowbray conservation area and authorise grant funding in conjunction with those projects.
- 3) this Committee approves the business case and requests that the Policy, Finance and Administration Committee diverts the funding of £15,000 from capital receipts.

R18. **PROGRESS ON THE WASTE MANAGEMENT SERVICE**

The Head of Regulatory Services submitted a report (copies of which had previously been circulated to Members) which updated Members on the Boroughs amended waste services following the changes in service that commenced on the 2nd April 2012.

The Principal Assistant (Environment) brought to Members attention that waste

going to Landfill has gone down 9% since the commencement of the service changes and that there has been an uplift in dry recycling of 20%. The Principal Assistant (Environment) also stated that not one complaint has been received since the new system has been implemented.

Members offered their congratulations to the Principal Assistant (Environment) and his team for the work that has been done.

It was suggested that a further report be brought back to the October Committee for more information on the breakdown of bin charges.

RESOLVED that

- 1) Members note the waste service update and request a further report be provided at the end of the first year's operation.
- 2) Members note the financial issues emerging from 'green waste credits' and bin charges arising from the amended service and determine how officers are to proceed with regard to implementing the charge for the provision of bins for new developments whether to charge the householder or seek a S106 agreement with the developers.
- 3) a further report be brought back to this committee in October outlining the breakdown of bin charges.

R19. END OF DESTINATION OF RECYCLING CHARTER

The Head of Regulatory Services submitted a report (copies of which had previously been circulated to Members) which aimed to seek Members agreement to sign two current Local Authority waste management commitments. The service has been well received with around 40 businesses participating in the Business Recycling service which started in June.

The End of Destination Recycling Charter asks for commitment from Local Authorities to tell customers where material ends up. This information will be publicised on the Council's website and regularly updated.

RESOLVED that

- 1) The signing of the Business Recycling and Waste Services Commitment be agreed.
- 2) The signing of the End of Destination of Recycling Charter be agreed.

R20. TOWARDS A POSSIBLE FUTURE LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTYWIDE WASTE COLLECTION CONTRACT

The Head of Regulatory Services submitted a report (copies of which had previously been circulated to Members) which seek Members approval to reply positively to correspondence regarding a 'waste summit meeting'

It was brought to Members attention that the Councils waste contract terminates

in 2017 therefore the Leicestershire Waste Partnership are investigating the possibility of a County-wide domestic waste collection contract.

A member expressed support of the recommendations feeling that the buying power of the whole of Leicestershire would be greater than Local Authorities separately. Discussions took place on the possibility of food waste collections and how this service causes people to modify their waste habits making the service financially unviable.

RESOLVED that

- 1) the existing Leicestershire Waste Partnership Action plan comments, determine the commencement of background work regarding a possible future joint working opportunity and the viability of establishing a Countywide Waste Collection contract be noted.
- 2) the Head of Regulatory Services, in consultation with Chairman of REEA, write in support of a proposed waste summit to include potential Countywide joint working contracts and arrangements.

R21. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods submitted a report (copies of which had previously been circulated to Members) seeking Members approval of the draft Economic Strategy and recommend to the Policy, Finance and Administrative Committee a recruitment of an Economic Development Officer.

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods explained to Members that the Economic Development of the Town has been one of the Council s top priority, the document outlining strategic priorities which have been unpinned with actions.

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods explained that the emphasis should lay on development of skills for work to match skills with employment, as findings show that there are similar amount of vacancies in Melton as there are unemployed members of the public.

Members supported the recruitment of an Economic Development Officer highlighting its role in supporting the vision of developing the economy.

RESOLVED that

- 1) the draft Economic Development Strategy be approved
- 2) a change to the establishment by the recruitment of an Economic Development Officer and a supplementary estimate of £7,500 from the working balance for 2012/13 be recommended to the Policy, Finance and Administration Committee.

R22. TOWN CENTRE SURVEY- INITIAL SUMMARY OF RESULTS

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods submitted a report (copies of which had previously been circulated to Members) which asked Members to note the results of the Borough-wide survey.

A discussion took place on the results of the survey sent out to all residents within the Borough of Melton to find out what residents expected from a town centre.

It was decided that a further report as a result of the survey be brought to this committee outlining actions and initiatives.

RESOLVED that

- 1) the initial summary of results responses from the Borough-wide survey be noted.
- 2) a further report be brought back to this committee outlining actions and initiatives in light of the Borough-wide survey.

R23. URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

The meeting which commenced at 6.30 p.m, closed at 7:40 p.m.

Chairman