

HARBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

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

COUNCIL

18 June 2018

commencing at 6.30 p.m.

Present:

Councillor Bowles (Chairman)

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

Officers: B. Jolly, G. Keeping, B. Murgatroyd and S. Riley

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: Hall, Hallam, Knowles and Pain.

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- (i) On 22nd May she had attended the Mayor Making Ceremony in Lutterworth, together with The Leader and other Councillors;.
- (ii) On 4th June she attended Taste Harborough at St Dionysius' Church;
- (iii) There was a Civic Farm Visit on 8th June;
- (iv) On 9th June she attended the Carnival in Market Harborough and presented the new 'Chairman's Cup';
- (v) On 10th June she went on the Poppy Walk with the Royal British Legion around Welland Park;
- (vi) On 11th June she attended the Sichuan 30th Anniversary with Leicestershire County Council; and
- (vii) this afternoon, along with Councillors Ackerley and Johnson, she had attended the opening of the new exhibition in the Museum in The Symington Building.

DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

There were none.

MINUTES

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

RESOLVED that: the Minutes of the Council meeting held on the 23rd April 2018 be received and adopted.

REPORT OF THE LEADER

Councillor Bannister, Leader, presented his report, as set out below:

Strategic Growth Plan (SGP) Update

The Members Advisory Group met on the 5th June to hear the response to the Consultation on the SGP and I was pleased to hear that as a result of our representations Harborough District Council's concerns were being positively addressed. We are hopeful that a further reduction in future housing numbers from that first envisaged may be possible along with change of emphasis to designation of growth zones. These are positive developments and which we will be working to deliver in the next re-issue of the draft-SGP expected in early July. There will be an all-member briefing which is arranged for the 24th July 2018 at 6.30pm and I urge all members who can make it to attend. It is worth noting that the Strategic Growth Plan is completely separate to our own Local Plan and should not be confused.

In addition to the update on the SGP on the 24th July; there will also be a briefing the same evening on the proposed development for a Garden Village known as Whetstone Pastures that falls mainly in Blaby District Council's area but partly within the HDC boundary.

Public Open Space Policy Review

I can advise Members that a review of our existing Open Spaces Policy is to be carried out. In particular it will be considering whether it is appropriate to agree to adopt open spaces as and when they are offered by developers to the Council and when the developer is no longer able/wishes to maintain such space. What needs to be considered with care are the cost implications to the Council in adopting these open spaces as they will inevitably lead to a greater spend in maintenance that could well be costly over the long term. However, we are sensitive to some residents' concerns where open spaces have been sold on to others who may not maintain it in the expected fashion.

Threats for Bus services

It is a matter of concern that in addition to the threatened withdrawal of the Centrebus service in Market Harborough that the Hinkleybus service no. 58 which serves Market Harborough and Lutterworth will be withdrawn from the 15th July. These are vital services and we have made representations to the parent company of Hinkleybus (Arriva) and the County Council to see what alternative arrangements can be considered. We will keep Council updated with developments.

Working Group for the significant anniversaries

The Working Group shall be meeting again soon to hear the responses from the various parishes regarding the commemorative benches and road naming schemes.

I am delighted with the success of the reflective soldier Silhouette in Market Harborough. The public have responded in such a positive way to this installation that I hope others can be displayed around the district. Lutterworth and Broughton Astley have been offered a Silhouette but I would like to see at least one other in places in the north east of the district as well – perhaps in Billesdon or Scraftoft. Please let me know if your Parish may be interested.

We are hoping to commission a piece of artwork to mark the centenary of the votes for women. I would like all members to have the chance to comment on the proposed artwork and where it may be placed.

Plastics Free Conference

By the time Council takes place I will have attended the Plastic Free Planet discussion at the Methodist Church Centre on Saturday 16th June (10am to 12noon). I look forward to listening to the key note talk from Professor Colin Walters a specialist in waste pollution as well as taking part in the panel discussion to explain what Harborough District Council can do in trying to reduce the use of plastic in the District.

Good News

We have had a successful prosecution of a fly-tipper this week. The individual concerned pleaded guilty to 4 charges of fly-tipping and, with fines, costs and a victim surcharge now has a financial penalty of £4473.33 to pay. This brings the message that this Council will enforce against those

caught fly-tipping and bring charges. This is a substantial sum of money to find for a mindless act of spoiling our countryside.

I wish to share the very good news that Harborough District Council's excellent Cemetery and Burial Strategy has won an award at the recent National Planning Awards 2018. The award was in the Plan Making category.

Leicestershire County Council has been awarded £442,800 of National Lottery funding from Sport England to help low-income families get active with their children. The money will fund a four-year project to be piloted in the Harborough district and North West Leicestershire districts and will remind parents of the many available opportunities for activity with their children

Comments on the Leaders report

In response to a question about whether the Council had responded to the County Council's consultation on the future of bus services, it was confirmed that Members had been informed that the response had been sent. It was agreed that a copy would be sent to Councillor Johnson.

In relation to the Strategic Growth Plan, Councillors welcomed the forthcoming all-member briefing, especially given that the process was not as open as that for the Council's own Local Plan and feedback on progress with negotiations, through the briefing and the Leader's reports, was important.

The review of Public Open Spaces Policy was welcomed, given the importance of these areas of land for public recreation. In response to a question, it was confirmed that Parish Councils and local Members would have a say in the review.

QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY THE PUBLIC

There were none.

QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS

There were none.

RECOMMENDATION FROM THE EXECUTIVE - COACH PARKING FOR MARKET HARBOROUGH

The Council considered the Recommendation from the Executive meeting held on the 14th May 2018 at which the Executive had considered the purchase of land and associated works, as set out in an exempt report presented to that meeting. A copy of that report was made available as Item 12 on the agenda of this meeting of Council.

Following a query from a Councillor in relation to the Plan included as Appendix A to the exempt report, it was moved by Councillor Bannister, seconded by Councillor Rook and

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

After discussion of the query in exempt session, the public and press were invited to re-join the remainder of the meeting. It was moved by Councillor Bannister, seconded by Councillor King and

RESOLVED that:

- (i) The capital programme be revised in line with the Outline Business Case :-

	£000
Approved Programme	100
Revised Programme	492

- (ii) The land outlined in Appendix A to the report (edged red on the plan) be acquired at the figure outlined in 4.14 as detailed in the report, and authority be delegated to the Corporate Director (BJ) in consultation with the Head of Legal and Democratic Service to take any necessary actions to complete the acquisition; and
- (iii) Authority be delegated to the Corporate Director (BJ), in consultation with the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, s.151 Officer and the Portfolio Holder Finance & Assets and (subject to the Final Business Case being within the agreed funding), the outlined project be implemented, including, but not restricted to:
- Completion of the contractual arrangements under the SCAPE regional framework to appoint Jeakins Weir Ltd. for a design and build construction contract for the Project including the pricing option under the NEC contract.
 - Any necessary actions be taken to negotiate and complete new occupational arrangements at Market Rent, if necessary.
 - Appropriate funding arrangements for the project be agreed.

Summary of Reasons

- To provide additional parking in central Market Harborough to support the business, retail and leisure economy.
- To provide a positive return on cost from the parking income and the communications mast rent.
- To control the future use and occupation of a parcel of land immediately adjacent to the Town Centre on a major route to and from the Town, to receive the income from the communications mast and to provide a central coach parking facility thus supporting the town centre economy and to help the district increase its ability to improve tourist visitor numbers and providing income to the Council.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE

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

RESOLVED that the report summarising all the Executive decisions and associated summary of reasons from the meeting of the 14th May 2018 be noted.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

There were none.

REPORTS ON THE BUSINESS OF JOINT ARRANGEMENTS AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

There were none.

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SCRUTINY COMMISSION

Councillor Dann presented his report, as set out below:

Scrutiny Commission

Since my report at Annual Council, the first of the June cycle of Scrutiny meetings has taken place, with the Scrutiny Commission having met on 7th June.

The Commission has agreed the Scrutiny Workplan for the forthcoming year. The full Workplan will be made available online on the Council's Committee management system and individual reports are included in the Combined Workplan, which is circulated to all Members each week.

The Commission also considered a report on Quarter 4 Performance.

Future Scrutiny Events

The following meetings have been scheduled:

- 21 June 2018 Performance Scrutiny Panel
- 28 June 2018 Communities Scrutiny Panel

JOINT CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Beverley Jolly, Corporate Director, left the meeting at the start of this item.

The Council considered the report which proposed a change of job title of the Corporate Directors to that of Joint Chief Executive, as recommended by the Local Government Association Peer Challenge ("LGA Peer Challenge") which had taken place in March 2018.

Following the resignation of the former Chief Executive in 2014, a decision had been taken by the Council not to recruit to the post of Chief Executive Officer at that time and to allocate the operational aspects of the role of Chief Executive jointly to the Corporate Directors. The post of Chief Executive was subsequently removed from the establishment list and the budget in 2015/16. Prior to this, an additional payment had been made to each Corporate Director to take account of the allocation of the operational aspects of the Chief Executive role. In addition, the Corporate Directors are now subject to the JNC terms and conditions, the terms and conditions applicable to Chief Executive Officers, as opposed to NJC conditions, which apply to all other employees of the Council. The Corporate Directors had been fulfilling the role of Chief Executive since 2014, a point recognised by the LGA Peer Challenge. The Corporate Directors' are appointed as Head of Paid Service on a six-monthly rotating basis and this arrangement would not be affected by the change in title. It was stated in the report that there were no additional financial implications, as the proposal was solely a change in the job title and not a change in salary or terms and conditions.

The Council has a legal duty to appoint one of its officers as Head of Paid Service. The change of job title would normally be dealt with by the Head of Paid Service, under delegated authority. However, as this change in job title affects the Head of Paid Service it was appropriate that Members take that decision.

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

RESOLVED that:

- (i) the job title of the Corporate Directors be changed to that of Joint Chief Executive with immediate effect; and
- (ii) it be noted that the Monitoring Officer will exercise her delegated authority to make such changes to the job titles in the Constitution as are necessary.

Summary of Reasons

The proposed change in job title is to reflect the fact that the Corporate Directors have carried out the operational responsibilities of the role of Chief Executive since April 2014.

URGENT ITEM – POLITICAL BALANCE CALCULATIONS AND APPOINTMENT ALLOCATIONS

Following a change in membership of the political groups, the Council considered a report in accordance with Section 15 of Part 1 of Chapter 42 of the Local Government and Housing Act, 1989, that set out the Political Balance calculations and appointment allocations for the remainder of the 2018/19 year.

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

RESOLVED that the Committee allocations, made in line with the overall political balance of Harborough District Council for the remainder of the 2018/19 year, be received and noted.

The Meeting ended at 7.25 p.m.