



COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

17th June 2015

PRESENT:-

Councillors D.R. Wright (Chairman) T.S. Baines (Vice Chairman), T. Greenow, P.M. Chandler, S. Lumley (sub), T. Beaken, J.B. Rhodes, T. Culley, A. Pearson.

Observer

Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods, Central Services Manager, Environmental, Protection and Safety Manager , Community Policy Officer, Communications & HR Manager, Administrative Assistants for Communities and Neighbourhoods.

C1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr M.R. Graham (substituted by Cllr S Lumley) and Cllr P. Posnett.

C2. MINUTES

The public minutes of the meeting held on 18th March 2015 were authorised to be signed by the Chairman.

The exempt minutes of the meeting held on 18th March 2015 were authorised to be signed by the Chairman following the amendments below:

C58. Resolved numbers 3 and 4 are duplicated, number 4 is to be removed.

C3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Wright declared an interest in Item 12 and will leave the meeting at this point.

Councillor Rhodes declared a personal and non-pecuniary interest in relation to any issues concerning the Leicestershire County Council by virtue of being a County Councillor.

C4. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

There were no recommendations from other committees.

C5. UPDATE ON DECISIONS

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods submitted a report for Members to note the update on decisions from the previous meetings in March.

C6. RECONSTITUTE TASK GROUPS

The Committee provided nominations for the following Task Groups as appropriate and considered the terms of reference and appointed members thereto:

RESOLVED

Intensive Housing Management Service Task Group – 6 members needed – Cllr D. Wright, Cllr P. Chandler, Cllr T. Baines, Cllr T. Greenow, Cllr A. Pearson and Cllr T. Culley.

Housing Foyer Task Group – 6 members needed – Cllr D. Wright, Cllr T. Baines, Cllr P. Posnett, Cllr P Chandler, Cllr T. Beaken and Cllr T. Greenow.

C7. PLAY AREA EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods submitted a report requesting Members to approve the replacement of Play Equipment at 3 sites recently removed for health & safety reasons.

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods advised that the play areas will be replaced and prioritised for the summer holidays. It was highlighted that that the financial requirement for this is £65k made up from £30k from 106 contributions £35k from the Council's special expenses reserves. It was also highlighted that an annual sinking fund of £35k - £40k from 2015/16 onwards would be needed to maintain the play areas, this is £5k-£10k above current budgets and will be adjusted as part of the 2016/17 budget setting process.

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods advised that a local community group has raised funds for play equipment to be installed in the Avon Road playing field and that members' are asked to approve the Council to order, install and maintain this equipment.

Members, to expedite approval for this, suggested that the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods pursue through the Chief Executive's delegated powers.

RESOLVED that

1. The Project Mandate and Business Case (Appendices A&B) for the replacement/renewal of play equipment as detailed within this report for three of Melton Mowbray's play areas: The Crescent, Baldocks Lane and the Melton Country Park Visitors Centre Play area be approved and recommended to the PFA committee to be included in the 2015/16 Capital Programme.

2. The Business Case attached at Appendix C, which relates to the play equipment on Avon Road be approved and recommended to the Policy, Finance and Administration Committee to be include this project into the 2015/16 Capital Programme.

C8. PROVISIONAL YEAR END POSITION – HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT

The Head of Central Services and the Head of Communities & Neighbourhoods submitted a joint report to provide Members with information on the provisional year end position for 2014-15, which is subject to external audit certification, and the implications for the working balance on the HRA.

The Central Services Manager drew Members attention to Appendix A, lines 51-54 outlining the surplus deficit and working balance.

RESOLVED that the variations to the 2014-15 original estimates and the latest approved estimates as set out in Appendix A and the effect on the working balance be approved.

C9. LEICESTERSHIRE LIGHTBULB PROJECT

The Head of Regulatory Services submitted a report to set out the background to the Lightbulb Project, a county-wide transformational project seeking to deliver housing based support services differently

The Environmental Protection & Safety Manager spoke of the background of the project as per 3.1 of the report highlighting the benefits of the integration of health and social care services into a single service that is available to all and provides improved services for vulnerable people, reduce emergency admissions and delayed hospital discharge.

Attention was also made to section 5 regarding the funding of the project. Melton was allocated £133k from Leicestershire County Council and Melton Borough Council supplements this contribution. It is not known how much funding Melton will receive in future budget but it is anticipated that if the Lightbulb project is successful, the budget will be pooled including each of the District Council contributions.

RESOLVED that the continued participation in the Lightbulb Project would be supported by Members.

C10. COMMUNITY RIGHT TO BID

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods submitted a report seeking Members approval of the revised process to deal with Community Right to Bid nominations

Community Policy Officer outlined the background of the Community Right to Bid which allows communities and parish councils to nominate buildings or land for listing by Melton Borough Council as an asset for community value.

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods advised of a change to the process. Instead of the initial Asset nomination decision falling to the next available Community and Social Affairs Committee meeting, which often falls outside of necessary timescales for decisions, the original nomination decision will be made by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods. Should the asset owner not be happy with this decision a review will then to the Community and Social Affairs committee. A flow chart was provided (which had been previously circulated to Members) to show the review and appeal process 1

RESOLVED that the Community Right to Bid Nomination and Review/Appeal process be noted and approved.

C11. HOUSING ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods submitted a report updating members on some key projects contained within the Housing Asset Management Plan

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods outlined the new build of affordable housing, the Beckmill Regeneration and Granby House major improvements and drew Members attention to paragraphs 3.10 to 3.12 which outlined progress against the HAMP.

RESOLVED that

1. The progress on Major projects within the Housing Asset Management Plan (HAMP) be noted.
2. The potential of buying' affordable homes delivered as part of a s106 agreement for new developments be included within the HAMP.
3. The HAMP key project plan (Appendix A) be approved.

C12. BOTTESFORD COMMUNITY LIBRARY- REQUEST FOR SUPPORT

Councillor Wright left the meeting due to an interest in this item.

The Head of Communities & Neighbourhoods submitted a report seeking members approval of a grant to the Bottesford Library Group in support of their Community Library project

The Head of Communities & Neighbourhoods stated that The Bottesford Library Organisation Group's Outline Business Plan has been approved LCC to develop the service and requested a £1,000 one-off contribution from Melton Borough Council to help with set up costs for this service.

Members praised the efforts of the Organisation in the setting up of this community project and requested future reports on the project to share its successes with other community groups.

RESOLVED that the one-off allocation of £1,000 from existing budgets to support the Bottesford Community Project be approved.

C13. CHILDREN CENTRES- CUSTOMER SERVICES RESOURCES

The Head of Communications submitted a report updating members on a way forward regarding the reception support for the 3 Children Centres in Melton

The Communications Manager outlined the background of the report to how Melton Borough Council now offers a more flexible 'reception' service at The Cove and Edge Children's Centre since the funding from LCC has been reduced from, £47k to £24k, and this will be the final payment.

Attention was drawn to 3.3 and 3.4 of the Report where it is noted that footfall appears to have dropped since LCC reduced the number of activities at the Centres.

Members encouraged a further report showing that the elderly and vulnerable are not disadvantaged by the reduced face-to-face service offered at the Centres as this group of people may be less inclined to use IT and not have access to online services.

Discussions took place regarding communication ideas between the public and customer services.

RESOLVED that

1. A more flexible "reception" service at the Cove and Edge Children's Centres be continued by Customer Services while testing out future options and pending a more detailed further review.
2. The "surgery" service at Fairmead be continued and trialled at the Edge where considered appropriate
3. That a further report be prepared in the autumn which considers the implications of Me and My Learning and the future of services at the Children's Centres to include a full option appraisal for the future customer service support to be provided through the centres and opportunities to collaborate with community organisations renting space and providing reception service.

C14. URGENT BUSINESS

Nothing reported.

The meeting which commenced at 6.30 p.m, closed at 7.58 p.m.

Chairman