

HARBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

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

COUNCIL

18 March 2019

commencing at 6.30 p.m.

Present:

Councillor Bowles (Chairman)

Councillors: Mrs Ackerley, Bannister, Bateman, Mrs Beesley-Reynolds, Bilbie, Brodrick, Mrs Burrell, Champion, Chapman, Elliott, Evans, Galton, Graves, Hadkiss, Hallam, Hammond, Holyoak, King, Knowles, Liquorish, Modha, Nunn, Mrs. Page, Pain, Rickman, Mrs Robinson, Rook, Spendlove-Mason, Tomlin and Mrs Wood

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: Dann, Dunton, Hall, Dr Hill, Johnson and Mrs Simpson

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made the following announcements regarding a significant number of events she has recently attended and participated in as follows:-

- A visit to the Cube in Market Harborough
- Held a Charity quiz
- Attended a civic dinner for Melton Borough Council
- Held a Civic Dinner at Foxton Locks
- Attended Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council's Civic Service and Charity Dinner.

DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

There were none.

MINUTES

It was moved by Councillor Bannister and seconded by Councillor King and

RESOLVED that: the Minutes of the Council meeting held on the 25th February 2019 be received and adopted.

REPORT OF THE LEADER

Councillor Bannister, Leader, presented his report, as set out below, preceding this by offering his condolences to those affected by the tragedy in New Zealand last week,

New Car and Coach Park

I am pleased to confirm the acquisition of land in Market Harborough Town Centre for a new car and coach park has now been completed. Development of this site will begin shortly and the acquisition of land to allow coaches to park close to the town centre will be good news for our retailers and visitors alike. Coach operators have been in touch with our Economic Development Team and I am pleased that progress is being made to ensure the Coach park will allow for visitors to enjoy all areas of our District in addition to the Market Harborough experience.

Comedy Festival

The 'Market Harborough BIG Weekend', organised by Harborough District Council with the Leicester Comedy Festival, was a resounding success with events happening at venues all over the town. The two Market Hall events were sold out with 371 people attending each night on Sat 23 February and Sun 24 February. Expressions of interest are now being invited from venues throughout the District for the 2020 BIG Weekend. The aim was to showcase what a great place this District is and to increase tourism and provide opportunities for residents to enjoy top quality comedy on their doorstep.

Invest in Harborough

The Council launched its new Invest in Harborough website and video on 1 March 2019 at Bruntingthorpe Proving Ground. The event included a preview of the website, an investment video, along with guest speaker, Mark Oakley the Director of Inward Investment and Place Marketing at Leicester City Council. The aim of the event was to showcase and help raise the profile of the District so that businesses looking to re-locate consider Harborough as an option and to connect investors and commercial agents together with the aim of showcasing what the district has to offer. This is also a key part of the Council's Economic Development Strategy, adopted in February 2018.

View the new website and a promotional VIDEO about the district at www.investinharborough.com

HIC Event

I am delighted to report on the success of the HIC following the publication of the Impact Report which shows in the 7 years since its opening 796 jobs have been created across 122 companies. The Impact Report indicates some £19.3 million has been created by these companies for the local economy. The Harborough Innovation Centre was developed by the Council in a far sighted move to bring together innovation and enterprise across the District. The Impact Report makes for good reading and it was only right to celebrate this success by a networking event on the 8 March 2019 to launch the Impact Report and hear from businesses based at the Innovation Centre.

Future of High Streets Fund – Expression of Interest

Harborough District Council has begun the process of making a bid from the Future of High Streets Fund focussing on Lutterworth. The Bid is made to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. I am pleased the bid is focussing on Lutterworth as this is an area that has huge potential to be enhanced and renewed with appropriate investment. The Bid dovetails nicely with the launch of the Masterplan process for Lutterworth as we begin the process to secure Lutterworth as a vibrant place where a rich mix of businesses can flourish and where residents can be proud to live and visitors will want to return to.

Lidl

Members will be aware that Lidl made an announcement this week that they intend to move out of their Distribution Centre at Magna Park in July 2020. There is a potential loss of 350 jobs and we note with concern the anxieties that these job losses will have on the work force. I understand the reason

for Lidl moving is that they wish to expand and they will be going to a larger distribution warehouse in Peterborough. Their current work force will be offered employment at the Peterborough site but of course that won't suit a number of employees. Talks have taken place between Gazeley (the owners of the Lidl warehouse at Magna Park) and the Council and Gazeley are optimistic about finding a new tenant in the timescales involved to minimise the disruption.

Welland Park Academy – Climate Change Demonstration

On Friday afternoon, 15 March 2019, I will be meeting students and staff from Welland Academy who want to publicise the corrosive effects of Climate Change on our Planet. I welcome their interest in this vital issue and look forward to hearing about the students and staff campaign and having the opportunity to explain the Council's own Green Agenda and the many things we have in place and are putting in place to protect our environment including the support we are giving to the Harborough Eco Church's Plastic Pledge.

Kibworth Air Monitoring Station

In my last Leader's Report I highlighted the Air Monitoring Station being installed in the Kibworths. I understand that the Station went live as from the 14 March 2019 and has begun to collate the necessary data to allow the Council to monitor the air quality in the small area of the A6 in the Kibworths that is affected by poor air quality. This is a part of the Council's commitment to improve standards under our Air Quality Management Action Plan.

Brexit

On 8 March 2019 all members were sent a briefing note on HDC's preparedness for EU Exit. This note covered information on delivery and continuity of statutory services, the potential impact on regulatory services, assessment of supply chains, data handling, local partnership working, community safety, communications and a proposed 'March to Leave' event. Since the briefing note officers have continued to be involved in the multi-agency planning for a "No Deal" Brexit and continue to respond and plan in the light of emerging issues.

Retiring Members

Finally I recognise this is our last Full Council Meeting before the District Council elections on 2 May. We may well have an Extraordinary Council Meeting at the end of April to consider adopting the Council's Local Plan. If we have such a meeting it will in all probability just be a single item Agenda meeting. Accordingly, let me use this opportunity to thank all Members who are retiring from the Council at the Election of the new Council in May. Thank you all for your public service, the contributions made to this Council through the work of its committees and in Full Council. You have all served the residents not just of your own ward with distinction but of the whole District.

Comments on the Leader's report

Councillor Knowles reiterated the Liberal Democrats and his support to New Zealand citizens in relation to the recent tragedy. He was also very pleased to have attended the meeting with a number of students from both Welland Park Academy and Robert Smyth who were protesting against climate change. With regard to the land acquisition at B&M and Tesco's, Councillor Knowles commented on the time that it had taken to be delivered.

Councillors commented that it was good to see that the air monitoring station is now in situ and recording data.

Concern was raised at the job losses from the Lidl site relocation to Peterborough. Councillors were informed that a break in had occurred at Leicester Wildlife Hospital, based in Kibworth, which is a charity that Harborough District Council have previously supported. Replacement items are being sought.

Thanks were also expressed to those Councillors who are retiring for their significant time and effort given to the District.

Leader's response

Councillor Bannister commented that the Council has a very good rate of recycling and that the Council engages with CasePak to see where the District's plastic does go, as the Council does want to cut down on the carbon footprint as much as possible. It is encouraging that some plastic is able to be recycled in the UK without being shipped abroad.

In relation to the land acquisition, Councillor Bannister reported that the purchase of the site had been undertaken over a matter of weeks and he wanted to acknowledge the commitment of the Legal Team, assisted by the Head of Assets and give thanks to all the officers involved in the acquisition.

With regard to the situation with Lidl, he acknowledged that it is of concern and that he has had a meeting recently with Gazeley's, the owner and manager of Magna Park.

Councillor Bannister concluded by condemning the violence at the Wildlife Hospital.

QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY THE PUBLIC

There were none.

QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS

There were none.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE EXECUTIVE MEETING HELD ON 11TH FEBRUARY 2019

1. CAPITAL STRATEGY

The Executive on 4th March 2019 had considered the draft Capital Strategy, which is an overarching document which sets the policy framework for the development, management and monitoring of capital investment. The strategy focusses on core principles that underpin the Council's capital programme; its short, medium and long-term objectives; the key issues and risks that will impact on the delivery of the programme; and the governance framework required to ensure the capital programme is delivered and provides value for money for residents.

Councillors were advised that the Strategy would underpin the future with regard to revenue generation and what is delivered for the Council.

Clarification was sought in regard to the following wording in paragraph 3.2.2 of the Strategy :- "The Strategic Growth plan has been consulted but is still to be adopted by the Council", as it was noted that the Growth Plan has already been adopted by the Council and Councillors have all received a copy.

Officers confirmed that a factual error had occurred in the report and the wording for 3.2.2 should read “The Strategic Growth plan has been consulted and has been adopted by the Council.”

Following a discussion with regard to the correct procedure to follow to implement the alteration, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer recommended that as per Part 4; Section 1: Rule 13.7 of the Constitution: “A Member may alter a motion which he or she has moved without notice with the consent of both the meeting and the seconder. The meeting’s consent will be signified without discussion.”

Following the consent of the meeting, the proposer and seconder agreed that paragraph 3.2.2 be amended as detailed above.

The disparity in timeframes between the implementation of the Strategic Growth Plan and the Capital Strategy was raised. It was confirmed that the Strategic Growth Plan covered the period from now to 2050, with elements covering 2031 onwards.

Assurance was requested that there would be provision of Community facilities funding and the Built Facility Strategy within the Capital Strategy and it was confirmed that these are included in the Strategy under Sections 4.0 – ‘Capital Ambitions’ and 4.2.1. – ‘People’.

Concern was raised regarding the timeframe of Council approving the Strategy given that a significant acquisition has already recently taken place. Councillors were advised that when Council approves its Revenue and Capital budget, it also approves the potential code which sets down the framework of the borrowing ratios etc. The timing to approve the Capital Strategy at this point in time provides detail of the associated financing as detailed in the Revenue and Capital budget.

Councillor Hallam announced that he had made a Declaration of Interest at the meeting when the Strategic Growth Plan had been debated and asked whether he should leave the room. It was clarified that as the discussion was regarding policy, Councillor Hallam could remain in the Council Chamber.

It was moved by Councillor Hallam, seconded by Councillor Bannister and

RESOLVED that the Capital Strategy be approved, subject to section 3.2.2 of the Strategy being amended to read: “The Strategic Growth plan has been consulted and has been adopted by the Council.”

Summary of Reasons

The Council is required to approve a Capital Strategy by 1st April 2019 as required by the Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities.

The Capital Strategy creates the strategic context for Capital Investment in the short, medium and long term alongside Council governance arrangements for managing capital investment.

REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE

It was moved by Councillor Bannister, seconded by Councillor King and

RESOLVED that the report from the Executive be noted and received.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE ETHICAL GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

1. REVIEW OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR DEALING WITH COMPLAINTS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT

The Council considered the Recommendation from the Ethical Governance Committee meeting held on the 6th February 2019 concerning the review of arrangements for dealing with complaints under the Code of Conduct.

The Council was advised that the Committee had rigorously discussed the arrangements, detailed assessment criteria and timeframes for dealing with complaints. The outcome included requiring the whole Committee to consider complaints and additional reserve dates for the Committee being put in the calendar.

It was moved by Councillor Evans, seconded by Councillor Brodrick and

RESOLVED that the proposed revised arrangements for dealing with complaints, agreed by the Committee, set out in Appendix A to the report, be approved and adopted.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 6TH MARCH 2019

1. WHISTLEBLOWING POLICY

The Council considered the Recommendation from the Governance and Audit Committee meeting held on the 6th March 2019 regarding the revised Whistleblowing Policy.

It was moved by Councillor Rook, seconded by Councillor Chapman and

RESOLVED that the revised Whistleblowing Policy be adopted, as set out in Appendix A to the report.

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SCRUTINY COMMISSION

Councillor Page presented the Scrutiny Commission report as set out below:-

Although there have been no Scrutiny meetings since my last report to Council on 25th February, I thought it would be useful to remind Councillors of forthcoming Scrutiny events.

Future Scrutiny Events

The final cycle of Scrutiny meetings for 2018/19 will start later this week. The Performance Scrutiny Panel will be meeting on 21st March and the Communities Panel on 28th March. As I mentioned in my last report, the Scrutiny Commission will now be meeting two times each year and no meeting is planned for this cycle.

At the time of writing, the following items are planned for consideration - further details are included in the full Scrutiny Workplan, which is available to view in the ["Public Documents" section on CMIS](#).

Performance (21/03/2019):

- Quarterly Financial Performance, Quarter 3
- Performance, End of Quarter 3
- Risk and Opportunity Management, End of Quarter 3

- Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA)
- Smarter Services Programme Strategy
- Capital Strategy

Communities (28/03/2019):

- Progress on Neighbourhood Plans
- Harborough District Community Lottery

PAY POLICY STATEMENT

The Council considered the report detailing the 2019/20 Annual Pay Policy Statement which is required to meet section 38(1) of the Localism Act (2011). The aims of the policy are to create transparency for staff and public in relation to the pay of the Council's most senior staff, and to raise awareness of the pay difference between lower paid members of staff and those at the very top of the organisation.

It was moved by Councillor Hadkiss, seconded by Councillor Rickman, and

RESOLVED that the Pay Policy Statement for 2019/20 attached at Appendix A to the report be approved.

Summary of Reasons

The Localism Act 2011 requires all local authorities to produce a Pay Policy Statement in relation to transparency which is to be published on the Council website.

The Pay Policy Statement must articulate the Council's approach to a range of issues relating to the pay of its workforce.

The National Employers side for the JNC agreed a two year pay award for Chief Executives and Chief Officers at 2% for 2018 to 2020. This is applicable only to the Joint Chief Executives (which includes the responsibilities for Head of Paid Service).

The National Employers side for NJC agreed a two year pay award, 2018 to 2020 which includes the introduction of a new pay spine. This was approved by Council on the 12th November 2018. The revised NJC pay spine applies to the rest of the workforce and will be effective from the 1st April 2019.

URGENT ITEMS

The Chairman wished all her fellow Councillors 'happy campaigning'.

The Meeting ended at 7.29 p.m.