

**CABINET**  
**16TH NOVEMBER 2017**

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  
Councillor Miah – Chair of the Scrutiny Management Board

Chief Executive  
Monitoring Officer  
Section 151 Officer  
Strategic Director of Housing, Planning and Regeneration, and  
Regulatory Services  
Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods and Community  
Wellbeing  
Head of Cleansing and Open Spaces  
Head of Finance and Property Services  
Head of Leisure and Culture  
Head of Neighbourhood Services  
Head of Planning and Regeneration  
Head of Strategic and Private Sector Housing  
Team Leader Regeneration and Economic Development  
Democratic Services Officer (LS)

Also in attendance were Councillor Hayes in respect of item 5 (i) on the agenda  
and Councillor Bradshaw in respect of item 6 on the agenda.

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.

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

The following disclosures were made:

- (i) Councillor Smidowicz – a personal interest leading to bias in items 5 (Questions under Cabinet Procedure 10.7) and 5A (Call-in of Cabinet Decision – Future Cemetery Provision for Loughborough) on the agenda. Councillor Smidowicz stated that she had been a signatory to the Call-in and would leave the meeting during the consideration of the items.
- (ii) Councillor Harper-Davies – a personal interest leading to bias in item 8 (Charnwood Grants – Round 3 2017/18) on the agenda. Councillor Harper-Davies stated that she was a member of Mountsorrel Parish

- Council and Mountsorrel War Memorials Trust and Working Party and would leave the meeting during the consideration of the item.
- (iii) Councillor Poland – personal interests in items 7 (Carillon Tower War Memorial Restoration) and 10 (Leicester and Leicestershire Superfast Broadband) on the agenda. In respect of item 7, Councillor Poland stated that he was a member of the Loughborough Carillon Tower and War Memorial Museum Trust Committee. In respect of item 10, Councillor Poland referred to his position as a Leicestershire County Council. Following advice from the Monitoring Officer at this meeting, Councillor Poland decided that his interests did not lead to bias and it was not necessary for him to leave the meeting during the consideration of the items.
- (iv) Councillor Morgan – a personal interest leading to bias in item 8 (Charnwood Grants – Round 3 2017/18) on the agenda. Councillor Morgan referred to a family relationship in relation to a grant application detailed in the report and he would leave the meeting during the consideration of the item.

## 50. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

No announcements were made.

## 51. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 19th October 2017 were confirmed as a correct record and signed.

*Having declared an interest leading to bias, Councillor Smidowicz left the meeting during consideration of the matters set out under Minute 52 and 53 below.*

## 52. QUESTIONS UNDER CABINET PROCEDURE 10.7

### A. Councillor Hayes – Burial Costs/Loughborough Special Rate

Why is the Council subsidising the costs of burials for people who live outside Loughborough/Charnwood and what impact does this have on the Loughborough Special Rate Precept?

The Leader referred to the following response, which had been published prior to the meeting:

*The Council is not subsidising the cost of burials for non-residents. Charges for non-residents of Loughborough are double that of residents for interments and exclusive rights of burial. This is a long standing policy of the Council, reflecting the differing Council Tax charge demands borne by the respective Council Tax payers within the Charnwood Borough Council area. The Council is currently reviewing the multiplier used for calculating the non-resident surcharge with regards to cemetery charges.*

*The net cost of the cemetery is approx. £7.5k for 2017/18.*

In making a statement, Councillor Hayes referred to issues related to the recent Call-in of the Cabinet decision on Future Cemetery Provision for Loughborough.

In response, the Leader stated that Councillor Hayes' statement should be relevant to and arise directly from the question. The Leader then asked Councillor Bokor to respond. Councillor Bokor stated that the question related to burial costs at Loughborough Cemetery, to which a clear response had been provided.

B. Mr R. Ford – Open Space, Grange Park, Loughborough

Why has the Council overridden the planning application and development of Grange Park, to change this designated open space (Recreational Pitch) to a cemetery thereby significantly changing the area and lack of use for local people?

The following response had been published prior to the meeting:

*The planning permission for the Grange Park development requires this area of land to be laid out in accordance with the 'Approved Recreation Scheme' (this document sets out the design and layout of recreational space and facilities for the site). The land must then be transferred to the Borough Council so that it can be retained for public use. There is no requirement for it to be retained in accordance with the Scheme forever.*

*The Cabinet is asked to consider if the site should provide a future cemetery extension. Notwithstanding the answer to this question, an application for planning permission to change the use of the land will need to be made to the Local Planning Authority. Should an application be made the planning process will enable residents to express their views about the proposal before members consider whether to grant planning permission or not.*

53. CALL-IN OF CABINET DECISION – FUTURE CEMETERY PROVISION IN LOUGHBOROUGH

Considered a report of the Scrutiny Management Board in respect of the Call-in under Scrutiny Committee Procedure 11.7 of the decision taken by the Cabinet on 19th October 2017 on Future Cemetery Provision for Loughborough (item 5A on the agenda filed with these minutes).

Councillor Miah, Chair of the Scrutiny Management Board, presented the report which detailed the Board's consideration of the matter and recommendation.

## **RESOLVED**

1. that further work is undertaken to appraise the sites for a cemetery in Loughborough;
2. that public consultation is undertaken on the viable options;
3. that a further report be submitted to the Cabinet following consultation on the viable options setting out the preferred option;
4. that the report of the Scrutiny Management Board be acknowledged.

### **Reasons**

- 1.-3. To allow for suitable long term cemetery provision for Loughborough to be established.
4. To acknowledge the work undertaken by and the views and recommendations of the Scrutiny Management Board.

*Councillor Smidowicz returned to the meeting following the conclusion on the above item.*

## **54. BUY BACK OF FORMER COUNCIL PROPERTIES**

Considered a report of the Head of Strategic and Private Sector Housing to consider the Council's position in respect of buying back former Council properties and returning them to the Council's housing stock (referral from Council, see Council Minute 38 – 4th September 2017) (item 6 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

Having submitted the Motion on Notice on the matter to Council, Councillor Bradshaw addressed the Cabinet in accordance with Full Council Procedure Rule 9.12(f), setting out the further actions she considered the Council should take in respect of the matter.

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 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 Overview Scrutiny Group be noted.

### Reasons

1. To ensure that the position in respect of the buying back of former Council properties outlined has been considered and the process of acquisition has been clarified.
2. To acknowledge the work undertaken by and the views of the Overview Scrutiny Group.

### **55. CARILLON TOWER WAR MEMORIAL RESTORATION**

Considered a report of the Head of Leisure and Culture to consider commencement of a Carillon Tower restoration project in advance of potential grant funding from the War Memorial Trust or other grant funding (item 7 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 Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods and Community Wellbeing and the Head of Leisure and Culture assisted with consideration of the report. Further to the report, it was confirmed that Full Council had approved funding for the scheme at its meeting on 6th November 2017.

### **RESOLVED**

1. that the scheme for the restoration of the Carillon Tower, as set out in Part B of the report of the Head of Leisure and Culture, be approved;
2. that the report of the Overview Scrutiny Group be noted.

### Reasons

1. To enable a programme of restoration works to be progressed.
2. To acknowledge the work undertaken by and the views of the Overview Scrutiny Group.

*Having declared interests leading to bias, Councillors Harper-Davies and Morgan left the meeting during consideration of the matter set out under Minute 56 below.*

### **56. CHARNWOOD GRANTS – ROUND THREE – 2017/18 COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENGAGEMENT GRANT APPLICATIONS**

*This item was chaired by Councillor Barkley.*

Considered a report of the Head of Neighbourhood Services to consider applications received for funding in round three of the Community Facilities and Community Development and Engagement Grants schemes for 2017/18 (item 8 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

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

**RESOLVED**

1. that the following Community Facilities Grants be awarded:
  - £3,500 to Anstey Parish Council – Jubilee Hall, as a contribution towards improving heating facilities;
  - £20,000 to Grange Park Community Centre as a contribution towards the cost of a new Community Centre building;
  - £7,000 to Mountsorrel War Memorials Trust as a contribution towards environmental improvements;
2. that the following Community Development and Engagement Grants be awarded:
  - £2,750 to Sorrel Youth Café towards the cost of the Charnwood Parish Crossover Youth Strategy project;
  - £3,000 to Shepshed Dolphin Swimming Group towards running costs for weekly disabled swimming sessions;
  - £770 to Shuttlewood Clarke Foundation towards the cost of 'Have a go' Workshops;
  - £7,500 to Writing East Midlands towards the cost of writing and storytelling workshops at the Old Rectory;
  - £3,895 to The Quetzal Project towards the Supporting Survivors Project;
  - £6,000 to Loughborough Wellbeing Centre towards the cost of the expansion of the Wellbeing Café;
  - £10,000 to The Loughborough Leggo Group towards the running costs of a Friday night Youth Club, (£5,000 of this to be funded through the Loughborough Community Grant scheme);
3. that the following Community Development and Engagement Grant application be declined:
  - CLASP – The Carers Centre - £730 requested – applied for funding towards the cost of running two 3-hour training sessions for carers;
4. that the amount of £7,500 allocated equally at £3,750 from both the Community Development and Engagement Grant and Loughborough Community Grant be allocated back to the budgets:

- Worth-it Project - £7,500 awarded – applied for match funding for Resilient Parent Programme;
5. that the Head of Neighbourhood Services be given delegated authority to finalise the terms and conditions of the awarded Community Facilities and Community Development and Engagement Grants;
  6. that approval is given to run a Round 4 in 2017/18 with a focus primarily on Environmental projects.

### Reasons

1. To provide financial support to organisations which meet the criteria of the Community Facilities Grants scheme in terms of community and organisational need.
2. To provide financial support to organisations which meet the criteria of the Community Development and Engagement Grants scheme in terms of community and organisational need and to use funding provided through Loughborough Special Expenses to support schemes in Loughborough.
3. To decline to provide financial support to organisations which do not meet the criteria for the award of a grant under the Community Development and Engagement Grants scheme.
4. To decline to provide financial support to organisations which do not meet the requirements approved by the Grants Panel in order to proceed with the project.
5. To enable the grants awarded to be finalised and appropriate information to be supplied to the Council about the outcomes of the projects.
6. To enable the monies received for grants for projects that deliver environmental outcomes to be spent.

*Councillors Harper-Davies and Morgan returned to the meeting following the conclusion on the above item.*

### 57. LEICESTER-SHIRE AND RUTLAND SPORT (LRS) PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND SPORT STRATEGY 2017-2021

Considered a report of the Head of Neighbourhood Services to consider the Leicester-Shire and Rutland Sport (LRS) Physical Activity and Sport Strategy 2017-2021 for adoption and entering into a partnership agreement with Leicester-Shire and Rutland Sport to develop and deliver Charnwood's Sport and Physical Activity Locality Commissioning Plan for Sport and Physical Activity in partnership with key organisations across the borough from 1st April 2018 - 31st March 2019 (item 9 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

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

## **RESOLVED**

1. that the Leicester-Shire and Rutland Sport (LRS) Physical Activity and Sport Strategy 2017- 2021 be adopted by the Council as a key delivery partner;
2. that approval be given to enter into a partnership agreement with LRS to develop and deliver Charnwood's Annual Sport and Physical Activity Locality Commissioning Plan for 2018/19 which will focus on local priorities and will be directly aligned to the overarching aims of LRS Physical Activity and Sports Strategy.

### Reasons

1. To provide LRS with the Council's support for the principles set out in the Strategy.
2. To continue the Council's partnership with LRS to influence decision making and maximise future opportunities.

## **58. LEICESTER AND LEICESTERSHIRE SUPERFAST BROADBAND**

*Councillor Bokor left the meeting for a short period as this item was being introduced.*

Considered a report of the Strategic Director of Housing, Planning and Regeneration and Regulatory Services to consider approving in principle the investment of £100,000, supplementing an overall investment of at least £5.6m, in the procurement of Phase 3 of the Leicester and Leicestershire Superfast Broadband programme (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 Team Leader Regeneration and Economic Development assisted with consideration of the report.

## **RESOLVED**

1. that the Cabinet's commitment to Charnwood being a partner in the procurement and delivery of Phase 3 of the Leicester and Leicestershire Superfast Broadband programme be confirmed;
2. that delegated authority be given to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader, to conclude and sign a collaboration agreement with the

partner authorities committing the release of approved funding, subject to the required value for money outcomes for Charnwood being achieved;

3. that a sum of £100,000 be committed in principle to the project funded from the Growth Support Fund and that this be included in the Capital Plan for 2018/9 and/or 2019/20, depending on the implementation timetable for the project;
4. that the report of the Overview Scrutiny Group be noted.

#### Reasons

1. To enable the delivery of superfast broadband to a greater proportion of the 4% of homes and businesses in the Borough currently without access to the service than could be delivered on the back of current funding commitments.
2. To permit the completion of the necessary contractual commitments and authorise the release of funding approved in principle subject to the required outcomes for Charnwood being achieved.
3. To confirm the scale of investment that the Council is prepared to commit to the project.
4. To acknowledge the work undertaken by and the views of the Overview Scrutiny Group.

#### 59. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2018-2021

Considered a report of the Strategic Director of Corporate Services to consider a Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS), for recommendation to Council (item 11 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

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

Members of Cabinet wished to acknowledge that the Council's strong financial position was the result of the able work of officers and the support provided by the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Lead Member for Finance and Property Services.

**RESOLVED that it be recommended to Council** that the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2018-2021, as attached as an appendix to the report of the Strategic Director of Corporate Services, be approved.

#### Reason

To identify the financial issues affecting the Council and the Borough in the medium term in order to provide a base for priorities to be set and to inform the Council's budget setting process.

60. TREASURY MANAGEMENT UPDATE – MID-YEAR REVIEW FOR 6 MONTHS  
ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 2017

Considered a report of the Head of Finance and Property Services to consider the mid-year review of the Treasury Management Strategy and the Annual Investment Strategy, plus the various Prudential Borrowing and Treasury Indicators (item 12 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

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

**RESOLVED**

1. **that it be recommended to Council** that the maximum limit of investments with a maturity of greater than one year be increased from £9m to £11m;
2. **that it be otherwise recommended to Council** to note the mid-year review of the Treasury Management Strategy Statement, Prudential Borrowing and Treasury Indicators plus the Annual Investment Strategy, as set out in Part B of the report of the Head of Finance and Property Services.

Reasons

1. To increase the investment opportunities available to the Council with a view to achieving higher rates of investment return.
2. To ensure that the Council's governance and management procedures for Treasury Management reflect best practice and comply with the Revised CIPFA Treasury Management in the Public Services Code of Practice, Guidance Notes and Treasury Management Policy Statement, that funding of capital expenditure is taken within the totality of the Council's financial position and that borrowing and investment is only carried out with proper regard to the Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities.

61. DISPOSAL OF LAND TO TAYLOR'S BELL FOUNDRY, LOUGHBOROUGH

Considered a report of the Strategic Director of Housing, Planning and Regeneration, and Regulatory Services to consider a request from Taylor's Bell Foundry, Loughborough to acquire land owned by the Council (item 13 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

The Strategic Director of Housing, Planning and Regeneration, and Regulatory Services assisted with consideration of the report.

## **RESOLVED**

1. that the disposal of land, as identified in Appendix A to the report of the Strategic Director of Housing, Planning and Regeneration, and Regulatory Services, be approved, subject to the Bell Foundry having sufficient funding in place to progress their development project;
2. that, subject to the Loughborough Bellfoundry Trust paying any legal costs associated with the transfer of land, the land be disposed of at nil cost, as the Council's capital contribution to the scheme, to support the viability of the scheme and to work in partnership with the Bell Foundry;
3. that the Housing Revenue Account be compensated with the capital value of the land as estimated by the District Valuer, in the sum of £2,200, from the capital plan reserve, to ensure that there is no burden on tenants in relation to the contribution;
4. that the community engagement being undertaken by the Bell Foundry, in partnership with the Council, in the Bell Foundry Estate be noted;
5. that delegated authority be given to the Strategic Director of Housing, Planning and Regeneration, and Regulatory Services to progress the transfer of the land, subject to resolution 1. above.

### Reasons

1. To assist in the development of the project and ensure that the disposal is only completed if the scheme is certain to go ahead.
2. To assist in the delivery of the scheme, which will improve the environment for local residents and support this important business and visitor attraction, in one of the priority neighbourhoods.
3. The land is currently an asset within the Housing Revenue Account, and as the scheme is for the benefit of the wider local economy and is being disposed of at less than market value, there should be no detriment to tenants.
4. There has been resident engagement in the local area to ensure that residents are not adversely affected by the proposals.
5. To ensure that any disposal is completed only if the scheme is viable and certain to be delivered, given the outcome of the application for lottery funding is not yet known.

## Notes

1. The decisions in these minutes not in the form of recommendations to Council will come into effect at noon on Friday, 24th November 2017 unless called in under Scrutiny Committee Procedure Rule 11.7.
2. No reference may be made to these minutes at the Council meeting on 22nd January 2018 unless notice to that effect is given to the Democratic Services Manager by five members of the Council by noon on Friday, 24th November 2017.
3. The Cabinet's membership changed between the date of publication of the agenda for this meeting and the meeting (see Full Council Minutes 6th November 2017).
4. The Leader stated at this meeting that it would be useful, now that meetings were being sound recorded, for those speaking to introduce themselves by name and also, in the case of officers, by job title.
5. These minutes are subject to confirmation as a correct record at the next meeting of the Cabinet.