



## COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

18<sup>th</sup> March 2014

### PRESENT:-

Councillors D.R. Wright (Chairman) V.J. Manderson (Vice Chairman), S. Lumley, J.B. Rhodes, M. Twitney, P. Posnett, T. Moncrieff

### As Observer

M. Gordon, J. Illingworth.

### As Substitute

G Bush (as substitute for L Horton), J Douglas (as substitute for M Graham)

Strategic Director (CAM), Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods, People and Places Manager, Central Services Manager, Environmental Protections and Safety Manager, Administrative Assistant for Communities and Neighbourhoods, Administrative Assistant for Housing Options.

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### C59. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M Graham and P Chandler

### C60. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2014 were confirmed and authorised to be signed by the Chairman.

### C61. 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. Councillor Twitney declared a pecuniary interest in any item arising relating to Brooksby Melton College.

### C62. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

There were no recommendations from other committees.

C63. 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.

C64. CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING TO 28 FEBRUARY 2014

The Head of Central Services submitted a report to update the Committee on the progress of schemes within the Capital Programme to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2014.

The Central Services Manager drew Members' attention to Appendix A1 regarding the £146K underspend on Disabled Facilities Grant advising that forecast for the year is based on lower level of referrals made to date and that further information will be found in a specific item later on the agenda.

A discussion was also held in reference to Appendix A1 regarding the Waterfield Leisure Centre Car Parking Improvements. The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods advised that an amended planning application is being presented to the Planning Committee in April 2014 seeking permission for an overflow to the current car park.

Members discussed the increased costs involved with the works to the Cemetery Lodge and showed concern that the original cost of £20,000 had now increased to £40,000 after going to tender. Discussions included whether to demolish the Cemetery Lodge to allow for an extra 4-7 years use of the cemetery or the options available if the property is renovated.

**RESOLVED** that £20,000 supplementary estimate be recommended to the Policy, Finance and Administration Committee for the cemetery lodge capital works.

C65. BUDGET MONITORING APRIL TO DECEMBER 2013

The Head of Central Services provided information on actual expenditure and income incurred on the Committee's services compared to the latest approved budget for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013.

The Central Services Manager drew Members' attention to page 2 of the report, 3.6.1 and advised that though there is an overspend at present the forecast at the year-end will show a break even position.

Members praised the income of the Wheels to Work scheme, as outlined in para 3.6.2.

**RESOLVED** that the financial position on each of this Committee's services to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013 be noted.

C66. REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING APRIL TO DECEMBER 2013 - HRA

The Head of Central Services submitted a report to provide information on actual expenditure and income incurred on the Housing Revenue Account (HRA), compared to the latest approved budget for the period 1 April 2013 to 31 December 2013.

The Central Services Manager drew Member's attention to the underspend at Appendix A and it was agreed that the HRA is in a sound financial position.

**RESOLVED** that the financial position on the HRA to 31 December 2013 be noted.

C67. DISABLED FACILITIES GRANTS (DFGs).

The Head of Regulatory Services submitted a report to update Members, as requested, on the underspend relating to the DFG budget in 2013-14.

The Environmental Protection and Safety Manager explained to Members how the DFG is assessed by referring to sections 3.2 – 3.7.

The Environmental Protection and Safety Manager drew Members attention to para 4.4 highlighting that in the financial year 15/16 funds will be joined together creating a 'Better Care Fund'.

It was pointed out in Section 5 that though the budget has not been set for this year, a contribution of £50,000 instead of the agreed £100,000 would be adequate, Melton Borough has about 20 people awaiting assessment for DFG's. It was decided that the Environmental Protection and Safety Manager draft a letter to County on behalf of the committee, outlining the lack of referrals from Occupational Therapists and making them aware of the monies available for this scheme.

It was supported on a unanimous vote that £50,000 will be approved.

**RESOLVED** that

- 1) The process for administering the DFGs be noted.
- 2) A revised Capital Allocation of £50,000 for the Council's Top Up element of the DFG Capital Programme for 2014/15 as part of the carry forward approvals to the Policy, Finance and Administration Committee.

C68. REVIEW OF HOME OWNER LOAN SCHEME

The Head of Regulatory Services submitted a report to update Members on the current situation around the provision of loans for Private Sector Housing within the Borough of Melton.

The Environmental Protection and Safety Manager advised Members that the

loan fund of £25,000 has not been used as there has been no take up from the public as other organisations were able to make more financially beneficial offers. As per section 5.1 it was asked that £25,000 be carried over into 2014/15 then when the capital programme is reviewed later in the year, future years' funding can be removed.

The Members voted unanimously to continue with the funding.

**RESOLVED** that the loan budget of £25,000 be retained and incorporated into the carry forward approvals to the Policy, Finance and Administration Committee.

C69. HOUSING FOYER PROJECT

G Bush left the meeting due to pecuniary interest in this item by virtue of him being on the Planning Committee.

**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

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods submitted a report seeking Members approval of the Housing Foyer Business Case.

Councillor B Rhodes left the meeting due to a pecuniary interest in this item by virtue of him being a County Councillor

Councillor Posnett advised that she would remain under the exemption in accordance with Paragraph 13(3)(g) of the Council's Code of Conduct.

**RESOLVED** that the recommendations be approved.

The meeting which commenced at 6.30p.m, closed at 7.46 p.m.

Chairman