



RURAL, ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

4th November 2015

PRESENT:-

Councillors J. Orson (Chairman) E. Hutchison (Vice Chairman), T Beaken, G. Botterill, T Culley, R. DeBurle, L. Higgins, M. Sheldon, J. Simpson, J. Wyatt

Observer

P. Faulkner

Strategic Director (CM), Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods, Head of Regulatory Services, Head of Central Services, Corporate Property Officer, Corporate Policy Officer, Administrative Assistant for Communities and Neighbourhoods.

R32. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Rhodes, Councillor Wyatt will be substituting for Councillor Rhodes.

Councillor Baguley entered the meeting

R33. MINUTES

The public and exempt minutes from the previous meeting held on the 2nd September 2015 were authorised to be signed by the Chairman following the amendments below;

PUBLIC MINUTES

R25. Discussion took place regarding 1 year and 3 year licences, the activities within a sampling period and the Chairman stated that currently the Council are only recovering 50% of the cost of the service.

A member asked the Head of Regulatory Services where the money would come from to subsidise the taxi licences. The Head of Regulatory Services stated that it would be the tax payers of the borough that would be subsidising the remainder.

R34. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Wyatt declared a personal and pecuniary interest in Item 11- Fees for Taxi Licensing and declared that he would be leaving the meeting for this item.

Councillor Faulkner declared a personal and pecuniary interest in Item 11- Fees for Taxi Licensing by virtue of him being a taxi driver and declared that he would be leaving the meeting for this item.

Councillor Culley declared a personal interest in Item 11- Fees for Taxi Licensing by virtue of her having a family member who is a taxi driver.

Councillor Orson 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

R35. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

There were no recommendations from other committees.

R36. 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.

R37. FEES FOR TAXI LICENCES

The Head of Regulatory Services submitted a report asking Members to consider further issues arising from the consideration of objections received to proposals to increase taxi licenses that were proposed by the committee on 3rd June 2015.

The Head of Regulatory Services brought Members attention paragraph 3.2 stating the resolution from the previous meeting on the 2nd September.

The Head of Regulatory Services also brought Members attention to para 3.10 outlining a summary of results of the calculations and the appendix which lays out the calculations in full.

The Head of Regulatory Services advised that he had been passed a copy of the representations Members had received from the MMTA on 1st November and would be happy to try to answer the questions it contained or comment on the issues raised.

A Member stated the benefit of the 3-5 year license and that this positive result shows that the Council wants to reduce the burden on taxi drivers in Melton.

A member suggested an amendment to the recommendations to include writing a letter to the Treasury and Minister without Porfolio, the Rt Hon Robert Halfon MP, outlining the benefits to rural economies, such as Melton, that fuel duty freezes have had for our residents and businesses, including our much valued taxi firms.

The Head of Regulatory Service stated that a methodology based on that of the Bournemouth Council is being used now to calculate taxi license costs at this Council.

RESOLVED that

- 1) the level of fees be approved in accordance with the committees resolution of the 3rd June 2015 as set out in the appendix with immediate effect (subject to statutory notifications.
- 2) that it be approved that this committee write to the Treasury and Minister

without Portfolio, the Rt Hon Robert Halfon MP, outlining the benefits to rural economies such as Melton, that fuel duty freezes have had for our residents and businesses, including our much valued taxi firms.

2 Members abstained from the vote

R38. CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING TO 30TH SEPTMEBER 2015

Councillor Faulkner and Councillor Wyatt returned to the meeting.

The Head of Central Services submitted a report to update the committee on the progress of schemes within the Capital Programme to 30th September 2015.

Members attention was brought to para 5.2 showing the position for all the capital schemes within this committees remit, and Appendix A which shows the position in more detail.

The Chairman asked how long it would take for work to start on the Blue lantern ornamental lighting on Burton Road Bridge.

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods explained that subject to approval this evening and approval at the Policy, Finance and Administration committee on the 1st December, workman will be instructed to start work the first week in December.

The recommendation was moved by Councillor Orson and seconded by Councillor Sheldon

RESOLVED that

- 1) the progress made on each capital scheme at Appendix A be noted
- 2) the business case at Appendix B for the lighting on Burton Road Bridge be approved for submission to the Policy, Finance and Administration committee.

R39 CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING 2015-20

The Head of Central Services submitted a report to determine the committees 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 Head of Central Services stated to Members that the revised programme could be found at Appendix A, and the summary of changes at Appendix B.

RESOLVED that

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

R40. REVENUE BUDGET 2016-17 COMMITTEE ESTIMATES

The Head of Central Services submitted a report informing Members on the latest position of this committees revenue budget estimates.

The Head of Central Services stressed to Members that this is a draft estimate report and brought Members attention to para 3.4 and 3.5 showing the variances against the approved budget.

The Head of Central Services reminded Members that they did take the decision to subsidise Green Waste collection up to 15/16. Therefore there is not currently anything in the budget as a subsidy has not been approved at present for next year.

A member asked how much extra it would be to subsidise the green waste next year. The Head of Regulatory Service stated that a letter was sent to Biffa last week asking their intentions and that this intention once received will be presented back to this committee in January 2016.

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

RESOLVED that the latest position on the committee's revenue budget estimates be noted.

R41. CAR AND COACH PARKING STRATEGY

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods submitted a report to inform Members of this committee of the Car and Coach Parking Strategy and seek recommendations to approve.

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods stated that an ad-hoc meeting will take place for this committee on the 1st December at 6pm to discuss car parking charges, however this report is seeking Members approval of the Coach and Car Parking Strategy.

The Corporate Policy Manager stated that the strategy was developed after a large review and audit of Melton car parks as well as consultations with partners and coach companies.

The Corporate Policy Manager brought Members attention to the next steps section of the report highlighting that a car and coach parking delivery plan will be developed and brought back to Members for approval.

Discussion took place about the advantages and disadvantages of ANPR car parks.

A Member asked how much the strategy had cost to deliver and expressed disappointment in the lack of analysis in the strategy.

The Corporate Policy Manager explain that a detailed analysis document including detail of consultation has been developed by the consultants to underpin the strategy and that this can be made available in the Members room should Members wish to see it.

Discussion took place about the re-configuration of the Wilton Road coach parking. It was suggested by a Member that Phoenix House car park could be used for Coach car parking.

The recommendations were proposed by Councillor Orson and seconded by Councillor Sheldon.

RESOLVED that the Car and Coach parking strategy be approved.

One member abstained from voting

R42. **MELTON FAT STOCK SALE AND SHOW- CAR PARKING PROPOSAL**

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods submitted a report for Members to consider introducing free car parking for the Melton Fat Stock Sale and show.

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods stated that officers had been asked to present this report considering the option on free parking at the above by a Member of the Policy, Finance and Administration committee.

Discussion took place about the significant loss of income that would occur if the free parking was approved and this would mean that other events would also have to be given free parking to ensure no bias.

A recommendation was proposed by Councillor Wyatt and seconded by Councillor Botterill.

RESOLVED that after consideration it be determined that there will be no free parking provision for the Fat Stock Sale and show.

R43. **ESTABLISHING A RESERVE FUND FOR WASTE CONTRACT PROCUREMENT**

The Head of Regulatory Services submitted a report to request that a reserve is set up to cover costs of obtaining a new waste collection and street cleansing contract

The Head of Regulatory Services outlined the recommendations.

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

RESOLVED that

- 1) the establishment of a reserve fund for new waste contract procurement be approved.
- 2) a recommendation be made to Policy, Finance and Administration committee that £60,000 be allocated to the reserve fund to cover procurement support costs and legal fees.

R44. DISCRETIONARY BUSINESS RATE GRANT SCHEME

The Strategic Director (CAM) submitted a report to request that Members approve a discretionary Business Rates Grant Scheme to help support businesses who wish to grow, wish to invest in new properties or bring empty properties back into use.

The Strategic Director (CAM) outlined the purpose of the report explaining that the scheme incentivises and encourages businesses to grow. Members attention was drawn to paras 3.5 and 3.6 stating that the business rate relief would support businesses to move into larger properties or develop existing ones.

In regards to para 5.2 and Leicestershire County Council meeting 9% of retail relief cost, a response from Leicestershire County Council was circulated.

Councillor Higgins stated that he was happy to move the recommendation as he agreed that this is where the Council should be investing.

The recommendation was seconded by Councillor Orson.

RESOLVED that

- 1) the Discretionary Business Rates Grant Scheme be recommended to the Policy Finance and Administration Committee for adoption by Melton Borough Council for two years commencing on 1 January 2016.
- 2) delegated Authority be given to the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods in consultation with Head of Central Services to make any necessary changes to the Discretionary Business Rates Grant Scheme, that will improve the scheme to meet the purpose of providing targeted support to businesses.
- 3) the Policy Finance and Administration Committee be requested to give approval to the scheme at a cost of £40,000 to the council, the funding for which will be identified from underspends elsewhere within the Council's budgets.
- 4) delegated Authority be given to the Strategic Director (CAM) in consultation with the Head of Central Services and Management Team to increase the overall funding of the scheme from £100,000 to £200,000 to satisfy and meet the needs and demands of businesses if the scheme is oversubscribed within the two year period commencing on 1 January 2016 and there are sufficient resources available to fund within existing budgets.

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.

R45. CATTLE MARKET UPDATE

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

RESOLVED that recommendations 2.1-2.4 be approved.

The meeting which started at 6:30pm closed at 7:50pm

Chairman