

HARBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE MEETING

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

held on 4th April 2016,

commencing at 5.00p.m.

Present:

Cllr Pain (Chair),
Councillors: Bannister Brodrick, Hallam, King and Liquorish and Page

Officers:, B. Jolly, N. Proudfoot, S. Riley and B. Murgatroyd.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Leader welcomed Cllr Jo Brodrick to her first Executive meeting as Portfolio holder for Planning and Regeneration. The Leader thanked Cllr King as the former Planning Portfolio holder for all his work and the great progress made in this area. Cllr King would continue as Portfolio holder for Finance and Assets and as Deputy leader

PORTFOLIO HOLDER ACTIVITY

Financial & Commercialisation

Cllr King announced that

- i) he had attended a meeting with Arriva Trains on 4 April along with the Leader
- ii) he had attended a meeting with the Ministry of Justice re Gartree prison estate

Communities

Cllr Page announced that:

- i) she had attended on 21 March the Sports Relief day organised in partnership with Sainsburys. 200 people had attended and it had been a very positive event
- ii) the Sports and Health team had organised another slipper exchange in Broughton Astley. These events were becoming increasingly popular and 70 pairs of slippers had been exchanged
- iii) Activity sessions for residents were continuing. The Council had applied for outside funding to assist with this which had been successful
- iv) Staff have held 10 Prevent workshops which 83 people had attended. 120 staff had completed channel awareness online training
- v) the Community Safety team have bought a speed gun for police to give to parishes where there is a perceived speeding problem. Villages where it had been used include Kibworth, Lubenham, Ullesthorpe, Tur Langton, Thorpe Langton, Cranoe, Medbourne, Lutterworth and along the A47
- vi) the Chill out Bus was operating and was proving to be very popular, recently 70 people had been able to use it
- vii) another popular initiative was the use of a Market Stall by Police and fire personnel to give advice to shoppers. This was proving very successful.

Environment & Regulation

Cllr Bannister reported back on the recent heavy rain and his findings as he drove around the district on the day. He was able to report that although water was running off fields he had witnessed any water running off developments

The Leader thanked the portfolio holder and the Council's staff for their working on a effective response to the issue
Leader

Corporate Services

Cllr Hallam reported that

- i) the newly operational LAGAN system was operational and staffing levels in customer services had been reviewed and it was very busy at this time
- ii) Business continuity plans had been discussed with Charnwood and a large generator was now in place to assist with this

Business Planning and Performance

Cllr Liquorish reported that he had attended Emergency Planning Training which he had found very useful

Leader Strategy / Economic Development

Cllr Pain announced that he had attended the following meetings:

- 11 March Gartree Prison visit
- 12 March Clean for the Queen
- 15 March Love Your local Market Roadshow
- 18 March Idea to Enterprise Conference day
- 22 March Economic Growth Board
- 4 April meeting with Arriva Trains

MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on 7 March 2016 be approved as a correct record.

DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Cllr Hallam declared a personal interest in the item on the Voluntary and Community Sector Accommodation Policy the nature of the interest was he was a member of a rugby club

Cllr Hallam declared a personal interest in the item on the Symington Building lease arrangements. The nature of the interest was that the lessee was known to him ,though he considered it would not affect his judgment on the matter.

VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR ACCOMMODATION POLICY

The Executive considered the Voluntary and community sector accommodation policy and plan It was reported that the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Policy includes the following at 6.3 (e);

"Voluntary and community sector organisations will be expected to pay a market rent when hiring or leasing Council premises. However, they will always be invited to apply for assistance from the Council for a maximum of 5 years if they cannot meet this cost. As set out in the Action Plan a VCS Accommodation Policy will be developed to set out when and how this will operate and what support and assistance the Council can provide."

The VCS Policy report, also, included;

"In terms of rent/hire charges for voluntary and community sector organisations in Council properties the position taken by Hounslow Council was tested as a starting point. Hounslow's approach is to charge voluntary and community groups market rent/hire, but provide a subsidy for up to 5 years in certain circumstances. The aim of this approach is to ensure the long-term sustainability of community assets, whilst recognising that some voluntary and community organisations simply cannot afford full premises costs, but provide valuable services to the community that should be supported."

This VCS Accommodation Policy had been developed as a response to the VCS policy, and the timescales for the Policy match the main VCS Policy previously approved.

The Accommodation Policy includes a concession process to assess any appropriate subsidy as outlined in the VCS Policy 6.3 (e).

If approved, all new lettings to VCS organisations will follow this VCS Accommodation Policy and the Disposal, Acquisition & Community Asset Transfer Policy.

The Policy set out at Appendix A includes transitional arrangements for all existing agreements with VCS organisations

The Executive made the following amendments to the Accommodation policy(*in italics*)

5. Concessions

5.1.1 A concession, *usually for no more than 5 years*, will be granted if there is a demonstrable benefit to the community and/or Council by the VCS organisation and a funding gap can also be demonstrated by the organisation.

5.1.5 Concessions to Parish/Town Councils, the County Council or other public sector agencies will not be considered *subject to a value for money exercise*

5.2.1 The Council will adopt an open book approach to establish ability to pay for all VCS organisations seeking a concession on rent. Therefore, copies of the last 3 years of audited/certified accounts would be requested, or where not available, financial statements from an appropriate representative. *All new organisations will require 12 months projected cash flow forecast, and an assessment of the business plan made to ensure the organisation is viable and sustainable.*

5.3.3 A review of their business plan and projected cash flow forecast will be carried out after the first 12 months."

The Executive requested that Guidance notes be produced to assist organisations in supplying evidence

RESOLVED that:

i) the Voluntary and Community Sector Accommodation Policy as set out in Appendix A ("The Policy") be approved as amended and.

ii), authority be delegated to the Corporate Director (BJ), in consultation with the Portfolio Holder , Financial and Commercialisation and the Portfolio Holder for Communities and the Head of Legal and Democratic Service and Head of Communities to take any actions required to implement the Policy including review and renewal of existing agreements.

Summary of Reasons

To provide a strengthened policy framework to guide the Council's engagement and relationship with the sector from 2016 until 2020.

In the context of ongoing reductions in Council funding it may not be possible to maintain current support levels. It is important, therefore, for the Council to consider its resource allocation in a joined up way to ensure maximum value for money.

To satisfy the Corporate Delivery Plan 2015/16 Objective CO6 "The Council makes the best use of its assets and resources" and to further good asset/property management of the Councils assets.

SECTION 100A LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

RESOLVED that the public and press be excluded from the remainder of the meeting on the grounds that the matter yet to be discussed involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

GREAT BOWDEN RECREATION GROUND

The Executive considered the future options for Land at Great Bowden Recreation Ground, Great Bowden.

RESOLVED that

- i) the Great Bowden Recreation Ground be formally declared surplus to requirements.
- ii) the offer for the Land at Great Bowden Recreation Ground, Great Bowden outlined in paragraph 4.4 of the report be accepted in principle, subject to consultation with residents, site users and local Ward Members on the sale of the land to Great Bowden Parish Council and Great Bowden Parish Council covering the District Council's reasonable costs in facilitating the sale including legal fees and advertising costs in relation to the disposal of public open space.
- iii) authority be delegated to the Corporate Director (BJ), to advertise the proposed disposal of Great Bowden Recreation Ground in accordance with section 123 2A of the Local Government Act 1972 and to consider and determine any objections received by the Council and;
- iv) Subject to the outcome of the consultation process authorise the Corporate Director (BJ) to take whatever actions are required to implement the decision including completion of any legal arrangements as appropriate.
- v) a further report be submitted to the Executive at the end of the process prior to disposal once the issue of restrictive covenant and any uplift has been satisfied.

Summary of Reasons

To satisfy the Corporate Delivery Plan 2015/16 Objective CO6 "The Council makes the best use of its assets and resources" and to further good asset/property management of the Council's assets.

To advertise the disposal of Public Open Space in accordance with s 123 2A of the Local Government Act 1972.

SYMINGTON BUILDING: LEASE ARRANGEMENTS

The Executive considered a request from the tenants of Units 1 and 2 The Symington Building with regard to rent free periods

RESOLVED that:


- i) the proposal be approved as set out in 4.7.2 of the report
- ii) authority be delegated to the Corporate Director (BJ) in consultation with the Head of Legal and Democratic Services and the Portfolio Holder Financial and Commercialisation to agree the terms of any agreement and take such steps as are necessary to implement i) above.
- iii) If agreement cannot be reached as set out in i) and ii) above the Corporate Director (BJ) in consultation with the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to take such action as is considered appropriate from the options outlined in Appendix A to the report.

Summary of Reasons for the Recommendations

To satisfy the Corporate Delivery Plan 2015/16 Objective CO6 "The Council makes the best use of its assets and resources" and to further good asset/property management of the Councils assets.

To realise the maximum benefits from the Council's assets.

The meeting closed at 6.34pm


..... **Ch:**

9/5/2016
..... **Date**

