



RURAL, ECONOMIC & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

2nd September 2015

Present:

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

Chief Executive, Strategic Director (CAM), Central Services Manager, Regulatory Services Manager, Corporate Property Officer, Corporate Policy Manager, Administrative Assistant for Communities and Neighbourhoods.

R18. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor P Baguley and Councillor R DeBurle

R19. MINUTES

The public and exempt minutes were authorised to be signed by the Chairman following the amendments below;

R3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Rhodes, Councillor Orson and Councillor Posnett declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest in any item relating to the County Council by virtue of them being County Councillors.

R7. REVIEW OF CHARGES

Members debated the increase in fee and while they acknowledged the increase being high was regrettable in usual circumstances, it was thought it was important to recover the costs and that the 3 / 5 year licences would overall reduce the administrative and cost burden onto taxi drivers and businesses. Members were keen to bring the 3 and 5 year licence arrangements in as soon as possible to allow that to happen.

R20. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Rhodes declared a personal interest and a risk of bias regarding Item 14 Waste Management Update September 2015 and a personal and non-prejudicial interest in any item involving the County Council by virtue of him being a County Councillor. Councillor Rhodes stated that he would be leaving the meeting during Item 14 Waste Management Update September 2015

Councillor Culley declared a personal interest in Item 8- Fees for taxi licenses due to a family member being a taxi driver.

Councillor Orson declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest in any item involving the County Council by virtue of him being a County Councillor.

Councillor Faulkner declared a personal and financial pecuniary interest in Item 8 and 9 and stated that he would be leaving the meeting during these items.

R21. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

There were no recommendations from other Committees.

R22. UPDATE ON DECISIONS

The update on decisions was noted by the committee.

The Chairman expressed his concern in the decline of market stalls on a Saturday in Melton town centre and suggested to Members that Officers be instructed to meet with the Town Estate to discuss this. The Strategic Director confirmed that this would be taken forward.

R23. BUDGET MONITORING APRIL TO JUNE 2015

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 30th June 2015.

The Central Services Manager brought Members attention to para 3.3 and 3.4 providing a summary of variances and outlined para 3.6.1 covering the main areas of overspend that fall into this committees remit.

The recommendations were moved by Councillor Orson and seconded by Councillor Hutchison

RESOLVED that

- 1) The financial position and year end forecast on each of this Committee's services to 30th June be noted.
- 2) The utilisation of the Local Development Framework (LDF) reserve for an additional £30K to fund Local Plans expenditure be approved subject to approval from the Policy, Finance & Admin Committee.

R24. CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING TO 31ST JULY 2015

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

The Central Services Manager outlined the recommendation at 2.2 and explained to Members that Health and Safety works for the Cattle Market improvements required a supplementary estimate of £8K from Capital Receipts.

The recommendations were moved by Councillor Orson and seconded by Councillor Higgins.

RESOLVED that

- 1) The progress made on each capital scheme be noted.
- 2) A supplementary estimate of additional £8K from Capital Receipts in relation to the Business case for the Health and Safety works at the Cattle Market be recommended to Policy, Finance and Administration Committee in order to allocate a total of £78K for inclusion within the capital programme for 2015/16.

R25. FEES FOR TAXI LICENCES

Councillor Faulkner left the meeting for the duration of the next two items.

The Head of Regulatory Services submitted a report to consider objections received to proposals to increase taxi licences that were proposed by the Committee on 3rd June 2015.

The Head of Regulatory Services circulated an objection based on the methodology used to calculate the charges that had been emailed on 1st September as well as his responses to the queries raised.

The Chairman requested that the objection and the response be recorded in the minutes of this meeting.

The Head of Regulatory Services outlined the Legal Implications/Powers and emphasised the scope to make charges as “reasonable with a view to recovering the costs of issue and administration”

The Head of Regulatory Services brought Members attention to para 11.1 providing a more detailed responses to the objections.

Discussion took place regarding 1 year and 3 year licences, the discrepancies within a sampling period and the Chairman stated that currently the Council are only recovering 50% of the cost of the service.

A Member emphasised the Councils support in trying to save operators money stating that this was the reason that 3-5 year licenses were approved at the last Rural, Economic and Environmental meeting.

Discussions took place around the option to defer this paper to the next meeting and this was proposed as an alternative recommendation.

RESOLVED that the decision to agree the level of fees for taxi licenses for the remainder of 2015/16 be deferred to the next Rural, Economic and Environmental Affairs Committee- in order that further calculations can be carried out to investigate whether the inclusion of time spent on policy formulation is proportionate.

1 Member voted against this recommendation.

R26. A CORPORATE REVIEW OF CHARGES 2016-17

The Head of Central Services submitted a report to provide information on the various fees and charges that are made by this committee and to recommend changes to these charges to operate from 1st April 2016.

The Central Services Manager stated that this report covers proposed charges for services that fall outside of the delegated authority to be increased in line with inflation.

It was stated the recommendation 2.2 should now be deferred until the next meeting as it is in response to the previous taxi licensing resolution being approved in the previous item of business.

The Central Services Manager drew Members attention to Appendix B and stated that the Car Parking Strategy review will be coming to this committee in November for an update.

The recommendation at 2.1 were moved by Councillor Rhodes and seconded by Councillor Orson.

RESOLVED that the level of charges for 2016-17 for each of the services set out in the table (Appendix A) be approved to operate from 1st April 2016.

Councillor Faulker did not return for the remainder of the meeting.

R27. HOME BOARDING OF DOGS

The Head of Regulatory Services submitted a report to introduce the fee and conditions to be applied to a licence for home boarding of dogs.

Councillor Culley drew attention to Appendix A asking that 4.1 be re worded regarding the temporary use of external constructions, cages or runs, and that all dogs will need to micro-chipped as of 2016 therefore section 9 will need to be amended to reflect this.

The recommendation were proposed by Councillor Rhodes and seconded by Councillor Higgins.

RESOLVED that

- 1) The conditions relating to the home boarding of dogs be approved and authority be delegated to the Head of Regulatory Services to determine applications for such licences and to make minor amendments to the conditions as necessary.
- 2) An annual fee be agreed for the licence, to take immediate effect (future fees will be the subject of annual fee setting reports)

R28. **TOURISM- STEAM TREND REPORT**

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods submitted a report asking Members to note and comment on the Tourism Scarborough Tourism Economic Activity Monitor (STEAM) trend report for Melton 2013-2014.

The Corporate Policy Manager drew Members attention to the narrative summary attached at appendix 1 stating that between 2013 and 2014 the Economic Impact in the town had increased by 6.4% in relation to the County's 6.1%.

The Corporate Policy Manager stated that this report was a good news story and emphasised the strong position that the towns economy is in.

Councillor Higgins expressed support for Melton's music scene and encouraged officers to continue to advance the music scene as part of the evening economy of the town.

Councillor Culley drew members attention to Appendix 1 stating that there had been 1.6 million tourism visits to Melton Borough Council area in 2014 as expressed that she believed this figure was excessive. The Corporate Policy Manager explained that visitor days take into account those visitors who stay for more than a day, therefore a family of 5 staying 3 nights account for 15 visitor days.

The recommendations were moved by Councillor Orson and seconded by Councillor Hutchison.

RESOLVED that the Melton STEAM trend report 2013-2014 and the performance of tourism during this period be noted.

R29. **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.

R30. CATTLE MARKET UPDATE

The Strategic Director (CAM) and the Corporate Property Officer submitted a report to update Members on exempt matters relating to the Cattle Market proposed re-development Phase 1.

The Corporate Property Officer outlined the report and brought Members attention to the options appraisal and return on investment.

The recommendations were moved by Councillor Orson and seconded by Councillor Rhodes

RESOLVED that the recommendations 2.1 a-e be approved.

R31. WASTE MANAGEMENT UPDATE SEPTEMBER 2015

Councillor Rhodes left the meeting due to an interest in this item which was declared earlier in the meeting.

The Head of Regulatory Services submitted a report to provide Members with details on the existing integrated waste management contract.

The Head of Regulatory Services gave Members a general update on progress towards making arrangements to take effect upon the expiry of the current contract.

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RESOLVED that the recommendations at 2.1 and 2.2 be approved.

The meeting that started at 6:30pm finished at 7:50pm

Chairman