

FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

17th March 2011

PRESENT:-

Conservative Group

Councillor Harrison (Chairman), Councillor Murray (Vice-Chairman) and Councillors Bladen, Grant, Lemmon, Stanton and Wheeler.

Labour Group

Councillors Richards, Southerd, Taylor and Wilkins.

In Attendance

Councillor Atkin (Conservative Group), and Councillors Bambrick, Mrs. Gillespie, Mrs. Lane, Lane, Mrs. Mead, Rhind and Shepherd (Labour Group).

APOLOGY

An apology for absence from the Meeting was received from Councillor Mrs. Coyle (Conservative Group).

JAPAN DISASTER

The Committee observed a minute's silence in memory of those that had lost their lives in Japan, following the earthquake and tsunami. Correspondence had been sent to Toyota City, expressing condolences.

FM/88. **MINUTES**

The Open Minutes of the Special Committees held on 13th and 24th January 2011 and of the Committee held on 15th February 2011 were taken as read, approved as true records and signed by the Chairman.

FM/89. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors Murray, Richards and Wheeler declared a personal interest in respect of the Exempt report on the proposed sale of the Bretby Crematorium by East Staffordshire Borough Council.

MATTERS DELEGATED TO COMMITTEE

FM/90. **AUDIT SUB-COMMITTEE**

RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the Audit Sub-Committee Meeting held on 23rd February 2011 are received and any recommendations contained therein are approved and adopted.

FM/91. **MORTGAGE INTEREST RATE**

It was reported that the Council was required to declare the local average rate of interest on its mortgages at six monthly intervals. Borrowers were charged the higher of the standard national rate, declared by the Secretary of State or the Council's local average rate. The higher rate was the local rate, currently 5.13% and this would be charged to borrowers.

RESOLVED:-

That the Local Average Rate of Interest for the period April to September 2011 is declared at 5.13%.

FM/92. **PROCUREMENT STRATEGY 2011 TO 2013**

It was reported that the IT and Business Improvement Service Plan contained an action to develop and publish an updated Procurement Strategy for the Council. The previous Strategy was approved in 2009. It defined the Council's position and set out the strategic procurement direction for the Council. The updated Strategy was submitted for the Committee's consideration.

RESOLVED:-

That the updated Procurement Strategy for 2011-2013 and the associated Action Plan are approved.

FM/93. **PROPOSED PARTNERSHIP POLICY**

The Committee's approval was sought to a proposed Partnership Policy. Members were reminded of the Council's track record of working in partnership with others and the current drivers that were increasing the use of partnerships. Arising from the Council's 2010/11 Audit Plan, a risk assessment identified the need to review governance arrangements for partnership working. A review had been undertaken by Derby City Council's Internal Audit Service, aimed at highlighting control weaknesses and risks. The audit identified a number of good practices that were in operation and areas of control that could be enhanced, in particular strengthening a corporate approach to control and review. Improvements had been identified and were contained within a proposed Partnership Policy, which was appended to the report. In receiving the report, a Member questioned if this met the need for a partnership protocol, considered at the recent Council Meeting.

RESOLVED:-

That the Committee adopts the proposed Partnership Policy as submitted.

FM/94. CORPORATE PLAN REFRESH AND UPDATED ACTION PLAN 2011 - 14

It was reported that the Council approved a five-year Corporate Plan, which included a list of priority actions. Quarterly performance reports were taken to each policy committee, in order to monitor progress against the stated objectives. It was important these plans were reviewed and updated to reflect the progress made to date and any revisions to the targets agreed.

The detail of the report provided background on the Corporate Plan before looking at the process to refresh it. Revisions to the Corporate Plan were also set out within the report and the focus of the themes for the forthcoming year was the same as previous years. Details were given of the outcomes for each of these themes under the headings of sustainable growth and opportunity, safe and secure, lifestyle choices and value for money. The report also included sections on the Action Plan 2010 – 14, corporate campaigns and risk management.

RESOLVED:-

That the refreshed Corporate Plan Action Plan for the period 2011 – 2014 be recommended to Council for approval.

FM/95. LOWER DERWENT FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The Committee's instructions were sought to respond to the Environment Agency (EA) on proposals in the lower Derwent Flood Risk Management Strategy. The EA was consulting on a strategy to reduce future flood risk on the lower reaches of the River Derwent over the next 100 years. The report set out the options that EA had considered for this strategy and those that had been discounted on technical or cost grounds.

A key component of the preferred option was the creation of a "blue corridor" through Derby City. This would create a wider flood plain, benefiting many properties in the City of Derby. The impact for South Derbyshire communities downstream was reported. In order to deal with future flood risk, the EA's preferred option was to maintain existing defences and to mitigate any adverse flood risk impact of the upstream works. The report recommended that an assurance be sought from the EA that the villages of the lower Derwent would not be affected by increased levels of flood risk as a result of the alleviation works in Derby City. The report also set out the stages following this consultation, including the identification of funding sources and the further planned consultation during the next stage of project development. Detail was also provided on the EA's lower Dove Flood Risk Management Scheme.

Members asked if the Derby City scheme did not proceed, whether the funding could be redirected to improve flood defences downstream in South Derbyshire. However, this appeared very unlikely.

RESOLVED:-

- (1) That Members note the proposals set out in the Lower Derwent Flood Risk Management Strategy including the Environment Agency's preferred option to maintain existing flood defences in South Derbyshire on the Lower Derwent.***
- (2) That the Environment Agency is requested to consult this Council on any significant changes to the proposed programme of works which could significantly alter flood risk in South Derbyshire or any proposed mitigation measures which will affect local communities in the Lower Derwent catchment.***
- (3) That the Environment Agency provides an assurance that local villages will not be affected by increased flood risk as a result of flood alleviation works in Derby City.***

FM/96. LEICESTERSHIRE AND LEICESTER WASTE DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK PRE-SUBMISSION SITE ALLOCATIONS DOCUMENT

It was reported that Leicestershire County Council and Leicester City Council were consulting on a pre-submission site allocations policy document. This included specific proposals for policies for the provision of land for waste management development within Leicestershire. The document considered the future management of two sites that could have an impact on communities in South Derbyshire, being the Albion Landfill, near Woodville and Hemmington Quarry near to Shardlow. In respect of Albion, the document included a draft policy to re-allocate the site for landfill beyond the presently consented date of 2014. In contrast, the draft document did not re-allocate Hemmington Quarry as a minerals recycling site. The detail of the report expanded on the proposals affecting these two sites and included a proposed response to the consultation document. A Member endorsed the proposed response to the consultation on the Albion Landfill site.

RESOLVED:-

- (1) That the Committee notes the proposals set out in the Leicestershire and Leicester Waste Development Framework Pre-Submission Site Allocations Policies document;***
- (2) That the Committee raises an objection to Policy WSA10 concerning the Albion Landfill site, as currently drafted and requests that a more prescriptive policy, as specified in paragraph 4.9 of the report is included in its place.***
- (3) That the Committee supports the joint Waste Planning Authorities' proposal not to allocate the Hemington Quarry site for future minerals recycling.***

FM/97. REFERENDUM AND DISTRICT AND PARISH ELECTIONS – 5TH MAY 2011 – DESIGNATED POLLING PLACES

It was reported that for each election, the Council designated a list of premises to be used as polling stations. In preparation for the Referendum and District and Parish Elections, a review had been undertaken. In line with previous elections, the Committee was asked to grant District Council staff involved, leave with pay.

Confirmation was provided that the 1st Gresley Scout Group premises in Park Road at Church Gresley would now be available. A Member raised concerns about the proposals for polling stations in the Midway and Newhall areas, and was asked to contact the Elections Officer after the Meeting. There was concern about the condition of the access to the polling station at Swarkestone. It was also noted that for future elections, a replacement polling station might be required at Castle Gresley.

RESOLVED:-

- (1) That the Committee approves the list of designated polling places for the forthcoming Referendum and District & Parish Elections.***
- (2) That District Council staff involved in the elections be granted leave with pay at the discretion of the Chief Executive.***

FM/98. REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT 2000 – AUTHORISATION OF OFFICERS

The Committee was asked to review the list of authorised Officers/designated persons in the Council's Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 Policy and Guidance document. This was as a result of the Senior Management restructuring. Details were provided of the proposed authorising Officers/designated persons for each department.

RESOLVED:-

- (1) That the revised list of Authorised Officers/Designated Persons in the Council's Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 Policy and Guidance document, as outlined in the report, be approved.***
- (2) That the current post of Senior Legal Officer (Litigation and Common Law) within the Corporate Services Division be identified as the RIPA Co-ordinating Officer.***

FM/99. WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee was asked to review its Work Programme.

RESOLVED:-

That the Committee notes the updated Work Programme.

FM/100. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 (AS AMENDED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT [ACCESS TO INFORMATION] ACT 1985**

RESOLVED:-

That, in accordance with Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the Meeting as it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that there would be disclosed exempt information as defined in the paragraphs of Part 1 of the Schedule 12A of the Act indicated in brackets after each item.

MINUTES

The Exempt Minutes of the Special Committees held on 13th and 24th January and of the Committee held on 15th February 2011 were received.

LAND AT REPTON (Paragraph 3)

The Committee approved the sale of an area of surplus land.

PROPOSED WRITE-OFF – COUNCIL TAX, SUNDRY DEBTORS AND BUSINESS RATES (Paragraph 1)

The Committee authorised the write-off of amounts due to the Council under the provisions of Financial Regulation D2.4(b) and deferred the write-off of two amounts, to enable further research by Officers.

THE PROPOSED SALE OF BRETBY CREMATORIUM (Paragraph 3)

The Committee's views were sought on a proposal to sell the Bretby Crematorium.

PROPOSED CENTRAL MIDLANDS AUDIT PARTNERSHIP (Paragraph 3)

The Committee approved proposals submitted for the creation of a Central Midlands Audit Partnership.

J. HARRISON

CHAIRMAN