

CABINET
18TH DECEMBER 2014

PRESENT: The Leader (Councillor Slater)
The Deputy Leader (Councillor Hampson)
Councillors Barkley, Fryer, J. Hunt, Vardy and Morgan.

Councillor Gaskell (Cabinet Support Member)
Councillor Ranson (Cabinet Support Member)

Chief Executive
Section 151 Officer
Monitoring Officer
Head of Finance and Property Services
Head of Regulatory Services
Team Leader, Regeneration and Economic Development
Democratic Services Officer (MH)

APOLOGIES: Councillor Bokor

62. **DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY AND PERSONAL INTERESTS**

No disclosures of interest were made.

63. **LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Loughborough Students' World Record Attempt

"I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate all involved in the recent attempt to beat the Guinness world record for the largest gathering of people wearing Christmas jumpers.

University students, staff and people of the Borough, including the Mayor of Charnwood and our very own Councillor Hilary Fryer, all donned their Christmas jumpers and gathered on campus in an effort to beat the current record and, more importantly, to raise money for Save the Children.

A phenomenal 1,175 people came together, easily beating the current record of 639, and raising at least £2,500 for the charity. We now await official verification that the attempt was successful.

My congratulations go out to all involved but in particular to the students of Loughborough University who turned out in their hundreds. Well done.

I would also like to take the opportunity to wish all residents of Charnwood a merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year and to acknowledge the staff and Councillors of Charnwood Borough Council for their tremendous work and commitment. Thank you."

64. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th November 2014 were confirmed as a correct record and signed.

65. QUESTIONS UNDER CABINET PROCEDURES 10.7

No questions had been submitted.

66. CAR PARKING SCRUTINY PANEL

Considered a report of the Scrutiny Management Board presenting the findings and recommendations of the Car Parking Scrutiny Panel, accompanied by officer advice and recommendations (item 6 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

In accordance with Scrutiny Committee Procedure 11.12(a), Councillor Sharp, Scrutiny Commissioner and Chair of the Car Parking Scrutiny Panel, addressed the Cabinet.

The Head of Regulatory Services and the Team Leader: Regeneration and Economic Development also assisted with consideration of the report.

RESOLVED

1. that Panel recommendation 1, as detailed in the report of the Scrutiny Management Board, filed with these minutes, be addressed through consideration being given, in light of budget provisions in 2015/16, to commissioning a study to assess the levels of car parking provision in the Service Centres and across the Borough and its potential contribution to the vitality and viability of town centres as shopping destinations. This evidence to be available to neighbourhood areas when preparing their neighbourhood plans;
2. (i) that Panel recommendation 2, as detailed in the report of the Scrutiny Management Board, filed with these minutes, be supported and that this be implemented through an options appraisal to be prepared prior to the site being vacated by October 2015;
(ii) if, after considering the options appraisal agreed to in minute 66.1(i), above, Cabinet approve any future proposal for a car park located at the Limehurst depot site, the type of usage being determined;
3. that Panel recommendation 3, as detailed in the report of the Scrutiny Management Board, filed with these minutes, be supported and that further work be undertaken to promote the availability of the Southfields car park on Saturdays and Sundays to shoppers and other visitors;

4. that the following elements of Panel recommendation 4, as detailed in the report of the Scrutiny Management Board, filed with these minutes, be addressed as set out below but that element (vi) not be supported:
 - (i) Consideration be given to the commissioning of the car parking study referred to in resolution 66.1, above;
 - (ii)-(v) Consideration of the matters to be included as part of the preparation of the Site Allocations and Policies DPD during 2015/16;
 - (vii) The local planning authority to engage with parish and town councils in the preparation of evidence to understand local concerns and possible mitigation measures;
5. that Panel recommendation 5, as detailed in the report of the Scrutiny Management Board, filed with these minutes, not be supported and that instead:
 - (i) working with the Loughborough Business Improvement District and, subject to funding being available, the Council continue to offer selective free parking initiatives within the Town Centre Car Parks;
 - (ii) that the Head of Regulatory Services be given delegated responsibility, in consultation with the Lead Member for Regulatory Services, to determine the extent of any free parking initiatives;
6. that Panel recommendation 6, as detailed in the report of the Scrutiny Management Board, filed with these minutes, not be supported and instead that:
 - (i) the Head of Regulatory Services undertake an in house feasibility assessment, in consultation with the Loughborough Business Improvement District, for the development of a pilot scheme for Loughborough town centre based staff parking;
 - (ii) the findings of the feasibility assessment be reported to the Lead Member for Regulatory Services to agree the way forward;
7. that Panel recommendation 7, as detailed in the report of the Scrutiny Management Board, filed with these minutes, be considered as part of the implementation of resolutions 66.2 and 66.6 above;
8. that Panel recommendation 8, as detailed in the report of the Scrutiny Management Board, filed with these minutes, be supported and that this be implemented through consideration being given to the provision of a web-based resource during 2015/16 that coordinates existing information on sustainable travel choices (including walking, cycling and public transport) available for Charnwood residents and businesses within the limits of existing resources;

9. that Panel recommendation 9, as detailed in the report of the Scrutiny Management Board, filed with these minutes, be addressed by conveying the Panel's concerns to Leicestershire County Council and Borough Council officers, to measure the effectiveness of the web-based information hub, as agreed in minute 66.8, above;
10. that Panel recommendation 10, as detailed in the report of the Scrutiny Management Board, filed with these minutes, be supported and that officers work with the Loughborough Business Improvement District to assist other organisations to adopt car sharing schemes similar to that operated by the Borough Council;
11. that Panel recommendation 11, as detailed in the report of the Scrutiny Management Board, filed with these minutes, be supported and that officers continue to promote the LeicesterSHARE.com scheme, and include this in the information for the hub, referred to in resolution 66.8, above, currently promoted by Leicester City Council, Leicestershire County Council and the Department of Transport.

Reasons

1. To ensure resources are available to undertake this work.
2. (i) To allow Cabinet to consider all options for the site.
 (ii) To determine whether car parking provision would be long or short stay and to agree tariff charges.
3. To enable better use to be made of existing car parking facilities.
4. To ensure that the Panel's concerns are taken forward within the context of the emerging policy framework and in accordance with the law and available resources.
5. (i)&(ii) To undertake implementation, subject to appropriate levels of funding being secured. The Loughborough Business Improvement District have budgeted for car parking initiatives as part of their business plan based on consultation with businesses. To date these have been match-funded by the Council as part of the Christmas or Summer Programme
6. (i)&(ii) To determine whether such a scheme is feasible within the current capacity of the Council owned car parks.
7. To ensure any scheme is feasible in existing car parks prior to a decision being taken on implementation and enable the Cabinet to consider the option for the Limehurst Depot site.

8. To ensure resources are available to undertake this work.
 9. To ensure that the effectiveness of the work was known when making future decisions about these schemes, while acknowledging the responsibility of Leicestershire County Council for these matters.
 10. To help promote car sharing schemes as a more sustainable transport option.
 11. To help promote car sharing schemes as a more sustainable transport option.
67. ANNUAL PROCUREMENT PLAN 2014/15 UPDATE

Considered a report of the Head of Finance and Property Services proposing additions to the Annual Procurement Plan for Charnwood Borough Council for 2014/15 (item 7 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

The Head of Finance and Property Services assisted with consideration of the item.

RESOLVED

1. that contracts, over £25,000 and up to £75,000, as detailed in the Appendix to the report of the Head of Finance and Property Services, filed with these minutes, be let in accordance with Contract Procedure Rules;
2. that contracts, over £75,001 and up to £500,000, as detailed in the Appendix to the report of the Head of Finance and Property Services, filed with these minutes, be let in accordance with Contract Procedure Rules.

Reason

- 1&2. To allow contracts of the Council to be let in accordance with contract procedure rules.

68. CAPITAL PLAN AMENDMENT REPORT

Considered a report of the Head of Finance and Property Services proposing changes to the 2014/15 to 2016/17 Capital Plan and its financing, (item 8 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

The Head of Finance and Property Services assisted with consideration of the item.

At its meeting held on 16th December 2014, the Performance Scrutiny Panel considered the Cabinet report. On behalf of the Panel, the Leader relayed its comments and concerns with regard to an overspend of £23K on a bungalow at Longcliffe Road, Shepshed. The report explained that the overspend

related mainly to unforeseen ground conditions which had required additional foundations and storm water drainage works:

"The Panel was concerned that the amount of overspend was significant compared to the original budget of £150K and it seemed excessive for such type of works.

The Panel was concerned that, although their understanding was that a contract price had been agreed in advance, the Council had then paid an additional £23K. The Panel queried whether in such a situation the additional costs should have fallen to the contractor, who would reasonably have been expected to identify any potential problems at the pre-contract stage and price for them accordingly .

The Panel was concerned that the initial survey undertaken may have been inadequate and questioned if it had been undertaken properly.

The Panel was concerned that this problem might have occurred before and could occur again in the future if the appropriate pre-contract surveys and checks were not being undertaken, and requested that Cabinet be made aware of its concerns.

The Panel also requested that Internal Audit review the contract and report back to their next meeting in March."

The Head of Finance and Property Services responded:

"The contract was let in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.

Upon digging down, tree roots were discovered which meant that an additional 20 cubic feet of footings were required. Further costs were also incurred following concerns raised by Building Control with regard to storm water drains.

The original cost of the contract was £180k but it was negotiated down to £156k. Whilst this was still higher than the £150k budget, the additional £6k and £23k was funded through the utilisation of Section 106 monies allocated for affordable housing in Shepshed.

With regard to negotiating a contract under which the contractor would be liable to meet any additional unforeseen costs, the contractor would simply increase the price of the contract to cover all eventualities."

RESOLVED that it be recommended to Council to approve the current Capital Plan for 2014/15 to 2016/17, as amended by the changes detailed in Appendix 1 to the report of the Head of Finance and Property Services, filed with these minutes, to the sum of £33,896.7k.

Reasons

To enable the Capital Plan to be the basis for capital spending by the Council and so that schemes may proceed.

69. DRAFT 2015/16 GENERAL FUND AND HRA BUDGETS

Considered a report of the Head of Finance and Property Services to advise members of the projected base budget position for 2015/16, to review the savings and growth proposals put forward for the year 2015/16 and to begin a period of consultation, (item 9 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

The Head of Finance and Property Services assisted with consideration of the item.

RESOLVED that in light of the Corporate Plan, the Draft General Fund and HRA Revenue Budgets for 2015/16 be approved for consultation.

Reason

To provide the opportunity for consultation on the 2015/16 budgets as well as potential pressures and savings.

70. CHARNWOOD GROWTH SUPPORT FUND 2014/15 ROUND 2

Considered a report of the Strategic Director for Housing, Planning, Regeneration and Regulatory Services presenting an application for funding under the provisions of the Charnwood Growth Support Fund 2014/15 (item 10 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

The Team Leader: Regeneration and Economic Development assisted with consideration of the item.

RESOLVED that the bid from Thurcaston and Cropston Parish Council be refused.

Reason

The bid scores below the threshold required for a successful bid.

Notes

1. The decisions in these minutes not in the form of recommendations to Council will come into effect at noon on Monday, 5th January 2015 unless called in under Scrutiny Committee Procedure Rule 11.7.
2. No reference may be made to these minutes at Council on 12th January 2015 unless notice to that effect is given to the Democratic

Services Manager by five members of the Council by noon on Friday, 2nd January 2015.

3. These minutes are subject to confirmation as a correct record at the next meeting of Cabinet.