



RURAL, ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

31st October 2012

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

As Observer
 J. Moulding

Chief Executive, Head of Central Services,
 Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods, Head of Regulatory Services,
 Environmental Protection & Safety Manager, Town Centre Manager,
 Administrative Assistant for Communities and Neighbourhoods

R24. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from the Corporate Director, Christine Marshall.

R25. MINUTES

The minutes from the meeting of the 4th September were confirmed and authorised to be signed by the Chairman subject to clarification regarding Cllr O'Callaghan's status as a Member or an Observer for the meeting of the 30th May. Confirmation has been received that at the time of this meeting Cllr O'Callaghan was not a Member of the REEA committee and therefore was recorded as an observer for the meeting of the 30th May 2012.

R26. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Gordon, Botterill and Simpson declared a personal interest in Item 11, para 3.5 by virtue of them being a Member of the Planning Committee. It was noted the remoteness of likelihood of this causing any conflict of interests with the Planning Committee.

R27. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

There were no recommendations from other committees

R28. UPDATE ON DECISIONS

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods submitted an update on decisions from the previous meeting on the 4th September, which was noted by the committee.

R29. FEES FOR PRE APPLICATION DISCUSSIONS

The Head of Regulatory Services presented a report (copies of which had been previously been circulated to Members) asking Members to consider the current level of charging for pre-application planning advice and the position with regards to the Deloitte Review on fees and charges. The Head of Regulatory Services explained that the Deloitte's review had highlighted that a number of other Local Authorities are making a charge for pre application advice for domestic applications. Members attention was also brought to para 3.5 outlining possible disadvantages of charging for this service.

A Member suggested the availability of application advice being made clear on the website, as well as general information around this, the Head of Regulatory Services confirming that basic guidelines were available but more spoke analysis is often needed to give the applicant more detail for specific queries.

Discussions took place regarding para 8.1 and it was decided that delegation be given to Officers to ensure that an EIA is completed.

RESOLVED that

- 1) The scheme for charging for pre application advice be agreed and extended to residential properties, subject to addressing any issues that may come from the EIA
- 2) Delegated authority be given to Head of Regulatory Services in consultation with the Chairman of this committee to devise a scheme in accordance with the Committee's instructions, on the basis of a cost recovery approach.

Councillor Horton and Councillor Gordon voted against the recommendations.

R30. SQUIRES MONUMENTS

The Head of Regulatory Services submitted a report to inform Members that English Heritage has requested a contribution from Melton Borough Council towards the repair and stabilisation of the Squire monument in Burton Lazars to facilitate its removal from the 'Buildings at Risk' Register.

RESOLVED that

- 1) the part funding of the repair and stabilisation programme on the monument be authorised.
- 2) The Supplementary Estimate for the funding of £2,000 from Corporate Priorities Reserve be recommended to the Policy, Finance and Administration Committee for approval.

R31. MELTON MOWBRAY- FAIRTRADE TOWN

The Town Centre Manager presented a report to update Members on the towns Fairtrade status and progress over the last two years and seek to request that

Melton Borough Council pass a council resolution, to again support the renewal of the towns Fairtrade status in 2012.

Members showed support of the recommendations but highlighted that alternative products need to be offered as well as Fairtrade.

An amendment was made to page 2 of the appendix under Schools and educational establishments that Brownwood school should read Brownlow.

RESOLVED that

- 1) The Melton Mowbray Fairtrade Town Steering Group be supported in their 2012 renewal application, to renew Melton Mowbray's Fairtrade status and that this be recommended to Full Council for support.
- 2) The promotion and use of Fairtrade refreshments be supported within the council premises; including meeting rooms, community centres and the new council offices.

The Town Centre Manager left the meeting.

R32. BUILDING CONTROL FEES

The Head of Regulatory Services presented a report to provide background detail to enable consideration of the fees to be set for Building Control for 2012/13.

The Head of Regulatory Services explained that there appears to be a strong correlation between the scale of fee increase and the reduction in the proportion of market share attracted by the in house service.

A Member raised concern of the costings and saw no justification of the increase at the present time. The Head of Regulatory Services confirmed that the department were confident that the costing were correct as they related to the costs incurred to deliver the service.

In response to this a Members suggested that Officers look at the cost for the service and requested a service review of the Building Control Function.

RESOLVED that

- 1) The current charges for the Building Control Services be maintained, based on the information within the report.
- 2) The Head of Regulatory Services be instructed to carry out a service review of the Building Control Services and its cost of delivery.

R.33 WASTE CONTAINER CHARGING POLICY

The Head of Regulatory Services submitted a report to provide Members with an overview of the current situation in regards to charging developers for the provision of domestic waste containers and to consider the policies, options and charging levels of other waste collection authorities for similar provision.

Members had discussions about charging the users directly, the savings and efficiencies of charging the developer, and the charging of replacement bins

The Chief Executive reminded Members that a policy decision had been made at committee in January not to charge the households.

A Member also raised concern about the EIA and stated that the EIA should be carried out for the end user.

RESOLVED that a further report be brought back to this committee in January, taking into account previous decisions made by this committee and a full EIA for the end user be carried out.

R34. CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2012

The Head of Central Services submitted a report to update the committee on the progress of schemes within the Capital Programme to 30 September 2012. The Head of Central Services drew Members attention to Appendix A to clarify that the Town Estate have agreed in principle to contribute 50% of the money for the boundary wall only, not the whole scheme.

RESOLVED that the progress made on each capital scheme be noted.

R35. CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2012-17

The Head of Central Services submitted a report to determine the Committees Capital Programme for 2012-17 based on a review of spending in the current years programme and scheme included in the programme for later years.

Discussion took place about Burton Street car park and the possible saving on £28,000 if the decision is made to leave an area for retail development and decide not to re-tarmac it. Members raised concern about the possibility of drainage problems on the Burton Street site, and that solid assurance would be needed that there would be no drainage issues or a compromise of access to disabled users if the decision was made to leave the stated area un-tarmaced.

RESOLVED that

- 1) The Capital Programme for 2012-17 be noted
- 2) the schemes being submitted in 2012-17 for funding as part of the budget setting process be considered to ensure that they meet the Councils priorities.
- 3) project mandate and business case attached at Appendix C be approved for urgent roof repairs to the Snow Hill Industrial Units for £90,000 for Policy finance and Administration committee approval for inclusion in the 2012/13 capital programme funded by a supplementary estimate from capital receipts.
- 4) The re surfacing of Burton Street Car Park be approved including the area of the apron on the "gap site"

R36. TOURISM- PERFORMANCE STEAM REPORT 2011

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods submitted a report for Members to note and comment on the Scarborough Tourism Economic Activity Monitor (STEAM) performance 2011.

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods explained that tourism is a good barometer of the economic situation and that the report showed that Melton has

managed to sustain tourism, when nationally there has been a decrease due to the economic climate.

RESOLVED that the Melton STEAM performance 2011 be noted.

R37. TOWN CENTRE FUTURE 2020 REPORT AND TOWN GUIDE APP

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods submitted a report to update Members on the summary results of the recent Town Centre Futures 2020 report, which were presented in a webinar to ATCM members and the Town Guide App.

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhood explained that Experian has carried out research into the keys drivers which will impact the town between 2012 and 2020, looking at economical trends and customer profiles to gather this projection. The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods stated that this information may be used to inform the Town Centre Master plan and that a Melton Town Centre App is being created, some of the features being Visitors amp, business search and available ongoing discounts.

RESOLVED that the initial summary of the Town Centre Futures 2020 report and a way forward through the Town Guide App be noted.

R38. URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

The meeting which commenced at 6.30 p.m, closed at 7:49 p.m.

Chairman