

HARBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE MEETING

held in the Council Chamber

26th September 2011

commencing at 6.30p.m.

Present:

Councillor Rook (Leader)
Councillors: Mrs. Ackerley, Charlish,
Golding, Pain,
Apologies for absence from Cllrs Dann and Spendlove-Mason
Officers: M. Bradford A. Eastwood, A. Graves, B. Jolly, K. Mehta, B. Murgatroyd, S.Pointer

207 PORTFOLIO HOLDER ACTIVITY REPORTS

i) Community Engagement, Cohesion and Wellbeing

Cllr Pain reported that:

- i) Mike Sandys (Public Health Consultant) had started work at the Council one day per week. He was assisting the Council with understanding its priorities on the health and well being agenda and helping to avoid duplication with work carried out by other authorities. A funding stream of £5500 was available for the first six months for this work.
- ii) he had attended a health and well being lead members meeting on 1 September at Blaby
- iii) a HDC Health and Wellbeing forum was currently being considered
- iv) earlier he had attended a County Council Big Society Roadshow in Market Harborough which was promoting the opportunities for local communities as part of the Big Society initiative

ii) Community safety and enforcement

Cllr Golding reported that:

- i) an advert inviting invitations to tender for the pest control contract was being published that week
- ii) the Police Commissioner election was now to be held in November next year. A briefing note would be issued shortly on the subject.

iii) Leader

Cllr Rook reported that:

- i) he had attended the District Council network on 6 September 2011 to hear the Minister for Decentralisation and Planning, The Rt Hon. Greg Clark talk about the NPPF
- ii) he had attended two future options panels ; two asset panels; Harborough Business Enterprise and Lutterworth Business Enterprise meetings
- iii) he had attended a meeting of the Joint Committee for Revenues and Benefits where the Committee had changed its constitution. Each constituent Council now had one member and one substitute

208 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Executive meeting held on 15 August 2011 be approved and signed as a true record.

209 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

None were declared.

210 RESPONSES TO CONSULTATION ON THE DRAFT NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK

Consideration was given to this Council's response to consultation on the draft National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The impact statement accompanying the publication of the draft NPPF sets out why the Government intends to introduce the NPPF. The importance of the planning system to home building and job creation, the protection of the environment and the provision of infrastructure is acknowledged. It then states that the planning system has become top-heavy with policy and guidance with over 1,000 pages of policy guidance and over 6,000 pages of supporting documentation. The Government believes this to be inefficient and sometimes contradictory, that it acts to reduce community understanding and participation in the planning process and that it is a barrier to economic growth.

The draft NPPF therefore proposes to consolidate and streamline existing national planning policy to a document about 60 pages long. In addition, a small number of policy changes are proposed, the most important being to introduce a new presumption in favour of sustainable development.

On publication, existing national Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) and Planning Policy Statements (PPS) will be replaced by the NPPF. The NPPF will not complete the process of consolidation and streamlining as it is understood that the Government intends to replace existing Planning Circulars in a separate exercise. These documents provide non-statutory advice and guidance on particular issues to expand on subjects referred to in legislation. Circulars are used to explain policy and regulation more fully. Many circulars are quasi-legislative and include a direction or requirement to take specific action or provide guidance on implementation of aspects of planning policy. The timetable for this exercise is unknown.

Proposed comments on the draft NPPF are set out in Appendix A.

RESOLVED that:

- i) The response to consultation on the draft National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) set out at Appendix A be approved subject to the following change "The response to consultation question 3b) to include: 'General: - There is an absence of comment and therefore detail and clarity on enforcement within the Development Management process'".
- ii) The potential implications of the draft NPPF are noted.

Summary of Reasons

On final publication the NPPF will become a very important national planning policy document. The consultation allows the Council the opportunity to raise issues about it with Government which may result in changes to the benefit of Harborough. Members making planning decisions and shaping the preparation of planning policy need to be aware of the potential implications of the NPPF for their decision making.

211 FIRST QUARTER PERFORMANCE REPORT 2011-2012

It was reported that the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government has replaced the National Indicator Set with a single comprehensive list of all the data local government is expected to provide to central government.

All of the data in this single list is being compiled and submitted through various Government forms, e.g. Waste Data Flow for refuse and recycling, P1E for Homelessness etc. Many of the old National Indicators were compiled from this data and published by CLG, so in effect there has been little reduction in collection and submission of data.

Although the data is still being submitted, not identifying it as a performance indicator, has resulted in its exclusion from portfolio plans, and thus from TEN. This means that the data is not readily available to Portfolio Holders, Scrutiny Panels, or Members and Officers in general.

To counteract this, a number of indicators have been created from the data submitted and included in the appropriate portfolio report in TEN. These indicators will display the data submitted to the Government, and as details are published will also allow the comparison with National and Regional statistics.

At present the indicators set up are those with data that is submitted quarterly, Annual indicators will follow. In some cases the indicators provide a more detailed breakdown of a retained National Indicator e.g. The 'Speed of Planning Applications' is similar to NI157 but split into time bands as published by CLG. Where this occurs the retained National Indicators could be discarded. Appendix B lists the indicators set up in TEN.

RESOLVED that

- i) the indicators from the new single list be added to portfolio information held in TEN
- ii) Indicators 147-01 (Information on HB overpayments) and 147-02 (Information on Fraud) on the National Single list be transferred from the Asset Management and Finance Portfolio to the Corporate and Customer Services Portfolio
- iii) indicator 021-08 (Enforcement Action) on the National Single List be transferred from the Housing Infrastructure and Planning Portfolio to the Community Safety and Enforcement Portfolio
- iv) the performance information contained in the report be noted.

Summary of Reasons

The presentation of performance information for examination is part of the Council's overall performance management framework. The framework has been designed to monitor and manage the delivery, to the greatest extent possible, the plans of the Council.

As previously agreed by the Executive, performance reports for the first and third quarters of a financial year highlight under performing indicators and business plan actions, with a full report on all indicators and actions provided for the half year and year end.

This report provides information on exceptions in the first quarter of 2011-12. Please note that in addition to the summarised information in this report full details including graphs and trends are available on the TEN Performance Management System which is accessible via the Council intranet.

212 SECTION 106 ALLOCATIONS

Consideration was given to the Grants Panel recommendations in respect of Capital, Revenue and Section 106 applications. Further information was supplied to the Executive by Stoughton Parish Council to clarify its application

RESOLVED that

- i) the applications be approved as set out in Appendix C with the exception of Stoughton Parish Council's application .

ii) the application submitted by Stoughton Parish Council be approved in full (£40042.62) following receipt of further information from the Parish Council

Summary of Reasons

- i) The applications for funding have been considered by the Grants Panel and recommended for approval.
- ii) Further information has been provided by Stoughton Parish Council to support its application

213 PRUDENTIAL INDICATOR MONITORING REPORT TO 30 JUNE 2011

Members were updated on performance to date against approved prudential indicators

RESOLVED that the position of the actual prudential indicators as at 30 June 2011 be noted.

Summary of Reasons

The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities stipulates that the Council must approve certain prudential indicators and limits as part of the budget setting cycle, and that those indicators should be monitored during the financial year.

214 FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS

RESOLVED that the forward plan of key decisions for the period of October 2011- January 2012 attached at Appendix D be approved for publication subject to the inclusion of an additional decision for the meeting on 7 November on Harborough Youth Community trust –lease for Symington Pavilion

Summary of Reasons

The Council is required by the Local Government Act 2000 and its own Constitution to publish regular Forward Plans of Key Decisions.

At its meeting on 29 August 2001, the Executive agreed that it should review each draft Forward Plan of Key Decisions, (minute 249(v)/2001 refers). It also was agreed that each Plan should cover a four-month period, with a monthly roll-forward of the Plan being effective on the first working day of each month.

215 BUSINESS PLANNING UPDATE

It was reported that a key aspect of the business of the Council was to draw up its operational and financial plans on an annual basis. These are informed by the vision and the priorities set by elected members which in turn are informed by the community through comment and consultative processes. The plans are normally of a three year rolling nature as the council takes a medium term view of internal and external factors that will affect it.

Since June 2011 work on the 2012/13 budget and the medium term plans has progressed which will culminate in February 2012 when the Council approves the Business and Financial Plans for 2012/13 and future years.

At Appendix E is the Business Planning Process that is being followed.

The Deputy Chief Executive has issued the annual Budget Guidelines for 2012/13 which are attached at Appendix F, to be followed for the construction of the detailed budget estimates for the forthcoming financial year (2012/13.)

RESOLVED that

- i) the Business Planning Process at Appendix E be endorsed; and
- ii) the Budget Guidelines set by the Deputy Chief Executive at Appendix F be endorsed.

Summary of Reasons

Business planning is a key and critical rolling process in determining the business of the council not only for the forthcoming year but also to set out a medium term view.

The Business and Financial Plans of the Council underpin the Council's vision and its objectives by setting out the way by which its priorities will be delivered.

216 SECTION 100A LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

RESOLVED that, except for those Members present not being Members of this Executive, the public and press be excluded from the remainder of the meeting on the grounds that the matters yet to be discussed involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1&2 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972

217 MANOR FIELD THURNBY – REPORT OF CONSULTATION

RESOLVED that:

- i) it be noted that there was no feedback from residents concerning the Public Notice and the leaflets distributed to neighbours within a 300m radius of the field.
- ii) grant a licence for an area of land at Manor Field Thurnby to the resident of 763 Uppingham Road Thurnby which will be bounded by a palisade fence to enclose it within the curtilage of the property.
- iii) the specific clauses contained in section 7.1 and 7.2 of the report being included in the licence document to take account of the requirement of the Authority to not incur further costs.

Summary of Reasons

The lack of response from the public indicates that there are no objections to the proposal to grant a licence for the area of land at Appendix A (to the report) to the resident of 763 Uppingham Road, Thurnby.

The erection of a fence as indicated in Appendix A (to the report) will help prevent further antisocial behaviour affecting the resident of 763 Uppingham Road, Thurnby.

The proposed clauses in the licence are to prevent the Authority incurring additional costs in maintenance.

The meeting closed at 7.56pm