

**CABINET
19TH OCTOBER 2017**

PRESENT: The Leader (Councillor Slater)
The Deputy Leader (Councillor Morgan)
Councillors Bokor, Fryer, Harper-Davies, Mercer, Poland and
Vardy

Councillor Smidowicz – Chair of the Overview Scrutiny Group

Chief Executive
Monitoring Officer/Head of Strategic Support
Deputy Monitoring Officer/ Democratic Services Manager
Section 151 Officer/Strategic Director of Corporate Services
Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods and Community
Wellbeing
Head of Cleansing and Open Spaces
Head of Landlord Services
Head of Strategic and Private Sector Housing
Team Leader Regeneration and Economic Development

APOLOGIES: Councillor Barkley

36. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY AND PERSONAL INTERESTS

The following disclosures were made:

- (i) Councillor Bokor – a personal interest that could lead to bias in item 11 on the agenda (Charnwood Growth Support Fund 2017/18 Round 1) as she was a Council appointed Member and Director of the BID company.
- (ii) Councillor Morgan – a personal interest that could lead to bias in item 11 on the agenda (Charnwood Growth Support Fund 2017/18 Round 1) as he was a County Council appointed Member and Director of the BID company.
- (iii) Councillor Vardy – a personal interest that could lead to bias in item 11 on the agenda (Charnwood Growth Support Fund 2017/18 Round 1) as he was a Council appointed Member and Director of the BID company and a Council appointed member of Shepshed Town Team.

37. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

No announcements were made.

38. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 21st September 2017 were confirmed as a correct record and signed.

39. QUESTIONS UNDER CABINET PROCEDURE 10.7

No questions had been submitted.

40. CHOICE BASED LETTINGS HOUSING ALLOCATION POLICY

Considered a report of the Head of Strategic and Private Sector Housing to consider a proposed Choice Based Lettings Housing Allocation Policy following a review and full consultation process (item 6 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

Councillor Smidowicz, 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).

In considering the report the Lead Member for Strategic and Private Housing highlighted a typographical error.

The Head of Strategic and Private Sector Housing assisted with consideration of the report.

RESOLVED

1. that the Choice Based Lettings Housing Allocation Policy, attached as Appendix 1 to the report of the Head of Strategic and Private Sector Housing, be approved, effective from 1st 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 Strategic and Private Sector Housing, to make any minor typographical/graphical amendments to the Choice Based Lettings Housing Allocation Policy 2018 prior to its publication;
3. that the report of the Overview Scrutiny Group be noted.

Reasons

1. To ensure that the Council can meet its obligations in respect of the strategic housing needs of the Borough.
2. To enable the timely publication of the Choice Based Lettings Housing Allocation Policy 2018.
3. To acknowledge the work undertaken by and the views of the Overview Scrutiny Group.

41. FUTURE CEMETERY PROVISION FOR LOUGHBOROUGH

Considered a report of the Head of Cleansing and Open Spaces to consider developments with the provision of burials at Loughborough Cemetery, and a recommendation to develop a new cemetery site within the town (item 7 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

Councillor Smidowicz, 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 Cleansing and Open Spaces assisted with consideration of the report.

RESOLVED

1. that Allendale Road, Loughborough be approved as the preferred location of the site to be developed as a new cemetery, subject to final consultation to be undertaken by the Director of Neighbourhoods and Community Wellbeing, in conjunction with the Leader;
2. that the project be added to the Capital Programme proposals for 2018/19, subject to approval by full Council;
3. that the report of the Overview Scrutiny Group be noted.

Reasons

1. To reflect the outcome of the independent site assessments carried out to the five shortlisted sites and ensure the Council continues to provide a burial service to meet the needs of the residents of Loughborough.
2. To ensure that sufficient resources are made available to deliver the project.
3. To acknowledge the work undertaken by and the views of the Overview Scrutiny Group.

42. RECYCLING CREDITS – DIRECTION NOTICE

Considered a report of the Head of Cleansing and Open Spaces to consider recent developments associated with the withdrawal of Recycling Credits (dry recycling) as decided by Leicestershire County Council, and authority to mitigate any financial impacts (item 8 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

Councillor Smidowicz, 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 Cleansing and Open Spaces assisted with consideration of the report.

In considering the report it was noted that there was typographical error on page 3 (para 2). The Direction Notice letter received from Leicestershire County Council will be enforced from 12th May 2018 and not 1st April 2018 as stated in the report.

RESOLVED

1. that receipt of the Direction Notice from Leicestershire County Council dated 8th September 2017, which has the effect of withdrawing recycling credits from the Council, be formally acknowledged.
2. that the report of the Overview Scrutiny Group be noted.

Reasons

1. To ensure that Cabinet is aware of the latest developments in regards to the withdrawal of the Recycling Credits from 12th May 2018.
2. To acknowledge the work undertaken by and the views of the Overview Scrutiny Group.

43. DISCRETIONARY BUSINESS RATES RELIEF IN CHARNWOOD

Considered a report of the Strategic Director of Corporate Services to consider new schemes of discretionary business rate relief in respect of Enterprise Zone areas within Charnwood and in respect of transitional relief funding provided by the Government for which a local scheme must be developed (item 9 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

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

RESOLVED

1. that the proposed scheme of discretionary business rate relief for the Enterprise Zone areas in Charnwood, as set out at Appendix 1 to the report of the Strategic Director of Corporate Services, be approved;
2. that the proposed scheme of transitional business rate relief for certain businesses affected by the 2017 business rate revaluation, for the financial year 2017/18, as set out at Appendix 2 to the report of the Strategic Director of Corporate Services, be approved;
3. that delegated authority be given to the Strategic Director of Corporate Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Lead Member for Finance and Revenues and Benefits, to apply the scheme of transitional business rate

relief for affected businesses for future financial years based on the resources available.

4. that delegated authority be given to the Strategic Director of Corporate Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Lead Member for Finance and Revenues and Benefits, to make technical amendments to the sector and displacement tests within the discretionary business rate relief policy for the Enterprise Zone areas.

Reasons

1. To allow the Council to offer business rate relief for businesses relocating to the Enterprise Zone, thereby encouraging economic development within Charnwood in line with objectives set out within the Charnwood local plan.
2. To allow transitional business rate relief funded by the Government for 2017/18 to be distributed to identified businesses affected by the 2017 business rates revaluation exercise.
3. To allow transitional business rate relief funded by the Government for future financial years to be distributed to identified businesses affected by the 2017 business rates revaluation exercise in an efficient and timely manner.
4. To ensure that the discretionary business rate relief policy is current and responsive, and that appropriate businesses are encouraged and enabled to locate within the Enterprise Zone.

44. PROSPECTIVE PILOT SCHEME PARTICIPATION – 100% BUSINESS RATES RETENTION

Considered a report of the Strategic Director of Corporate Services to consider the Council's participation in a pilot scheme in which a substantial element of government funding would be received by retaining '100%' of business rates collected (item 10 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

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

RESOLVED

1. that the Council's application to participate in a pilot scheme allowing 100% Business Rate Retention in 2018/19 in accordance with the principles set out in Part B of the report of the Strategic Director of Corporate Services, as part of a Leicestershire-wide proposal, be approved;
2. that delegated authority be given to the Strategic Director of Corporate Services, in conjunction with the Cabinet Lead Member for Finance and Revenues and Benefits and the Chief Executive, to agree on behalf of

the Council and with other Leicester and Leicestershire local authorities, the detail contained within the Leicestershire-wide application to participate in a 100% business rate retention pilot scheme;

3. that it be noted that, as the Chair of the Scrutiny Management Board agrees that the decision to be taken is both urgent and reasonable and delay caused by the Call-in process would not be in the interests of the Council or the public, the Call-in procedure was suspended in respect of this decision in accordance with Scrutiny Committee Procedure 11.9 of the Council's Constitution.

Reasons

1. To enable the Council to be part of a prospective wider Leicestershire pilot scheme with a view to increasing the funding available to the Council and across Leicestershire.
2. To enable the Council to provide its assent to the Leicester and Leicestershire application submission on a timely basis.
3. The Chair of the Scrutiny Management Board had agreed to the exemption from Call-in because the notice given of this opportunity and the timetable for applications was very tight, such that the effect of any call-in would be to prevent Charnwood participating in the scheme and, given that the application will be on a combined Leicestershire basis, could remove the opportunity for all Leicestershire Authorities to participate.

45. CHARNWOOD GROWTH SUPPORT FUND 2017/18 ROUND 1

Having disclosed personal interests leading to bias Councillors Bokor, Morgan and Vardy left the room.

Considered a report of the Strategic Director Housing, Planning and Regeneration, and Regulatory Services to consider applications received in response to round 1 for funding under the provisions of the Charnwood Growth Support Fund 2017/18 (item 11 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

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

RESOLVED

1. that the following applications for support through the Growth Support Fund be approved:
 - (i) £11,800 to Co-operative and Social Enterprise Development Agency (CASE) to support the delivery of a Business Advice and Support Programme;

- (ii) £350 to Shepshed Town Team to assist in the procurement of a web site;
 - (iii) £5,000 to Loughborough Students Union to support the “Switch On, Stand Out” social media training for business project;
2. that the application from Barrow upon Soar Community Association for funding to undertake the preparation of a strategic and economic case for a community centre be declined.

Reasons

1. To provide financial support to projects which meet the criteria of the Growth Support Grant scheme in support of economic development and regeneration, subject to the need for grant funding from the Council to enable the project to succeed.
2. To decline approval for the provision of financial support where, projects fail to satisfy the criteria for economic development and regeneration or provide no evidence of the need for grant funding from the Council to enable them to proceed.

46. FIRE SAFETY MATTERS

Councillors Bokor, Morgan and Vardy returned to the meeting room.

Considered a report of the Chief Executive to consider the position in respect of a number of fire safety matters as set out and agreed by full Council at its meeting on 26th June 2017 (Council Minute 22 - 2017/18) (item 12 on the agenda filed with these minutes.

The Chief Executive, the Head of Landlord Services and the Head of Strategic and Private Sector Housing assisted with consideration of the report.

RESOLVED

1. that the actions being taken be endorsed;
2. that the report of the Chief Executive be communicated to all Members of the Council;
3. that all appropriate communication methods to Charnwood residents be used to share the information contained in the report.

Reasons

1. To ensure that the position in respect of the fire safety matters outlined has been considered and further action is taken where required.
2. To ensure that all Members of the Council are fully acquainted with the fire safety matters and actions set out in the report.

3. To raise awareness and provide re-assurance to Charnwood residents that the Council has reviewed fire safety and emergency planning measures in light of the Grenfell Tower incident.

47. EXEMPT INFORMATION

This item was withdrawn.

48. AWARD OF HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME (DECENT HOMES) CONTRACT

This item was withdrawn to allow further discussions to take place.

Notes

1. The decisions in these minutes not in the form of recommendations to Council will come into effect at noon on Friday, 27th October 2017 unless called in under Scrutiny Committee Procedure Rule 11.7. With the exception of minute No.44 (Prospective Pilot Scheme Participation – 100% Business Rates Retention) as the Chair of the Scrutiny Management Board has agreed to the exemption from Call-in.
2. No reference may be made to these minutes at the Council meeting on 6th November 2017 unless notice to that effect is given to the Democratic Services Manager by five members of the Council by noon on Friday, 27th October 2017.
3. These minutes are subject to confirmation as a correct record at the next meeting of the Cabinet.