



RURAL, ECONOMIC & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

3<sup>rd</sup> June 2015

Present:

Councillor P. Baguley, T. Beaken, G.E Botterill, R. de Burle, T. Culley, L. Higgins, E. Hutchinson (Vice Chairman), J.T Orson (Chairman), J. B Rhodes, M. Sheldon, J. Simpson.

Observer

Councillor P. Faulkner, P. Posnett

Strategic Director (CAM), Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods, Central Services Manager, Economic Development Officer, Regulatory Services Manager, Corporate Property Officer, Environmental Protection & Safety Manager, Town Centre Manager, Administrative Assistant for Communities and Neighbourhoods.

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R1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence received.

R2. MINUTES

The public and exempt minutes from the meeting held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2015 were confirmed and authorised to be signed by the chairman.

R3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Rhodes declared a personal and prejudicial interest in any item relating to the County Council by virtue of him being a County Councillor. Councillor Rhodes declared that because of his involvement in decisions made at a County level in relation to Item 16, he would leave during these discussions.

Councillor Orson declared a personal and pecuniary interest in any item relating to the County Council by virtue of him being a County Councillor, and declared that he would be involved in discussions taking place regarding item 16 and not taking part at any discussions regarding the matter at any County Council meetings.

Councillor Faulkner declared a personal interest in items 7 and 9 and stated that he would be leaving the meeting during these agenda items.

Councillor Posnett declared a personal and pecuniary interest in any item relating to the County Council by virtue of her being a County Councillor and an interest in item 16 stating that she would be leaving the meeting during this agenda item.

R4. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

There were no recommendations from other Committees.

R5. UPDATE ON DECISIONS

The update on decisions was noted by the committee.

R6. WASTE TASK GROUP

The committee was asked to nominate Members for the Waste Task Group which will provide guidance in respect of the procurement of a replacement waste contract. The chairman asked for 7 nominations

**RESOLVED that** the Members of the Waste Task Group are; Councillor Orson, Sheldon, Botterill, de Burle, Hutchison, Culley.

The Chairman stated that 1 more member would be found for this Task group from outside this committees membership.

R7. REVIEW OF CHARGES 2015-16: TAXI LICENSING

Councillor Faulkner left the meeting

The Head of Regulatory Services submitted a report to consider the proposed increase in fees for taxi licensing following the report to this committee on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2015.

The Regulatory Services Manager outlined the reports key points and brought Members attention to para 3.7 and 3.10 showing the current and proposed percentage increase in cost recovery.

**RESOLVED** that

- 1) The level of charges for 2015-16 be agreed as laid out in Appendix A.
- 2) A three year licensing regime for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers and Operators be introduced with immediate effect, in advance of and in preparation for Deregulation Bill or other reforms of the Taxi legislation being made law.

Councillor Faulkner returned to the meeting

R8. FIXED ODDS BETTING TERMINALS

The Head of Regulatory Services submitted a report to inform Members about Fixed Odds Betting Terminals, the law in relation to them, and other matters relating to their use and effect.

The Regulatory Service Manager stated that the report seeks Members response to a request of support letter from the Hippodrome Casino.

Discussion took place about the justification of limiting stake to £2.00 at a local level and any indication of this issue in Melton.

**RESOLVED** that

- 1) These issues outlined in the campaign letter be noted in relation to the Gambling Act 2015.
- 2) There be insufficient evidence at local level to justify supporting the campaign to limit stakes to £2.00.

R9. TAXI LICENSING- ENFORCEMENT POLICY

Councillor Faulkner left the meeting

The Head of Regulatory Services submitted a report to consider the proposal to fully implement a revised 'Penalty Points scheme' for all licensed taxi drivers and operators within the Borough of Melton Mowbray.

The Regulatory Services Manager outlined the penalty points system and stressed that this points system operates separately from Police enforcement points.

Discussion took place about the staffing capacity to enforce this policy and the appeal process.

**RESOLVED** that

- 1) The revised 'Penalty Point Scheme' be implemented under the terms and provisions of the schemes documents.
- 2) Relevant officers be authorised to issue the penalty points in line with the terms and provisions of the scheme.

R10. TOWN CENTRE PEDESTRIANISED AREAS INCLUDING MARKET PLACE, MELTON MOWBRAY

Councillor Faulkner returned to the meeting.

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods submitted a report for Members to note and comment on the update in current town centre issues, regarding

vehicular access throughout the town centre, enforcement and future traffic management options.

The Town Centre Manager outline the background and current position as explained in section 3 highlighting to Members that LCC highways has confirmed that there is no LCC budget to replace the current access control bollards in the town centre and that there are no plans in the near future to deal with this issue.

The Town Centre Manager outlined 3 options that could be taken to resolve this issue and circulated pictures of swing gate barriers relating to option 2.

Discussions took place around the prospect of resources being given to enforce the illegal parking in the pedestrian areas.

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods stated that the padlock used on the swing gates is accessible by all the emergency services and clarified the cost of 3 of these barriers would be £5.5K

**RESOLVED** that

- 1) The update on the current town centre issues regarding vehicular access throughout the town centre, enforcement and future traffic management options be noted.
- 2) delegated authority be given to the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods in consultation with the chair of this committee and the appropriate spokesperson for the independent group, for the installation of a swing gate at 3 pedestrian gateways be installed subject to consultation with businesses and Leicestershire County Council highway.
- 3) It be noted that any cost will be met from existing budgets, however, noting that additional town centre projects requiring funding may result in a request to Members for a supplementary estimate during 2015/16 should it be needed.
- 4) a short term increase in enforcement and a longer term periodical resource option be explored to enforce illegal parking in the town centre.

Councillor Rhodes abstained from voting.

#### R11. TOWN CENTRE BENCHMARKING 2014

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods submitted a report for Members to note and comment on the People and Places Benchmarking report 2014, comparing the town centres overall annual performance against comparable large market towns and national statistics.

The Town Centre Manager brought Members attention to para 3.5.1 outlining the high proportion of independent businesses in Melton Town Centre and para 3.6.1 stating that business turnover and profit figures have shown a significant increase with 44% of businesses surveyed experiencing an increase in turnover.

Discussions took place about the importance of the business rate relief scheme in Melton Town Centre and it was decided that a letter would be sent to Central Government to convey this.

A Member congratulated the Town Centre Manager on the 'What On' guide.

**RESOLVED** that

- 1) The People and Places Town Centre Benchmarking report 2014 that summarises the town centre's overall performance on the High Street in 2014 be noted.
- 2) The next steps and activities identified from section 3.9-3.16 be approved.

R12. **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (2015-2020) PROGRESS**

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods submitted a report to provide Members with an update on the performance, improvement and progress of Melton Borough Council's Economic Development Strategy activities.

The Economic Development Officer outline the key issues and background of the report and drew Members attention to the key findings in para 3.4.

A Member suggested that Longfield Academy and Belvoir High School should be added to the list of organisations to develop partnerships with on page 24 of the Appendix.

**RESOLVED that** the performance, improvements and progress made in relation to the Economic Development Strategy be noted.

R13. **CATTLE MARKET UPDATE: PHASE 1- PLANNING AND PRE-CONSTRUCTION**

The Strategic Director (CM) and the Corporate Property Officer submitted report to update the Committee on matters relating to the Cattle Market regeneration and rationalisation project and to outline the progress made and next steps planned.

The Corporate Property Officer outlined the background laid out in the report and stated that consultation had taken place with market traders who were enthusiastic about the planned regeneration. Discussions are also taking place regarding interim improvements to the Cattle Market.

**RESOLVED that**

- 1) the update on progress related to this project as set out in the report be noted
- 2) the received "confirmation" of the overall Growth Deal indicative allocations be

noted, however no formal offer letter from the LLEP has been provided to date and this is awaited.

4) a revised spending profile and allocation of Council funding for the Cattle Market regeneration project be recommend to the Policy, Finance and Administration Committee as outlined in para 5.1.

5) the liaison taking place with partners and interested parties as set out in the report be noted.

6) the final drawings due to be submitted to the Planning Authority be noted and delegated authority be given to the Corporate Property Officer in consultation with the Strategic Director (CM), to make any necessary changes or undertake additional surveys to satisfy any planning conditions or queries as a result of the submission, as advised by the Councils Project Managers and Contractors.

7) It be noted that the initial Heads of Terms for a new 20 year lease have been reported by Bruton Knowles and officers will be working through these and they will be reported back to Members in due course.

R14. URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

**EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED** that the Public be excluded during the consideration of the following item(s) of business in accordance with Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (Access to Information: Exempt Information under Paragraphs 1 and 2.

R15. CATTLE MARKET UPDATE: PHASE 1- PLANNING AND PRE-CONSTRUCTION (CONTINUATION FROM ABOVE)

Discussions took place about the strategies to increase the footfall and widen the experience for farmers at the Cattle Market site.

**RESOLVED** that the recommendation 2.3 be approved.

R16. REVIEW OF THE RESOURCING AND DELIVERY OF LICENSING AND ENFORCEMENT SERVICES

The Head of Regulatory Services submitted a report to consider proposals regarding the delivery of licensing and enforcement services within Regulatory Services.

**RESOLVED that** the recommendation at 2.1 be approved.

R17. **NEW WASTE CONTRACT PROCUREMENT UPDATE**

Councillor Rhodes and Councillor Posnett left the meeting.

The Head of Regulatory Services submitted a report to update Members on progress with this project which aims to enable the Council to secure a new Waste Management contract for implementation on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 as the existed contract expires on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017.

**RESOLVED that** the recommendations at 2.1 be approved.

The meeting that started at 6:30pm finished at 9:20pm.

Chairman