



COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

18th March 2015

PRESENT:-

Councillors D.R. Wright (Chairman) J. Illingworth (Vice Chairman),
P. Chandler, M.M Gordon, M. R. Graham, S. Lumley, J. Moulding, J.B. Rhodes, M.
Twitney, P. Posnett,

Observer

Councillor E. Holmes, J. Douglas

Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods, Strategic Director (KA), Head of Communications, HR & Communications Manager, Waste and Environmental Maintenance Manager, Project Funding Officer, Central Services Manager, Community Policy Officer, Strategic Housing Officer, Administrative Assistant for Communities and Neighbourhoods.

C53. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor L. Horton

C54. MINUTES

The public minutes of the meeting held on 21st January 2015 were authorised to be signed by the Chairman following the amendments below.

The property in C51 be referred to as the Fox Inn not the Fox Inn pub.

C55. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Rhodes & Posnett declared a personal and non pecuniary interest in relation to any issues concerning the Leicestershire County Council by virtue of them being a County Councillor. Both Councillor Rhodes and Posnett also declared bias concerning Item 16- Childrens Centre- Customer service resource and declared that they would be leaving the meeting during this time.

C56. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

There were no recommendations from other committees.

C57. UPDATE ON DECISIONS

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods submitted a report to update Members on the update of decisions from the previous meeting.

RESOLVED that the update on decision be noted.

C58. CHILDREN'S CENTRE- CUSTOMER SERVICES RESOURCES

EXCLUSION TO THE PUBLIC.

RESOLVED that the Public be excluded during the consideration of the following of business in accordance with Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (Access to Information : Exempt Information) under paragraph 3

Councillor Posnett and Councillor Rhodes left the meeting

The Head of Communications submitted a report to update Members on the impact on Customer Services resources at the children's centres

RESOLVED that the recommendations were approved.

C59. CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING APRIL 2014-JAN 2015

Councillor Posnett and Councillor Rhodes returned to the meeting.

The Head of Central Services submitted a report to update the Committee on the progress of schemes within the Capital Programme to 31st January 2015.

The Central Services Manager drew Members attention to para 5.5 outlining the projects that are not expected to be complete until 2015/16.

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods explained that previous procurement of the Melton Country Park Pavilion has been unsuccessful therefore a 3rd route is being explored which will be presented to this committee in June.

RESOLVED that the progress made on each Capital Scheme be noted.

C60. BUDGET MONITORING APRIL TO DECEMBER 2014

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

The Central Services Manager brought Members attention to para 3.3 outlining this Committees services.

RESOLVED that the financial position on each of this committees services to 31st December 2014 and yearend forecast be noted.

C61. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT- BUDGET MONITORING 1 APRIL 2014-31 DECEMBER 2014

The Head of Central Services and the Head of Communities and

Neighbourhood submitted a report to provide information on actual expenditure and income incurred on the Housing Revenue Account compared to the latest approved budget for the period 1 April 2014 to 31st December 2014.

Members attention was brought to para 3.4

RESOLVED that the financial position on the HRA to 31 December 2014 be noted.

C62. **HOMELESSNESS REVIEW- BED AND BREAKFAST**

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods submitted a report to inform Members of the outcome of the review in relation to bed and breakfast charges to homeless customers following recent review of homelessness services.

The Head of Communities outlined the key issue in the report and brought Members attention to the breakdown in statistics in para 3.8. The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods stressed that the charges have not been increased since 2009 and that the recommended increase is alongside inflation.

Discussion took place around whether the Council needs to increase the charges.

Councillor Moulding moved an amendment to not increase the charges, which was seconded by Councillor Twitney.

The amendment was not carried in the vote.

The reports recommendation was proposed by Councillor Rhodes and seconded by Councillor Graham.

RESOLVED that

- 1) The current Homelessness service provision be noted.
- 2) The increase to the accommodation charges be approved by inflation only from the 1st April 2015.

C63. **COMMUNAL CLEANING TENDER REPORT**

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhood submitted a report for Members to note the outcomes from the procurement of a new Communal Cleaning Contract exercise and approve the award of the contract to Cleanjeans Cleaning Service.

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods brought Members attention to para 5.1 Table 3 outlining 2 options of action.

Discussion took place around the cost of a deep clean being absorbed into 2015/16 weekly charge.

A Member suggested that the council subsidise this service in the interim of the charge being increased as he felt that the charge was being increased significantly.

RESOLVED that

- 1) the award of a contract to Cleanjeans Cleaning Services be approved, under the procurement process for the Communal Cleaning Contract 2015-2019.
- 2) Option 1 be approved as the communal Cleaning charge as set out in section 5.1

C64. GYPSY AND TRAVELLER ACCOMODATION NEEDS POLICY

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods presented a report to seek Members approval of the Gypsy and Travellers Accommodation and Needs Study.

The Strategic Housing Officer brought Members attention the recommendation at 2.2 emphasising that accommodation needs will be met on a 'need as it arise' basis.

Discussion took place about residential and transit provision options as well as the expansion of existing sites.

RESOLVED that

- 1) The accommodation as set out in the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment be noted and recognised
- 2) The accommodation needs identified in the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment be met on a 'need as it arises' basis, specifically to provide (to 2031)
 - 15 additional residential pitches
 - 2 additional transit pitches
 - No travelling showpeople plots
- 3) The preference for this provision to be in the form of small sized residential sites and that the evidence supports the delivery of;
 - One family sized residential site to the rural east of Melton
 - One family sized residential site as part of any major housing growth to Melton and
 - Small scale growth of the existing residential site to meet household and population change to 2031
- 4) The two transit pitches required be within residential sites to accommodate visitors to those site rather than the provision of a separate exclusively transit only use site
- 5) It be noted that the local plan will be the delivery mechanism for;
 - Allocating any land that is required for residential sites to meet the identified needs to 2031.
 - Setting a criteria policy to assess planning applications for residential and transit sites.
- 6) The benefits of working within a Multi-agency Traveller Unit approach be recognised.

C65. LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods submitted a report to update members on the Local Community Group Capacity, Capability and Needs study.

The Project Funding Officer stated that the data collected in the study will allow Melton Borough Council to assess the needs of CVS and equip the groups to become sustainable and resilient in a time when there is an increasing pressure on resources.

Councillor Holmes left the meeting.

A Member congratulated the Project Funding Officer and the Community Policy Officer for the work that they had done with community groups within the area.

RESOLVED that the Local Community Group Capacity, Capability and Needs Study be noted by Members of this committee.

C66. **SKATE PARK- APPROVAL OF BUSINESS CASE**

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods submitted a report asking Members to note the progress made on the skate park project and approve the Business Case for the renewal of the Melton Skate Park.

The Waste and Environmental Maintenance Manager outlined the report and emphasised the extensive consultation that had taken place with the Melton Skaters.

Discussion took place about the designs and materials to be used on the new facility. Discussion also took place about gaining sponsorship and the possibility of hosting regional skating events within the town.

RESOLVED that

- 1) The Melton Skate Park Business Case is approved in order to commence the new build phase
- 2) A supplementary estimate of £10,000 from capital receipts be approved.

C67. **THE HOUSING ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN (HAMP)- NEW BUILD, BECKMILL COURT AND GRANBY HOUSE REGENERATION UPDATE.**

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods submitted a report asking Members to note and comment on the Regeneration Plans for Beckmill Court and Granby House as part of the Housing Asset Management Plan.

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods advised that the new builds are due for completion at the end of this month and more possible development sites will be brought back to this committee for approval in June 2015.

Members congratulated the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods on the work that he had undertaken on the Housing Asset Management Plan.

A member asked about the feasibility of turning some garages which are underneath flats into social housing. The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods stated that although this option was explored it was not financially viable to proceed with the conversions.

RESOLVED that

- 1) The progress that the New Build Programme has made in delivering the first Council New Build Project in nearly 30 years be noted.

- 2) The Feasibility Report for Beckmill Court be approved as set out in Appendix B
- 3) The Feasibility Report for Granby House be approved as set out in Appendix C

URGENT BUSINESS

C68. There was no urgent business.

The meeting which commenced at 6.30p.m, closed at 8:45 p.m.

Chairman