

HARBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE MEETING

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

held on 14 January 2019

commencing at 6.00 p.m.

Present:

Councillor Bannister (Chair),
Councillors: Mrs Ackerley, Bateman, Hallam and Rickman

Officers: S. Hamilton, B. Jolly, M. Perris, N. Proudfoot, S. Riley and V. Wenham

INFORMATION EXCHANGE FROM PORTFOLIO HOLDER

Community Safety and Licensing

Councillor Rickman reported that he had attended a number of meetings including a UAVA Elderly Victims of Abuse Workshop, a 2 day LGA workshop on cohesion and integration, the unveiling of the Art Piece commemorating the Centenary of Women's Suffrage. at the Council Offices and on the 7th January, the CSP Community Safety Team organised a very successful Rural Crime event which was attended by 59 people.

He will shortly be attending a visit to the Leicestershire Police Centre to see the Call Centre and also attending a two day workshop on Counter Extremism.

Wellbeing and Localities

Councillor Ackerley reported that the Grants Sub-Committee will meet on the 22nd January and will be considering applications from 17 groups across the District. The Lotto is continuing to increase in support, and an additional seven more groups have applied to join.

Finance and Assets

Councillor Hallam reported that together with the S151 Officer and other members of the Executive, he has been actively finalising the Council's budget for submission to this evening's meeting before being considered by the Scrutiny Commission followed by full Council.

Strategy and Communications

Councillor Bannister reported that he had attended a number of meetings :-

- i. On the 5th December he met with the Campaign to Protect Rural England regarding their issues on the Strategic Growth Plan ahead of the Council's debate.

- ii. On the 6th December he provided evidence to the Leicestershire County Council's Scrutiny Commission regarding Unitary Authority Proposals.
- iii. On the 12th December he met with members of the Magna Park is Big Enough Campaign Group regarding their issues in respect of major modifications concerning BE2 within the Local Plan.
- iv. On the 14th December he met with Neil O'Brien MP.
- v. In the evening of the 14th December he attended the unveiling of the Art Piece at HDC commemorating the Centenary of Women's Suffrage.
- vi. On the 17th December together with Councillor King he attended the Members Advisory Group.
- vii. 21st December and 11th January met with Leaders of the District and Borough Councils and discussed Unitary Authority Proposals, Business Rate Pooling, Housing Infrastructure Funding and Brexit Planning.
- viii. On the 10th January he attended the "Topping out ceremony" at the Grow On Space.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Hadkiss and King.

MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on the 3rd December 2018 be approved as a correct record.

DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

There were none.

CORPORATE PLAN AND CORPORATE DELIVERY PLAN

The Executive was presented with revised versions of the three year (2018/19 to 2020/21) Corporate Plan, Corporate Delivery Plan and Strategic Performance Dashboard as set out at Appendices A, B and C to the report.

Three priorities have been identified for the 2018/19 to 2020/21 years, as detailed in the Summary of Reasons below.

The Corporate Delivery Plan identifies high-level expected outcomes of the Key Activities, which will add depth to what the Critical Outcomes will mean for communities in the District. It also contains the headline performance measures for each Key Activity. The number of Key Activities proposed in the revised Corporate Delivery Plan is 39.

The Corporate Delivery Plan is a dynamic document and the development of the Key Activities is an iterative process. For this reason, elements of the Corporate Delivery Plan will continue to be developed, and may change as a result of further review and target challenge sessions. Any proposed changes to the content of the Corporate Delivery Plan, including revisions to targets, will be reported to the relevant portfolio holder, the Executive, and Scrutiny, as appropriate.

RESOLVED that

- (i) the revised versions of the three-year (2018/19 to 2020/21) Corporate Plan, Corporate Delivery Plan and Strategic Performance dashboard be considered, as set out at Appendices A, B and C to the report, and that the documents be referred to the Performance Scrutiny Panel for discussion.

Summary of Reasons

The Corporate Plan and Corporate Delivery Plan are documents which outline the Council's Vision, Priorities, and Critical Outcomes and associated Key Activities for the period 2018/19 to 2020/21.

Both of the documents are underpinned by the Council's vision, which is:

"to secure a prosperous future for the people of Harborough District."

Three priorities were identified for the 2018/19 to 2020/21 years. Both the Corporate Plan and the Corporate Delivery Plan are structured around the delivery of these three priorities:

- The Place: an enterprising, vibrant place
- The People: a healthy, inclusive and engaged community
- Your Council: innovative, proactive and efficient

The Corporate Plan is an overarching, external, public document which sets out the Council's vision for the District, its ambitions and priorities and how it will work with its partners and the community to ensure that living in, working in, and visiting the District is the best possible experience. It is based on information about the area and customer feedback and identifies how the Council will achieve its vision.

The Corporate Delivery Plan is the Council's high-level plan which sets out how it will deliver its vision and priorities through Critical Outcomes and Key Activities.

2019/20 REVENUE BUDGET AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME

The Executive considered a report detailing the projected base budget position for 2019/20 based on the provisional grant settlement for 2019/20. The draft budget has been prepared for consultation following the provisional Local Government finance settlement issued by the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) on the 13th December 2018. The final budget will be presented to the Executive following receipt of the final Local Government Finance settlement expected in early February.

The draft budget attached at Appendix A to the report reflects continued reduction in Central Government funding as the Government addresses the public sector deficit. In order to provide stability in forecasting the Government offered four year funding, subject to submission of an efficiency plan. The Council's efficiency plan (submitted in October 2016) was approved and the settlement funding assessment received on the 13th December 2018 was consistent with the funding assumed within the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy. The Council is no longer in receipt of Revenue Support Grant as a Government funding source.

The Council also received a small increase of £12,000 in New Homes Bonus that was in line with the Council's forecast.

The proposed Revenue Budget continues the use of earmarked reserves to support Council priorities but has been able to reduce the budgeted contribution from the General Fund Reserve to £36k, as opposed to £393k in 2018/19. This level of support from the General Fund Reserve is considered sustainable in light of the level of reserves retained by the Council.

The Council has an ambitious Capital Programme of £56.9 million for 2019/20 to 2021/22 linked to the corporate priorities of The Place, The People and Your Council.

The Council continues to respond successfully to the challenge of reduced government funding of £2.1 million and made savings of £4 million, for which Officers and the Executive should be congratulated.

There is an increasing importance of income generation in supporting Council Services, including investing up to £5 million into property funds with an estimated £200k of additional income. The Council is also proposing an ambitious capital programme which includes commercial investments and development of Housing Sites to generate revenue and capital returns.

Following a minor amendment, suggested by the Section 151 Officer to Appendix E, it was:

RESOLVED that:

- (i) the proposed Revenue Budget for 2019/20 be endorsed for consultation.
- (ii) the proposed Capital Programme for 2019/20 to 2021/22 be endorsed for consultation.

Summary of Reasons

To provide the opportunity for consultation on the Revenue and Capital budgets as well as potential pressures, savings and income generation opportunities.

A5 STRATEGY

The Executive considered the updated A5 Strategy (Supporting Growth and Movement in the Midlands, 2018-2031).

The A5 is a trunk road stretching from London to Holyhead, providing a strategic route that supports access to economic activity and growth. The A5 provides a key freight route through central England together with providing relief to the motorway network when necessary.

The A5 forms the western boundary of Harborough District, stretching from west of Catthorpe to west of Claybrooke Magna, including the Gibbet Island at Shawell and access to Magna Park.

The A5 Partnership is made up of 17 local councils supported by other public agencies, including Highways England, Midlands Connect and Local Enterprise Partnerships, along a 70 mile stretch of the A5 from Gailey, Staffordshire, to Weedon, Northamptonshire.

The four key objectives of the A5 Partnership are to:

- Raise awareness of the importance of the increasing economic role of the A5 through the Midlands;
- Collaborate and effectively plan for growth impacts affecting the A5;
- Make the case for future investment on improvements to tackle key congestion issues; and
- Develop a strategy for the A5 around these principles.

Harborough District Council supports the work of the A5 Partnership, with attendance at both the Officer A5 Transport Partnership Group and A5 Member Partnership meetings. Leicestershire County Council is no longer part of the A5 Partnership. The Partnership has since adopted new terms of

reference and governance, with Warwickshire County Council to Chair future meetings from March 2019 for a 2 year period.

The Strategy is a supporting transport document for the new Local Plan, which aims to deliver sustainable development, meet development needs and reflect local aspirations, with the A5 Strategy listed as a background evidence document for Policy BE2 Strategic Distribution.

Midlands Connect is seeking to undertake an A5 Strategic Corridor Study. This will be undertaken during 2018/19 and will result in the production of Strategic Outline Business Cases (SOBC) for key priority sections of the A5, as identified by the study. The A5 Partnership will continue to work closely with Midlands Connect during the study and the development of the SOBC's. Close alignment with other strategically significant Midlands Connect projects (e.g. A46 Strategic Corridor Study and M6 Junction 3-11 Study) is also vital going forward and the partnership will seek to support and complement these emerging priorities.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) the A5 Strategy, as a whole be approved (as set out at Appendix A to the report)
- (ii) the Executive continues to express its support for the upgrade of the A5 through the work of the A5 Partnership.

Summary of Reasons

The A5 Strategy will help to support the planned future growth across the A5 Partnership area, and place all partners, including Harborough District Council and Leicestershire County Council, in a strong position to secure public and private funding for the transport improvements necessary to support growth.

ARNESBY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Executive considered the recommendations of the Examiner on the Arnesby Neighbourhood Plan (the 'Plan'). The Plan has been produced by the Arnesby Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Committee and Arnesby Parish Council as the Qualifying Body, in conjunction with the local community.

The Plan seeks to allocate one site for housing and has policies to allow development to come forward within the defined Limits to Development subject to certain criteria.

The final Examiner's Report into the Plan was received by the Council on the 30th November 2018 and was made available to the public on the Council's website shortly after. The report recommended to the Council that subject to the modifications proposed, the Plan should proceed to a Referendum.

The Examiner recommended some policy amendments from the submitted version of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Arnesby Parish Council have given the Examiner's Report due consideration and resolved that it is in agreement with the recommended modifications of the Examiner to the Neighbourhood Plan. Officers are also in agreement with the recommendations of the Examiner

The date for the referendum is provisionally set for the 28th February 2019 and this will follow a similar format to an election. All those registered to vote within the Neighbourhood Area will be given the opportunity to be involved in the Referendum. Local residents will receive a ballot paper with the question; "Do you want Harborough District Council to use the neighbourhood plan for Arnesby to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?"

Residents will be given the opportunity to vote 'yes' or 'no'. If more than 50% of those voting in the referendum vote 'yes' then the Local Planning Authority is required to 'make' the plan (adopt the Plan, with the Plan becoming the Development Plan for Arnesby alongside the Core Strategy). Under the approved Neighbourhood Planning Scheme of Delegation 'making' the Plan will be done by Officers of Harborough District Council as soon as possible after a favourable Referendum result. If the result of the Referendum is "no", then nothing further happens. The Parish Council will then have to decide how it wishes to proceed.

RESOLVED that:

- i) the Independent Examiner's recommended changes to the Arnesby Neighbourhood Plan are accepted as set out in the schedule at Appendix A to the report, and the recommendation that the amended Arnesby Neighbourhood Plan should proceed to a referendum of voters within the Parish of Arnesby to establish whether the Plan should form part of the Development Plan for the Harborough District be noted.
- ii) the holding of a referendum relating to the Arnesby Neighbourhood Plan on the 28th February 2019 that will include all of the registered electors in the Arnesby Parish be approved.

Summary of Reasons

The final Examiner's report as detailed at Appendix B to the report into the Arnesby Neighbourhood Plan was received on the 30th November 2018. The Examiner considered the Plan along with the representations received when the Plan was published by the Council. The report recommends to the Council that, subject to the modifications proposed (see Appendix A to the report), the Plan should proceed to a referendum.

The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, (Regulation 18) sets out the matters that the District Council should consider at this stage in the Neighbourhood Plan making process. The District Council must consider each of the recommendations made by the Examiner in their report, including the reasons for them, and decide what action to take in response to each recommendation (see Appendix A to the report).

It is considered that the recommended modifications should be incorporated into the plan and noted by the Executive in order to ensure that the plan is robust, sound, meets the Basic Conditions and comprises a user-friendly and efficient document. Liaison with Arnesby Parish Council (the Qualifying Body) confirms that they are happy to accept these recommendations. On this basis, the Plan should proceed to a referendum in the Parish of Arnesby to determine if local people support it.

The Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared by Arnesby Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Committee and Arnesby Parish Council as the Qualifying Body.

The evidence provided to the Examiner within the Consultation Statement gave assurance to him

that the consultation process was robust. The Examiner was therefore satisfied that the Plan met the Basic Conditions with regard to consultation.

In proceeding to a referendum with a plan that meets the prescribed Basic Conditions, the whole community will be afforded the opportunity to vote on the future development of the village and wider parish of Arnesby.

MATTERS OF SPECIAL URGENCY

There were none.

The meeting closed at 6.40 pm