



COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

18th November 2015

PRESENT:-

Councillor D. Wright (Chairman) T. Beaken, P. Chandler, T. Culley, M. Graham, J Hurrell, A. Pearson

Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods, People Manager, Corporate Property Officer, Central Services Manager, Administrative Assistant for Communities and Neighbourhoods

C28. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Rhodes, Councillor Greenow and Councillor Bains.

C29. MINUTES

The minutes from the previous meeting held on the 16th September 2015 were authorised to be signed by the Chairman.

The Chairman referred to C24 of the minutes about the Members expressing displeasure regarding the Leisure Vision budgetary position. The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods stated that the Chief Executive has this in hand and is preparing a report on the outcome of those findings.

C30. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Councillor Chandler declared an interest in Item 12 by virtue of her being on the Planning Committee and planning permission not currently being granted for the land in question.

C31. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

There were no recommendations received from other committees.

C32. UPDATE ON DECISIONS

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods submitted a update on decisions from the previous meeting of the committee which was noted by Members.

C33. CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING TO 31 OCTOBER 2015

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

The Central Services Manager brought Members attention to para 5.2 summarising the overall position for all the capital schemes falling within this committee and the underspend predicted this financial year.

Members asked questions regarding large underspends outlined in Appendix A.

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods stated that Melton Country Park budget spend will be dependent on the Town Area working committees decisions regarding the pavilion.

A Member asked when the Housing Foyer will be completed. The People Manager stated that the Housing Foyer consists of a 48 week build and that Axiom plan to be on site by December 2015.

RESOLVED that the progress made on each capital scheme within the Capital Programme to 31 October 2015 be noted.

C34 CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2015-20

The Head of Central Services submitted a report to determine the committee's Capital Programme for 2015-20 based on a review of spending in the current year's programme and schemes included in the programme for later years.

The Central Services Manager clarified that the Disabled Facilities Grant were made up of £100K from government grants and £50K from this council's allocation.

RESOLVED that

- 1) the revised Capital Programme for 2015-20 be approved.
- 2) the project mandate be approved for inclusion in the Capital Programme.
- 3) the schemes be submitted in 2015-20 for funding as part of the budget setting process to ensure they meet the Council's priorities.

C35. REVENUE BUDGET 2016-17 COMMITTEE ESTIMATES.

The Head of Central Services submitted a report to inform members on the latest position of this committee's revenue budget estimates.

The Central Services Manager brought members attention to Appendix A outlining a summary of expenditure areas and Appendix B which breaks the expenditure into categories.

Members attention was also brought to para 3.4 outlining the significant variances.

A Member congratulated officers on the £22K saving that had been made through insurance.

Discussions took place around the homelessness budget and homelessness statistics. The People Manager stated that a full homelessness review and strategy will be coming back to this committee with a detailed insight into the homelessness statistics.

The Chairman stated that the risk table were unable to be read due to the shading.

RESOLVED that the latest position on this committee's revenue budget estimates be noted and comments be taken forward through the remainder of the budget setting process.

C36. ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR, CRIME AND POLICING ACT 2014

The Head of Regulatory Services and the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods submitted a joint report to inform Members of the new powers available under the Anti-Social Behaviour, crime and policing Act 2014 to obtain agreement on the process and fee for a fixed penalty notice.

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhood stated that the Act will enable local authorities to have more power to deal with Anti-Social Behaviour.

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods stated that the level 4 maximum penalty mentioned in paragraph 3.3 is £2,500.

Officers suggested that an amendment be made to recommendation 2.2 and 2.3 so that authority could be delegated to a wider pool of officers.

Discussion took place regarding the re-payment of these penalty notices especially in regards to individuals on a low income. The People Manager reassured members that a fixed penalty notice will always be used as a last resort.

A Member suggested that the Council could introduce a restorative justice process to offer services to restore the relationship between the perpetrator and innocent party.

A Member suggested that any money that is made from Fixed Penalty Notices be put back into Anti-Social Behaviour prevention programmes.

The recommendations were proposed by Councillor Graham and seconded by Councillor Hurrell.

RESOLVED that

- 1) the additional powers brought in under this Act be noted.
- 2) delegated authority be given to the Head of Regulatory Services to authorise officers to utilise the powers commensurate with their role and responsibilities.
- 3) delegated authority be given to the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods to authorise officers to utilise the powers commensurate with their role and responsibilities.
- 4) delegated authority be given to the Head of Communities and

Neighbourhoods to designated External Agencies Officers (i.e Regulated Social Landlords dealing with ASB, housing issues) to utilise the powers commensurate with their role and responsibilities, where this be determined to be appropriate.

- 5) the utilisation of Fixed Penalty Notices be approved where investigation has determined this to be the appropriate course of action.
- 6) the Fixed Penalty Notice charge be set at the maximum of £100. This being reduced to £50 if it is paid within 14 days.

C37. APPROVAL OF CONTRIBUTION OF MONIES TOWARDS SUPPORTING LEICESTERSHIRE FAMILIES (SLF) AND PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods submitted a report to request that a growth bid be approved for a three year period from 2016/17 until the end of the financial year 2018/19 and on performance to date in relation to Melton's Supporting Leicestershire Families Programme (SLF)

The People Manager outlined recommendation 2.1 and brought Members attention to para 3.3 outlining the initial criteria for families who are referred to SLF for support.

Appendix A showing SLFs performance statistics from May 2013-April 2015 was summarised by the People Manager.

The People Manager told Members that the County Council have confirmed that they would pay for the Supporting Leicestershire Families Manager for the next 18 months.

Councillor Pearson proposed the recommendations which were seconded by Councillor Graham.

RESOLVED that

- 1) the establishment of a reserve fund for £30,000 per annum be approved from 2016/17 for three financial years until 2018/19 totalling £90,000.
- 2) it be recommended to the Policy, Finance and Administration Committee that £90,000 be allocated to the reserve fund to cover the required contribution to Leicestershire County Council. The funding to be provided from savings in the current financial year.
- 3) officers be instructed to produce detailed 6 monthly performance reports to ensure that the service is meeting the needs of our families and showing the impacts upon the Council.

C38. INTENSIVE HOUSING MANAGEMENT SERVICE- UPDATE

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods submitted a report to update members on the new Intensive Housing Management Service that manages the needs of those Melton Borough Council tenants who have vulnerability issues, ensuring tenants remain independent for as long as possible and sustain their tenancies.

The People Manager drew Members attention to paragraph 2.2 of the Appendix which shows the substantial difference that the new intensive housing management service has made in increasing the amount of tenants paying in advance and decreasing the refusals of properties, arrears and appeal hearings.

Discussion took place around the rent and council tax collection and the responsiveness of the tenants.

The recommendations were proposed by Councillor Graham and seconded by Councillor Hurrell.

RESOLVED that the progress since the implementation of the Intensive Housing Management scheme and the positive improvements to housing services for vulnerable tenants be noted.

C39. **PROPOSAL OF OPEN SPACE- MELTON MOWBRAY- REAR OF BARKER CRESCENT**

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods submitted a report to seek Members approval to dispose of a small area of land to enable the construction of a dwelling.

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods outlined the background information of the report and conclusion from the DV Officer recommending that the tenant's offer of £15,250 should be accepted. The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods explained that as well as the cost of the purchase of land, the tenant has agreed to cover the council's legal costs.

It was noted that the wards affected in the report should read Warwick ward instead of Old Dalby.

Councillor Graham proposed the recommendations and this was seconded by Councillor Hurrell.

RESOLVED that

- 1) the small open space identified in the plan be declared as surplus and the disposal of it be approved.
- 2) the sale of the land be approved for £15,250 in line with the valuation report by the District Valuer and any acquisition costs be covered by the applicant.
- 3) delegated authority be given to the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods in consultation with the Head of Central Services to negotiate the disposal in line with s123 of the Local Government Act 1972.
- 4) delegated authority be given to the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods to respond to any comments resulting from the required consultation and any objections considered as contentious be the head of Communities and Neighbourhoods will be reported back to the appropriate committee for consideration.

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.

C40. **PUBLIC CONVENIENCES REVIEW OF EXISTING AND ALTERNATIVE SERVICE PROVISION FOR MELTON MOWBRAY**

The Central Service Manager submitted a report to update Members on the key findings of the public conveniences review of existing and alternative service provision and the options available.

RESOLVED that

- 1) the project mandate be approved
- 2) the establishment of a task group be approved to progress the options for the service. The terms of reference of the task group be established at the first meeting.

URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

The meeting which commenced at 6.30p.m, closed at 8:35 p.m.

Chairman