



EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE  
COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF MELTON

PARKSIDE, STATION APPROACH, BURTON STREET, MELTON MOWBRAY

30 MARCH 2016

PRESENT

Councillor J. Douglas (Mayor)  
P. Baguley, T. Bains, T. Beaken, G.E. Botterill,  
P. Chandler, T. Culley, P. Cumbers, M. Glancy,  
M. Graham MBE, T. Greenow, L. Higgins,  
E. Holmes, E. Hutchison, J. Illingworth, S. Lumley,  
V. Manderson, J.T. Orson, A. Pearson, P. Posnett, J.B. Rhodes,  
M. Sheldon, J. Simpson, D. Wright, J. Wyatt

Chief Executive  
Strategic Director (KA), Strategic Director (CM)  
Head of Communities & Neighbourhoods,  
Solicitor to the Council (Deputy Monitoring Officer),  
Central Services Manager, People & Place Manager  
Democracy & Involvement Officer

Mr Robin Thompson – RPT Consulting

The Mayor offered a prayer

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CO87. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors de Burle and Hurrell.

CO88. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Orson, Pearson, Posnett and Rhodes each declared a personal interest in any matters relating to the Leicestershire County Council due to their roles as County Councillors.

CO89. MELTON SPORTS & LEISURE VILLAGE – BUSINESS CASE

Members had previously been circulated with a copy of a report from the Melton Sports & Leisure Working Group which set out the proposed business case for the progression of the Leisure Vision project.

In moving the recommendations contained in the report, Councillor Higgins outlined the background to the Working Group's recommendations regarding the development and future operations of the sports and leisure village after 2017. He made reference to the on going success of the current site users, Melton Town Football Club and Melton Rugby Club and thanked the representatives of the various sports clubs and members of the public present at the meeting.

Councillor Higgins advised that currently sports and physical activity brought in £12.5m in gross added value to the local economy. Sports England recorded 340 people in the Borough directly employed in this sector. The progression and development of the leisure vision would greatly enhance these figures bringing more money into the local economy, providing further job opportunities, and setting the right environment for clubs to develop. By showing leadership on these objectives, the Council could deliver a huge potential in terms of health benefits to local residents; participation in physical activity did not necessarily have to be competitive and the Leisure Vision sought to cater for a wide range of activities and abilities. Engagement in physical activities helped to build confidence and had been shown to bring benefits in the prevention and treatment of dementia. Since the Council's contractor had taken over management of the site, there had been a significant increase in usage. The greatest economic benefit to be delivered over time would be in terms of a healthier population which would be less dependent on state support. Improved quality and length of life and less dependency on health services would help to reduce the current cost to the Borough of £17.9m, Participation in sport and group physical activity helped to build friendships and communities, increased pride in the neighbourhood and reduced incidents of anti social behaviour – aims all at the heart of the Council's strategy of supporting local communities.

Councillor Higgins thanked the officers involved in working towards the improvement of the site since the Council's acquisition, and ward members Councillors Beaken and Greenow for working with residents to share their views. The Working Group was firmly of the view that the project should not incur any additional revenue cost to the Council, and preferably deliver a revenue income that could be used further to improve and develop other projects. He concluded by referring to the Melton Running Club's growing success and gave examples of individual members' personal achievements as a result of joining the club. He thanked the Members of the Working Group for their hard work and support.

Councillor Posnett seconded the motion, reserving her right to speak until later in the debate.

The Mayor then invited questions and comments from Members. A Member indicated he had a question on the exempt Appendix B in response to which the Mayor advised that this would need to be taken at the end of the debate so that the Council could move into private session.

A question was asked on whether the project would include a running track. Councillor Higgins replied that it was proposed that the facility would include a 'trim trail' around the site but it was not large enough for a full size track. The Head of Communities & Neighbourhoods clarified that the whole vision was to provide for a wide range of activities for a range of participants but the full extent would be subject to the outcome of the procurement process.

Councillor Posnett spoke on the good level of response to the Leisure Vision consultation process which had attracted 2,500 replies and how spending generally in leisure activity had increased by 18.2% since 2010. She referred to a summit she had attended that day on the 'High Street' and how increased spending on the leisure sector had increased footfall in the High Street so this was a good news message in terms of the local economy.

A Member referred to the closure of the sports facilities at Melton College which had resulted in the Melton Squash Club moving to Grantham. He had been advised that this had resulted in a loss of income of £135K to the local economy. This served to emphasise the need for the Council to support the Leisure Vision. As mover of the motion, Councillor Higgins summed up by acknowledging that this was an ambitious project but the Council was working with partners and engaging with the community towards an all round approach. He commended the proposed business case to Members.

The Chief Executive then advised the press representative and members of the public present that the Council now needed to move into private session in order to consider the question on the contents of the exempt Appendix B. A motion to exclude the public was voted upon and carried.

### **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED that the Public be excluded during the consideration of the contents of the exempt Appendix B to the Working Group's report in accordance with Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (Access to Information: Exempt Information under Paragraph 3).**

**[The press and public here left the meeting.]**

A question was raised on an aspect of the project's funding with the Member expressing concern about the recommendation to give approval to a business case before the outcome of the procurement process was known. Detailed explanation was provided by officers and Mr Thompson representing RPT Consulting. Further discussion took place after which the Leader suggested that the business case before the meeting represented a provisional one rather than the final version pending a tender process. He suggested that the second recommendation be amended to reflect that the Council notes the provisional business case. Members indicated support for this suggestion and both the mover and seconder of the motion agreed to this alteration. Councillor Higgins emphasised that the Council would not be committing any funding at this stage as this would be dependent upon the outcome of the procurement process.

**[The press and public returned to the meeting.]**

Councillor Higgins thanked the public for their patience and read out the recommendations contained in the motion subject to the amended wording for recommendation (2). Upon being put to the vote, the motion was carried unanimously.

**RESOLVED** that the Council

(1) thanks the Melton Sports, Leisure & Culture Working Group for their work in developing the Business Case;

(2) notes the provisional Leisure Vision Business Case (as attached at Appendix A and exempt Appendix B to the report);

(3) subject to recommendation (2), instructs officers to commence the procurement process as outlined in sections 3.5-3.13 of the report;

(4) subject to recommendation (2), approves that 'The Melton, Sports, Leisure & Culture Working Group' continues to operate under the new Terms of Reference of:

'To oversee the development of the project and consider the final Procurement Report for Full Council to determine the way forward'.

The meeting, which commenced at 6.30 p.m., closed at 7.15 p.m.

Mayor