



### AD HOC RURAL, ECONOMIC & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

17<sup>th</sup> March 2016

Present:

Councillor T. Beaken, G.E Botterill, T. Culley, E. Hutchison, J.T Orson (Chairman), J. B. Rhodes, M. Sheldon, J. Simpson, J. Wyatt (substitute for L. Higgins)

Strategic Director (CAM), Regulatory Services Manager, Central Services Manager, Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods, Corporate Property Officer, Regulatory Services Manager, LDO/FEZ Project Manager, Administrative Assistant for Communities and Neighbourhoods.

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R71. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Baguley, De Burle and Higgins.

R72. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Culley declared a personal interest in Item 4 Taxi Licensing Fees by virtue of a family member being a taxi driver.

R73. TAXI LICENSING FEES

The Head of Regulatory Services submitted a report to determine the fees for the taxi vehicle, driver and operators licenses for 2016/17 and presented the costs and income for 2015/16 as separate accounts for vehicles, drivers and operators.

The Head of Regulatory Services brought Members attention to para 3.3 which outlined the methodology of calculating the taxi license fees. The Head of Regulatory Services told members that the council had approached both internal auditors and legal services for advice and that it had been agreed that the methodology used was a 'fair and reasonable approach'

It was clarified that only 11 months of service fees has currently been calculated. The Head of Regulatory Services referred to the tool kit that has been adopted in South Wales that has now been applied giving rise to the costs outlined in para 3.4.5 into which 100% of the account deficit has been built in as part of the cost recovery methodology.

The Head of Regulatory Services brought Members attention to the saving outlined in para 3.4.5 once the cost have been annualised and invited members comments.

Discussion took place about the level of deficit that should be recovered.

After questions from Members the Head of Regulatory Services clarified that it would be the same price for a one year driver licence as a 3 year.

Members asked the Head of Regulatory Services questions about how the fees and charges were reached.

The recommendation was moved by Councillor Rhodes and seconded by Councillor Sheldon.

The Head of Regulatory Services reminded Members that the consultation will be in the Melton Times in the next few weeks and a report will come back to the next REEA committee in June with the results of the consultation.

**RESOLVED** that

- 1) The approach to calculating the fees for taxi licenses as set out in the report be noted and endorsed
- 2) The separate accounts produced for 2015/16 for taxi vehicle, driver and operators licenses be noted.
- 3) The level of fees be approved as set out in Appendix B, with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April (subject to statutory notifications and consideration of any objections arising)

1 Member voted for the approval of recommendation 1 and 2 but abstained from voting on recommendation 3.

#### R74. CAR PARKING CHARGES

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods submitted a report for Members to consider the comments received in response to the consultation carried out regarding the proposed car parking tariff and other changes in Melton Borough Councils off street car parks.

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods stated that Appendix C presents comments from the consultation received through the website and brought Members attention to para 3.4 outlining the comment summary.

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods explained that after liaising with Leicestershire County Highways it has been agreed that there will be up to 10 car parking spaces that will pilot the 20 minutes free car parking scheme in St Marys car park. The pilot will run for 6 months and a report outlining the results will be brought back to members of this committee.

A Member suggested that the triangle section of Burton Street Car Park nearest the council offices should be designated as short stay and the rest of Burton Street car park should remain long stay. Members showed support of this recommendation to ensure that there was enough space for people who work in the town to park.

Discussion took place regarding the peak in pricing on Tuesdays and suggested that officers look at options of levelling out the costs across the week.

Discussion took place about payment methods, 6 month and annual tickets being refunded if not needed and the proposed increase in charge of the weekly ticket.

Councillor Culley wanted it noted that she found the increase in charge from £7 to £12 for a weekly ticket excessive.

**RESOLVED** that

- 1) the proposed car parking Tariff charges for Long/Stay, weekly and season Ticket prices and Tuesday charges be approved
- 2) the section of Burton Street Car park nearest the council offices be designated to short stay and the remainder to be designated as long stay.
- 3) the 1 hour tariff at Mill Street be removed
- 4) a Pilot 20 min free car parking for up to 10 spaces at St Marys Car Park be approved
- 5) the Pro rata reimbursement for 6 month and annual season tickets part way through the year, after payment of admin fee be approved and Officers be instructed to determine mechanism for this
- 6) the validation of weekly tickets to be able to park in all Long stay car parks be approved
- 7) a report be brought back to this committee on the review of the 20 minute pilot and update on other initiatives i.e. RingGo after 6 months.
- 8) a report be brought back to an appropriate REEA committee after a review and modelling on the Tuesday Tariff charging mechanism and seek to harmonise a charge across the whole week.

R75. **MELTON FOOD ENTERPRISE ZONE: UPDATE AND PRODUCTION OF THE 'LOCAL DEVELOPMENT ORDER'**

The Head of Regulatory Services submitted a report to update Members on the progress that has been made on the project and to seek authority to pursue a 'Local Development Order' in its connection, following delegation to this committee from Full Council at its meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2016.

The Head of Regulatory Services brought members attention to the LDO at Appendix A.

The Head of Regulatory Services stated that the document highlighted the provision and scope for training facilities to up-skill workers and to increase relationship with universities and online market places to trade skills.

The Head of Regulatory Services reminded Members that there will be a 1 month consultation period and any feedback through the consultation will be presented back to this committee in a report at the June committee.

**RESOLVED** that

- 1) The content of the report be endorsed.
- 2) A 'Local Development Order' be pursued.

### **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.

#### R76. **CATTLE MARKET UPDATE**

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

**RESOLVED** that the recommendations be approved and noted

The meeting that started at 6:30pm finished at 7:40pm.

Chairman