



## RURAL, ECONOMIC & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

29<sup>th</sup> October 2014

Present:

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

Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods, Head of Regulatory Services, Central  
Services Manager, Corporate Policy Manager, Corporate Property Officer,  
Administrative Assistant for Communities and Neighbourhoods.

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### R31. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor P. Baguley and J Moulding.

### R32. MINUTES

The public and exempt minutes from the meeting of the 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2014 were confirmed and authorised to be signed by the Chairman.

### R33. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Rhodes and Councillor Orson declared a personal and non-pecuniary interest in relation to any issues concerning the Leicestershire County Council by virtue of them being County Councillors.  
Councillor Rhodes also declared a personal interest in Item 10 by virtue of him being a member of the English Heritage.

### R34. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

There were no recommendations from other Committees.

### R35. UPDATE ON DECISIONS

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods submitted an update on decisions from the previous meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2014, which was noted by the committee.

### R36. CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING 2014-19

The Head of Central Services submitted a report to update the committee on the progress on schemes within the Capital Programme to 30 September 2014.

The Central Services Manager stated that there is no year-end variance expected.

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

R37. CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2014-19

The Head of Central Services submitted a report to determine the Committee's Capital Programme for 2014-19 based on a review of spending in the current year's programme and schemes included in the programme for later years.

**RESOLVED** that

- 1) The revised Capital Programme for 2014-19 be approved.
- 2) The schemes being submitted in 2014-19 for funding as part of the budget setting process to ensure they meet the Councils priorities be noted
- 3) The Project Mandates in Appendix C be approved for inclusion in the Capital Programme.

R38. REVENUE BUDGET 2015-16 COMMITTEE ESTIMATES

The Head of Central Services submitted a report to inform Members on the latest position of this committees revenues budget estimates.

The Central Service Manager drew Members attention to para 3.2 which summarises the key stages in the budget setting process and para 3.5 and 3.6 outlining any variances.

**RESOLVED** that the latest position on this committee's revenue budget estimates be noted.

R39. HACKNEY CARRAIGE AND PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER LICENSES

The Head of Regulatory Services submitted a report to inform the committee of the relative merits of the proposal to change Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers' licences from one year to three years.

The Head of Regulatory Services drew Members attention to the financial impact to the service that 3 year licenses would bring which suggested that it was not beneficial at this stage to introduce a 3 year license but to wait for further regulation on this matter and to consider it then.

**RESOLVED** that

- 1) the decision regarding three year licensing regime for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers be postponed until either the Deregulation Bill or wholesale reforms of the Taxi legislation are made law.
- 2) it be instructed that the options for the reduction in the cost of the service commensurate with the loss of income associated with the 3 year license proposed are devised and the issue is considered further in the light of these.

**R40. PARTNERSHIP SCHEMES IN CONSERVATION AREAS- MELTON MOWBRAY**

The Head of Regulatory Services submitted a report to inform Members that English Heritage has now declined to 'match fund' a bid from Melton Borough Council to extend the Partnership Scheme in Conservation Areas (PSICA) for Melton Mowbray for an additional year and request that the funds dedicated are used unilaterally for their intended purpose.

The Head of Regulatory Services stated that Melton Mowbray had received funding from the English Heritage for the past 7 years, which will now cease.

The Leader expressed that the building above Thomas Cook in the Town Centre should be made a priority for restoration.

**RESOLVED** that:

- 1) the use of the £15,000 previously earmarked to the PSICA be authorised to maximise potential funding for repair and restoration works within the Town Centre conservation area.
- 2) delegated authority be given 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.

**R41. PLACE ANALYTICS- ECONOMIC PROFILE**

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods submitted a report asking Members to note the Place Analytics Toolkit and the initial findings relating to Melton's Economic Place Profile report as this will be used to refresh the Economic Development Strategy.

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods gave a presentation showing examples of the comparative data and strategic insight that this online tool provides, which is being used to inform the development of the Council's Corporate Plan and other key strategies. Members recognised the value of having this programme as an on-line research tool and its potential in shaping the Economic Development Strategy.

**RESOLVED** that the Place Analytics Toolkit and the initial findings relating to the Melton Economic Place Profile be noted

R42. TOWN CENTRE INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT (TCIM) PILOT

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods presented a report asking Members to consider and approve with the TCIM Pilot project that looks at developing an asset based approach to managing the town centre.

The Corporate Policy Manager announced that Melton has become one of four pilots nationally to be selected by the High Street Forum and Department of Communities and Local Government to look at developing an asset based approach to managing the town centre.

It was stated that a paper outlining the findings will come back to this committee in May/June 2015 after the pilot scheme has run from January to March 2015.

**RESOLVED** that the work of the TCIM Pilot project led by the national High Street Forum and Department of Communities and Local Government be approved and supported.

R43. URGENT ITEM- CONTRIBUTION TO JOINT STRATEGIC PLANNING MANAGER.

The Head of Regulatory Services submitted a report to seek the committee's authority to enter into a permanent Partnership Agreement with other Planning Authorities in Leicestershire and Leicestershire County Council to jointly employ a 'Strategic Planning Manager' to take forward cross border and county-wide issues central to production of the County's Development Plans, including the Melton Local Plan.

Discussion took place about how the funding for this post was split between the districts, County and the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership. (LLEP).

**RESOLVED** that authority be granted to enter the Partnership Agreement to employ a joint Strategic Planning Manager on a permanent basis.