

HARBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETING

held in the Council Chamber, The Symington Building, Adam and Eve Street,
Market Harborough

held on 1st July 2019

commencing at 5.00 p.m.

Present:

Councillor King (Chair),

Councillors: Bateman, Dann, Hallam (until 5.41 p.m.), Nunn and Rickman (until 5.41 p.m.)

Officers: D. Atkinson, G. Keeping, M. Perris, N. Proudfoot, S. Riley & V. Wenham

Guest: T. Neal (Leisure & Regulatory Services Group Manager, Blaby District Council)

INFORMATION EXCHANGE FROM PORTFOLIO HOLDERS

Corporate

Councillor Dann reported that, along with Councillor Hallam, he had attended the Revenues and Benefits Partnership meeting on 27 June, where end-of-year figures were discussed. Councillor King stated that at the last meeting of Council he had indicated that in future regular reports on the work of outside bodies, including the Revenues and Benefits Partnership would be made received by Council. He also reported that he had been informed by Neil O'Brien MP that Harborough District has the highest collection rate within Leicestershire; this was a great credit to all involved.

Communities

Councillor Rickman reported that the annual celebration of the Harborough Lotto had been a great success. He wished to pass on his thanks to the Lotto team for organising an interesting and informative evening. A cheque for £500 had been won at the event by Shopmobility Market Harborough.

Finance

Councillor Hallam also reflected on the success of the Revenues and Benefits Partnership, with Harborough being the 41st best performing District in the country with a collection rate of 98.6%.

Strategy

Councillor King had also enjoyed the lottery event and had, in addition, attended the LGA Group Meeting last Friday.

TOPICAL ISSUES

There were none.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were none.

MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on the 10th June 2019 be approved as a correct record.

DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Councillor Hallam Report 8 – Land Acquisition for Development
Councillor Hallam declared a personal, non-pecuniary interest in this item as he was a personal friend of the vendor. He stated that he would retire from the meeting for this item.

Councillor Rickman Report 8 – Land Acquisition for Development
Councillor Rickman declared a personal, non-pecuniary interest in this item as he was a personal friend of, and had also taught, the vendor. He stated that he would retire from the meeting for this item.

FINANCIAL OUTTURN 2018/19

The Cabinet was presented with a report reviewing the Revenue and Capital Outturn for 2018/19 and associated explanations for variances and seeking approval for carry-forwards of revenue and capital budget provision into 2019/20.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the outturn figures for 2018/19 as shown on Appendix A to the report be noted, subject to the audit of the Accounts;
- (ii) That Revenue carry forwards in Appendix B to the report totalling £267k into 2019/20 be approved;
- (iii) That the key variances detailed in Appendix C to the report and explanation of variances (over £25K) in Appendix D to the report be noted;
- (iv) That the Revenue Reserves detailed in Appendix E to the report be noted;
- (v) That the actual expenditure against the 2018/19 Capital Programme as shown on Appendix F to the report be noted, subject to the audit of the Accounts; and
- (vi) That the carry-forward of capital approvals and funding in the Capital programme totalling £886K listed in Appendix F to the report to 2019/20 be approved.

Summary of Reasons:

The Council was required to produce its statement of accounts (subject to Audit) by the end of May 2018. The outturn report details the Council's financial performance for the 2018/19 financial year. The request to transfer resources between financial years requires Cabinet Approval.

PERFORMANCE: QUARTER 4 2018/19

The Cabinet was presented with a report detailing the performance of the Council against the Corporate Delivery Plan at the end of Quarter 4 of the 2018/19 year, which Members were asked to note and consider.

RESOLVED:

That the performance of the Council at the end of Quarter 4 of the 2018/19 year be noted.

Summary of Reasons:

Performance is monitored and reported to Members on a quarterly basis as part of the Council's Performance Management Framework.

CORPORATE RISK AND OPPORTUNITY MANAGEMENT: QUARTER 4, 2018/19

The Cabinet considered the Corporate Risk and Opportunity Register at the end of Quarter 4 of the 2018/19 year, which was set out in Appendix A to the report. Corporate Risk and Opportunities are defined as issues that may have a significant impact on the delivery of the Council's vision and priorities. They are identified, monitored and managed via the Council's Risk and Opportunity Strategy Board which meets on a quarterly basis.

RESOLVED:

That the items contained within the Council's Corporate Risk and Opportunity Register (attached at Appendix A to the report), be noted.

Summary of Reasons:

Monitoring of the Council's Corporate Risks and Opportunities is prescribed by the Council's Risk and Opportunity Management Framework.

UPDATE OF PERFORMANCE: HARBOROUGH BUILDING CONTROL

The Cabinet received an update on the Performance of the Building Control section operating within the Leicestershire Building Control Partnership. The Building Control Partnership initially formed with Blaby District Council has been in operation since 1 April 2018. It has enabled the delivery of a more robust, resilient and competitive Building Control service that is able to operate more efficiently in an increasingly competitive environment.

When the Partnership initially formed there had been only two Partnering Councils: Blaby DC and Harborough DC. Due to the success of the Partnership over the last 6 months Oadby and Wigston Borough Council and Hinckley and Bosworth Council have now fully joined the Partnership. Positive discussions are now taking place with Melton Borough Council with a view that they will join the Partnership within the next 3 months subject to a constructive beneficial outcome. The Leicestershire Building Control Partnership is, already providing operational and managerial assistance, to Melton. More Councils may also join the Partnership at a later date.

Teresa Neal (Leisure & Regulatory Services Group Manager, Blaby District Council) joined the meeting and answered questions from Cabinet members about the working and performance of the Partnership.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the ongoing performance of the Leicestershire Building Control Partnership be noted; and
- (ii) That the Leicestershire Building Control Partnership Governance Board continue to monitor and report on the performance of this Partnership in accordance with its own terms and conditions of the Partnership.

Summary of Reasons:

To note the ongoing performance of Building Control operating within The Leicestershire Building Control partnership as set out in the body of this report.

ELECTRICITY SUPPLY CONTRACT

The Cabinet considered a report requesting approval for the Council to enter into a contract for electricity supplies commencing October 1st 2020. The Council had awarded a contract for electricity supplies that commenced on October 1st 2016 to Total Gas & Power Limited (TGP) through ESPO framework 191; this expires on September 30th 2020. The UK Cabinet Office advises that aggregation of public sector energy procurement through a Professional Buying Organisation (PBO) such as ESPO is the best method of reducing energy costs for Local Authorities.

Procurement through a Framework agreement is the most cost-efficient method available to the Council; the alternative would be a tender under PCR 2015 regulations (an 'OJEU tender'). The ESPO 191 framework agreement is a single provider framework and TGP is the sole supplier. When the framework was tendered, energy efficiency, access to 'green' energy, and reduction of customers' 'carbon footprint' were evaluated (along with Social Value contributions) as technical criteria: TGP supports a number of initiatives to benefit communities, including collaboration with the Young People's Trust for the Environment (YPTE) to promote environmental learning and project work in schools; TGP also offer Green Power to ESPO and their customers helping customers to reduce their carbon footprint.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That a contract for electricity supplies commencing October 1st 2020 be awarded to Total Gas & Power Limited (TGP) via Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisation (ESPO) Framework Reference 191_20; and
- (ii) That authority be delegated to the Head of Environmental Services, Economic Development and Major Projects, following consultation with the relevant Cabinet members, to opt for the use of the Green Energy tariff from 1st October 2019 on the basis of an additional charge of £934.18.

Summary of Reasons:

The value of the contract to be awarded is in excess of £200,000; Cabinet approval is therefore required.

MISTERTON CONSERVATION AREA

RESOLVED:

That consideration of this item be deferred to a future meeting of the Cabinet.

Summary of Reasons:

To allow time for detailed legal advice to be sought and for further engagement to take place between officers of Harborough District Council and Leicestershire County Council before the report is considered.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING – SCHEME OF DELEGATION

The Cabinet received a report seeking approval to update the Neighbourhood Planning Scheme of Delegation to take account of upcoming reviews of Neighbourhood Plans and to reflect the Joint Chief Executive change in job title.

The original Scheme of Delegation was approved in October 2012, with an update approved by Executive in February 2014. Since the 2014 update Government has updated the Regulations and guidance concerning reviews of Neighbourhood Plans and it is important that the approved Scheme of Delegation is updated accordingly in order to fully reflect these updates.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the Scheme of Delegation be amended, as set out in Appendix A to the report, to enable officers to issue the statement to the Examiner on behalf of the Local Planning Authority as to whether the modifications to reviewed neighbourhood plan are:
 - Minor (non-material) modifications to a neighbourhood plan or order which would not materially affect the policies in the plan or permission granted by the order.
 - Material modifications which do not change the nature of the plan or order which would require examination but not a referendum.
 - Material modifications which do change the nature of the plan or order and which would require examination and a referendum.
- (ii) That minor amendments be made to the text of the Scheme of Delegation to reflect the Joint Chief Executive change in job title.

Summary of Reasons:

To ensure that appropriate governance arrangements are in place to take account of the requirements of Local Planning Authority when Neighbourhood Plans are reviewed.

MATTERS OF SPECIAL URGENCY

There were none.

Councillors Hallam and Rickman left the meeting at 5.41 p.m.

SECTION 100(A)4 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

RESOLVED:

That the public and press be excluded from the following item on the grounds that the matters yet to be discussed involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

LAND ACQUISITION FOR DEVELOPMENT

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the acquisition of the land outlined in 2.5 of the report (edged red on the plan) be approved, subject to approval by Council of a budget as set out in the Financial Implications section of the report; and
- (ii) Subject to approval of (i) above, that authority be delegated to the Joint Chief Executive (BJ) in consultation with the Head of Legal and Democratic Service & Head of Environmental Services, Economic Development and Major Projects to take any necessary actions to complete the acquisition.

Summary of Reasons:

To satisfy Corporate Delivery Plan 2019/20 Critical Outcome 3: Quality Homes for all, KA.03.01 Achieve delivery of an appropriate mix and type of housing that meets local need throughout the District, across all tenures and Critical Outcome 10: Deliver Financial Sustainability for the future, KA 10.01 To develop business cases to deliver cost savings and income generation proposals (including capital investment options).

The meeting closed at 5.56 p.m.