

**CABINET
15TH MARCH 2018**

PRESENT: The Leader (Councillor Morgan)
The Deputy Leader (Councillor Barkley)
Councillors Bokor, Harper-Davies, Mercer, Page,
Poland, Smidowicz and Vardy

Councillor Taylor – Chair of the Overview Scrutiny Group

Chief Executive
Monitoring Officer
Section 151 Officer/Strategic Director for Corporate Services
Strategic Director for Neighbourhoods and Community
Wellbeing
Head of Landlord Services
Head of Neighbourhood Services
Head of Planning and Regeneration
Head of Strategic and Private Sector Housing
Corporate Improvement and Policy Officer
Regeneration and Economic Development Officer
Democratic Services Officer (LS)

The Leader stated that this meeting would be recorded and the sound recording subsequently made available via the Council's website. He also advised that, under the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012, other people may film, record, tweet or blog from this meeting, and the use of any such images or sound recordings was not under the Council's control.

97. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY AND PERSONAL INTERESTS

The following disclosures were made:

- (i) Councillors Barkley and Vardy – personal interests in item 14 on the agenda (Capital Plan Amendment Report) (contribution towards Cemetery in Syston and Syston Community Garden) as members of Syston Town Council.
- (ii) Councillors Morgan, Poland and Taylor - personal interests in item 16 on the agenda (Leicestershire County Council's Early Help Review Consultation) as Leicestershire County Councillors.

Councillor Taylor's interest was declared later in the meeting, but is recorded here.

98. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader made the following announcement:

Review of Scrutiny and Peer Review

“The Council has recently welcomed both the Centre for Public Scrutiny, to undertake a review of the Council’s scrutiny function, and the Local Government Association Peer Challenge Team, to look at what the Council does well and what it could improve.

The Council welcomed both reviews and we look forward to making improvements based on the recommendations which are made, to build on our successes”.

99. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 15th February 2018 were confirmed as a correct record and signed.

100. QUESTIONS UNDER CABINET PROCEDURE 10.7

No questions had been submitted.

101. CHARNWOOD CROWDFUNDING SCHEME

Considered a report of the Strategic Director for Neighbourhoods and Community Wellbeing to consider the establishment of a Crowdfunding Scheme to support the local voluntary and community sector and business (item 6 on the agenda filed with these minutes.

Councillor Taylor, Chair of the Overview Scrutiny Group, presented a report detailing the Group’s pre-decision scrutiny of the matter and recommendation (copy filed with these minutes). The Group had not supported the recommendations being made to the Cabinet, stating its concern regarding return on investment and that the report did not provide sufficient information.

The Strategic Director for Neighbourhoods and Community Wellbeing assisted with consideration of the report, including providing detailed explanation of the proposal and its purpose/aims, and responding further to the concerns raised by the Overview Scrutiny Group and to questions from members of the Cabinet at this meeting.

The view was expressed that providing a Crowdfunding platform was not a function that a local authority should or needed to do. The view was also expressed that it was important not to discourage new and innovative ideas from officers.

In view of the decision set out in resolution 1. below, issues raised which require response are summarised as follows:

- (i) evidence that funds in excess of the investment were likely to be raised;
- (ii) information on likely ongoing costs after year 2, should the scheme continue;

- (iii) information on the other providers available and what they offered;
- (iv) listing of all the charges which Spacehive would apply, for example the 5% fee on pledges and any banker's fees;
- (v) clarification of the percentage of projects that achieved full funding using Spacehive;
- (vi) list of all the other local authorities which Spacehive currently worked with.

RESOLVED

1. that a decision on the matter be postponed until the next Cabinet meeting;
2. that the report of the Overview Scrutiny Group be noted.

Reasons

1. To provide officers with the opportunity to include in the report responses to the issues raised.
2. To acknowledge the work undertaken by and the views of the Overview Scrutiny Group, also acknowledged by the decision of the Cabinet set out in resolution 1. above.

102. HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY 2018-2020

Considered a report of the Head of Strategic and Private Sector Housing to consider a proposed Homelessness Strategy 2018-2020 and Action Plan setting out the approach for tackling homelessness in the Borough (item 7 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

The Head of Strategic and Private Sector Housing assisted with consideration of the report. She agreed to send to all members of the Cabinet, as soon as possible following the meeting, suitable comparison data on rough sleeping elsewhere. She also agreed to look into how mailing addresses might be made available to those with no fixed abode, as part of the pathways that would be drawn up and via partners.

Members of the Cabinet expressed the view that the Strategy was particularly clear and comprehensive.

RESOLVED

1. that the Homelessness Strategy 2018-2020 and Action Plan, attached as Appendix 1 to the report of the Head of Strategic and Private Sector Housing, be approved and implemented from 2nd April 2018;
2. that delegated authority be given to the Head of Strategic and Private Sector Housing, in consultation with the Cabinet Lead Member for Housing, to update the Homelessness Strategy Action Plan on an annual

basis subject to there being no financial or human resource implications arising from the proposals;

3. that in the event of there being financial implications outside the existing approved budgets or resource implications exceeding the existing approved establishment arising from proposed revisions to the Action Plan, a further report on the proposed Action Plan be brought to Cabinet at the appropriate time;
4. that delegated authority be given to the Head of Strategic and Private Sector Housing, in consultation with the Cabinet Lead Member for Housing, to make any minor typographical/graphical amendments to the Homelessness Strategy 2018-2020 prior to its publication.

Reasons

1. To ensure that the Council can meet its obligations in respect of the strategic housing needs of the Borough.
2. To ensure that the Action Plan remains relevant and responsive during the lifetime of the Strategy.
3. To ensure appropriate approvals are sought before finalising changes to the Action Plan that have financial or human resource implications.
4. To enable the timely publication of the Homelessness Strategy 2018-2020.

103. HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2018/19

Considered a report of the Head of Landlord Services to consider the Housing Capital Programme for 2018/19 (item 8 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

Councillor Taylor, Chair of the Overview Scrutiny Group, presented a report detailing the Group's pre-decision scrutiny of the matter and recommendation (copy filed with these minutes).

The Head of Landlord Services assisted with consideration of the report.

RESOLVED

1. that the Housing Capital Programme for 2018/19 amounting to £7,257,300 be approved;
2. that the report of the Overview Scrutiny Group be noted.

Reasons

1. To improve the Council's housing stock, bringing it up to the Charnwood Standard and to invest in improvements of communal areas of blocks of

flats, thereby delivering the priorities in the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan (HRA) approved by Cabinet in September 2014.

2. To acknowledge the work undertaken by and the views of the Overview Scrutiny Group.

104. BUSINESS PLAN 2018/19

Considered a report of the Chief Executive to consider the Council's Business Plan for 2018/19 (item 9 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

Councillor Taylor, Chair of the Overview Scrutiny Group, presented a report detailing the Group's pre-decision scrutiny of the matter and recommendation (copy filed with these minutes).

The Corporate Improvement and Policy Officer assisted with consideration of the report. She agreed to state in future reports whether targets were cumulative or not.

RESOLVED

1. that the 2018/19 Business Plan, appended to the report of the Chief Executive, be approved;
2. that delegated authority be given to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader, to make minor amendments to the Business Plan;
3. that the report of the Overview Scrutiny Group be noted.

Reasons

1. To identify the key activities and performance indicators for the Council for 2018/19 that support the objectives set out in the Corporate Plan (2016-2020).
2. To allow minor corrections and amendments to be made in a timely manner prior to publication and throughout the 2018/19 Business Plan.
3. To acknowledge the work undertaken by and the views of the Overview Scrutiny Group.

105. LEICESTER AND LEICESTERSHIRE STRATEGIC GROWTH PLAN

Considered a report of the Head of Planning and Regeneration to consider a response to the draft Leicester and Leicestershire Strategic Growth Plan (item 10 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

Councillor Taylor, Chair of the Overview Scrutiny Group, presented a report detailing the Group's pre-decision scrutiny of the matter and recommendation (copy filed with these minutes).

The Head of Planning and Regeneration assisted with consideration of the report.

RESOLVED

1. that the response to the draft Strategic Growth Plan, set out at paragraphs 5.1 to 5.3 of the report of the Head of Planning and Regeneration, be approved;
2. that a further report is brought back to Cabinet to consider the consultation responses and approval of the final version of the plan;
3. that the report of the Overview Scrutiny Group be noted.

Reasons

1. To demonstrate support for the collaborative working that has taken place across the 7 Districts/Borough Councils, Leicestershire County Council, Leicester City Council and the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership.
2. To ensure that there is an opportunity to consider the outcome of the public consultation and final version of the plan before it is agreed.
3. To acknowledge the work undertaken by and the views of the Overview Scrutiny Group.

106. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2018-2020

Considered a report of the Head of Planning and Regeneration to consider a Charnwood Economic Development Strategy 2018-2020 and its implementation through partnership working and its publication and promotion to businesses (item 11 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

The Head of Planning and Regeneration and the Regeneration and Economic Development Officer assisted with consideration of the report.

RESOLVED

1. that the draft of the Economic Development Strategy 2018-2020 be adopted;
2. that the Strategy is implemented in collaboration with the Economy and Skills Group of the Charnwood Together partnership;
3. that a copy of the Strategy is made available on the Council's new inCharnwood.com business website and at business events.

Reasons

1. To provide clear priorities for creating a strong and lasting economy for Charnwood.
2. To provide the framework within which the specific regeneration and economic development actions of the Council and key partner organisations can be developed and delivered.
3. To give confidence to potential investors and funding bodies that Charnwood Borough Council is clear in its approach to local economic development initiatives and that Charnwood is an excellent place in which to do business.

107. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

Councillor Harper-Davies left the meeting briefly during the introduction of this report.

Considered a report of the Head of Planning and Regeneration to consider a revised Local Development Scheme, so that the programme for the preparation of planning documents for Charnwood is agreed (item 12 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

The Head of Planning and Regeneration assisted with consideration of the report.

RESOLVED

1. that the revised programme for the preparation of local development documents as set out in the Local Development Scheme attached to the report of the Head of Planning and Regeneration be approved;
2. that the Local Development Scheme comes into effect and is published on 1st April 2018;
3. that authority be delegated to the Head of Planning and Regeneration, in consultation with the Cabinet Lead Member for Planning, Inward Investment and Tourism Strategy, to make any minor typographical/graphical amendments to the Local Development Scheme prior to its publication.

Reasons

1. To ensure that the Local Development Scheme provides a realistic programme for the preparation of development plan documents.
2. To meet the requirements of Section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004), as amended by the Localism Act 2011 and the

Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004 (as amended by the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) (amendment) Regulations 2008, 2009 and 2012.

3. To enable the timely publication of the revised Local Development Scheme.

The meeting was adjourned briefly following conclusion of the above item, to allow for a comfort break.

108. ANNUAL PROCUREMENT PLAN 2018/19

Considered a report of the Head of Finance and Property Services to consider the Council's Annual Procurement Plan for 2018/19 (item 13 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

The Strategic Director for Corporate Services assisted with consideration of the report.

RESOLVED

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

109. CAPITAL PLAN AMENDMENT REPORT

Considered a report of the Head of Finance and Property Services to consider changes to the 2017/18 - 2018/19 Capital Plan and its financing (item 14 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

The Strategic Director for Corporate Services assisted with consideration of the report.

RESOLVED

1. that the current Capital Plan for 2017/18 - 2018/19, as amended by the changes shown in Appendix 1 to the report of the Head of Finance and Property Services, in the sum of £19,959.5k, be approved subject

to Council approval of the items over £250k as set out in resolutions 7 and 8 below;

2. that the Syston Community Garden scheme to the sum of £22.3k be added to the Capital Plan in 2018/19 and that it proceeds;
3. that the Corporate Booking System scheme to the sum of £22.9k be added to the Capital Plan in 2017/18 and proceeds, and that the Corporate Booking System to the sum of £15k be removed from the new 2018/19-2020/21 Capital Plan;
4. that the Southfields Park scheme, which is included in the Green Spaces Scheme currently in the Capital Plan 2018/19 at £150k, be increased by the sum of £74k to a new total of £224k and that it proceeds;
5. that the Bell Foundry Pocket Park scheme currently included in the capital plan for a sum of £59k be increased by the sum of £8k to a new total of £67k;
6. that the Carillon Tower Restoration Project scheme sum of £100k currently included in the Capital Plan 2017/18 be slipped to 2018/19;
7. **that it be recommended to Council** that the slippage of £350k on the Loughborough University Science and Enterprise Park scheme currently included in the Capital Plan 2017/18 be slipped to 2018/19;
8. **that it be recommended to Council** that a £251k virement from HRA Charnwood Standard Kitchens to the following be approved; £5k to the Job Management System, £112k to Fire Safety and £134k to Charnwood Standard Bathrooms.

Reasons

1. To enable the Capital Plan to be the basis for capital spending by the Council and so that schemes may proceed.
2. To confirm that the Syston Community Garden scheme, to the sum of £22.3k, should be added to the Capital Plan and should proceed and that the cost be funded, in full, from S106 contributions.
3. To confirm that the Corporate Booking System scheme, to the sum of £22.9k, should be added to the Capital Plan in 2017/18 and should proceed. Additionally that the cost be funded in full from revenue contributions and that the scheme with the same name be removed from the new capital plan in 2018/19 to avoid duplication.
4. To confirm that the Southfields Park scheme, which is included in the Green Spaces scheme, to the sum of £224k, should proceed and that the additional cost of £74k be funded, in full, from S106 contributions.

5. To confirm that the Bell Foundry Pocket Park scheme, be increased by the sum of £8k and the additional cost to be funded, in full, from S106 contributions.
6. To confirm the slippage of budget is approved to adhere to the Financial Procedure Rules on the scheme changes to the approved Capital Plan.
7. To confirm the slippage of budget is approved to adhere to the Financial Procedure Rules on the scheme of virement.
8. To confirm that the HRA virement is approved to adhere to the Financial Procedure Rules on the scheme changes to the approved Capital Plan.

110. MESSENGER CLOSE, LOUGHBOROUGH – OPTIONS FOR FUTURE USE

Considered a report of the Head of Finance and Property Services to consider options for the future use of Council owned land at Messenger Close, Loughborough (item 15 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

The Strategic Director for Corporate Services assisted with consideration of the report.

RESOLVED

1. that the development of storage compounds, as summarised as Option B in Part B of the report of the Head of Finance and Property Services, be approved (subject to the receipt of planning permissions and other required approvals);
2. that the release of a maximum of £120,000 funding from the Reinvestment Reserve to provide funding for the development be approved;
3. that delegated authority be given to the Head of Finance and Property Services to make arrangements for the delivery of the development identified above.

Reasons

1. To allow the development of storage compounds, as summarised as Option B in Part B of the report of the Head of Finance and Property Services, to be undertaken.
2. To ensure that adequate funding is available for the completion of the development.
3. To ensure that the development can be completed in an efficient and timely manner.

111. LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S EARLY HELP REVIEW
CONSULTATION – PROPOSED RESPONSE

Considered a report of the Head of Neighbourhood Services to consider a response to Leicestershire County Council's consultation on proposed changes to its Early Help services (item 16 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

Councillor Taylor, Chair of the Overview Scrutiny Group, presented a report detailing the Group's pre-decision scrutiny of the matter and recommendation (copy filed with these minutes).

The Leader wished to once again thank the Overview Scrutiny Group for the pre-decision scrutiny work it undertook, which was much valued. He asked that Councillor Taylor pass his comment on to the Group.

The Head of Neighbourhood Services assisted with consideration of the report.

Members of the Cabinet expressed the view that the proposed response was clear and concise.

RESOLVED

1. that the options being proposed by Leicestershire County Council for reducing expenditure on their Early Help Services be noted and that the response to the consultation, attached as Appendix A to the report of the Head of Neighbourhood Services, be endorsed;
2. that the report of the Overview Scrutiny Group be noted.

Reason

1. To ensure that Members are aware of the options being consulted on and that the Council's views have been expressed in response to the consultation.
2. To acknowledge the work undertaken by and the views of the Overview Scrutiny Group.

Notes

1. The decisions in these minutes not in the form of recommendations to Council will come into effect at noon on Friday, 23rd March 2018 unless called in under Scrutiny Committee Procedure Rule 11.7.
2. No reference may be made to these minutes at the Council meeting on 30th April 2018 unless notice to that effect is given to the Democratic Services Manager by five members of the Council by noon on Friday, 23rd March 2018.

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