

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Date: 7 April 2014

Venue: East Northamptonshire House, Cedar Drive, Thrapston

Time: 7.30 pm

Present: Councillors:-

Richard Lewis	(Chairman)
Glenvil Greenwood-Smith	(Vice-Chairman)
Glenn Harwood MBE	(Deputy Leader of the Council)

Peter Baden	Marika Hillson
David Brackenbury	Dudley Hughes JP
Wendy Brackenbury	Andy Mercer
John Farrar	Rupert Reichhold
Roger Glithero JP	Jeremy Taylor

457. PUBLIC SPEAKER

The Chairman announced that Councillor Sarah Peacock (Rushden Town Council) had registered to speak on the item concerning Dog Control Orders - Hall Park, Rushden

With the consent of the Committee, the Chairman varied the order of the Agenda so that Councillor Peacock would address the Committee immediately before the item was considered.

458. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on 10 March 2014 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

459. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Steven North and from David Oliver, Chief Executive.

460. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following interests were declared in the Agenda items specified below:

Councillor	Agenda item	Nature of Interest	DPI	Other Interest
Richard Lewis Andy Mercer	Dog Control Orders – Hall Park, Rushden	Member of Rushden Town Council		Yes

John Farrar

Future Provision of
the Pest Control
Service

Yes

461. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10.3

There were no questions received.

462. MINUTES OF SUB-COMMITTEES AND WORKING PARTIES

(a) Personnel Sub Committee – 17 March 2014

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 March 2014 were received (see pages 494 to 496).

(b) Finance Sub Committee – 26 March 2014

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 March 2016 were received (see pages 497 to 499)

The Chairman, having declared an interest in the following item, vacated the Chair and left the meeting whilst the item was considered. The Vice-Chairman assumed the Chair.

463. DOG CONTROL ORDERS – HALL PARK, RUSHDEN

Councillor Andy Mercer gave a statement to the Committee supporting the introduction of the proposed dog control orders and then, having declared an interest, left the meeting whilst the item was considered.

Councillor Sarah Peacock (Rushden Town Council) spoke in support of the proposed dog control orders.

The Head of Environmental Services presented a report which sought approval for the introduction of a range of dog control measures to address the problem of dog fouling and other dog incidents at Hall Park Rushden. A summary of the issues which had led to the order being proposed, the terms of the order and the procedure for adopting it were considered.

There was particular concern at incidents arising from dogs not being kept under control by their owners and this was also acting as a deterrent to other people using the park. The Committee noted that there was support on the ENC petitions website for the Council to reconsider imposing a dog exclusion order on the site, although this was not the order under consideration at this meeting which was for a dogs on lead order.

Members stressed the need for rigorous enforcement of any order approved for Hall Park. The Head of Environmental Services confirmed that the Dog Warden service was shared with Rushden Town Council and this would facilitate enforcement work being carried out.

RESOLVED: That

1. Having carefully considered the Equalities Impact Assessment, it be endorsed
2. The areas listed in Appendix 1 to the report be included in the proposed Dog Control Orders
3. The Head of Environmental Services, Waste Manager, Environmental Services Officer (Dogs) and Councillor Glenn Harwood review any representations received prior to the final notice being published, and that the Head of Environmental Services be authorised, in consultation with the Council's legal advisors, to agree the final Dog Control Orders, subject to there being no significant new information provided that may require additional consideration.

(Reason: to provide a solution to the dog related issues in Hall Park, Rushden that recognises the needs of both dog walkers and other park users)

The Chairman resumed the Chair.

464. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED:

That the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business because exempt information, as defined under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, may be disclosed.

465. FUTURE PROVISION OF THE PEST CONTROL SERVICE

Councillor John Farrar, having declared an interest,, left the meeting for consideration of the item.

The Committee considered a report which detailed options for the future delivery of the pest control services currently provided by the Council, including a summary of the options for service provision and the financial implications of each option.

The Committee expressed concern that under option 3 set out in the report, rat infestations might be left untreated if residents were unable to afford the cost of treatment. The Council should, in any event, ensure that the service was accessible to those who were unable to afford such treatments and, where it was deemed appropriate to do so, provision should be made to waive the fees involved.

It was noted that savings would be made by adopting option 2 in the report, although the savings would be significantly less than would be achieved by adopting option 3. The financial implications of the option adopted would be incorporated into the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy.

R.21 RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: That

- i) Having carefully considered the Equalities Impact Assessment, it be endorsed

- ii) Having considered the options and risk analysis of the potential changes to service delivery approve Option 2 in the report for the ongoing provision of Pest Control Services.
- iii) The Head of Environmental Services be authorised to waive fees for treatments carried out after the first free treatments where special circumstances are deemed to apply and to produce criteria for defining such special circumstances.
- iv) The Pest Control Service be reviewed again in 12 months' time

(Reason: to maintain the provision of a key public service to those households who are vulnerable and would otherwise have difficulty paying for it)

Chairman



East
Northamptonshire
Council

Personnel Sub-Committee

Minutes of a meeting held on 17 March 2014 at East Northamptonshire House, Thrapston

Present: Councillors Roger Glithero JP (Chairman)
 Jeremy Taylor (Vice-Chairman)
 Wendy Brackenbury
 Glenn Harwood MBE
 Steven North

David Oliver Chief Executive
 Aime Armstrong Human Resources Manager
 Paul Smith Senior Democratic Services Officer

1.0 MINUTES

1.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 27 January 2014 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

2.0 APOLOGIES

2.1 No apologies for absence were received.

3.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3.1 The following interests were declared:

Officer	Item	Nature of Interest	DPI	Other Interest
David Oliver, Aime Armstrong and Paul Smith	Cost of Living Pay Rise	Members of Staff affected	Yes	
After presenting the report, the Chief Executive left the meeting for consideration of this item. The HR Manager and Senior Democratic Services Officer remained in the meeting to support the Sub-Committee in making and recording its decision.				
Councillor	Item	Nature of Interest	DPI	Other Interest
Wendy Brackenbury, Roger Glithero, Glenn Harwood, Steven North and Jeremy Taylor	Cost of Living Pay Rise	Councillors affected through provision in the Members' Allowances Scheme linking an increase in allowances to staff pay awards		Yes

4.0 QUESTIONS UNDER PROCEDURE RULE 10.3

4.1 There were no questions submitted under Procedure Rule 10.3

5.0 VACANT POSTS UPDATE

5.1 The Sub-Committee received a report on:-

- (a) Vacant posts
- (b) Posts temporarily vacant
- (c) Empty posts/hours still on establishment but with no budget.

5.2 Further to the decision made at the previous meeting of the Sub-Committee, it was noted that the Corporate Management Team had reviewed the list of vacant posts and the majority of those posts currently vacant, but with no budget provision, would be removed from the next update provided to the Sub-Committee.

6.0 XCHANGE MINUTES

6.1 The Sub-Committee received the draft minutes of the meeting of the Xchange group held on 4 February 2013.

7.0 COST OF LIVING PAY RISE

7.1 The Chief Executive presented a report outlining the implications of the Council awarding a cost of living pay rise for 2014/15, including a summary of pay awards made to staff since 2009 against the inflation rate for the period and the reductions in staff benefits which had been implemented over the past 5 years.

7.2 It was acknowledged that staff had responded positively to the Council's financial challenges and had absorbed additional workloads over this period and Members expressed their thanks to staff for their continued efforts. It was considered that the award of a cost of living pay rise would help to sustain staff morale.

7.3 It was noted that a 1% pay rise for all staff had been included in the Council's approved Medium Term Financial Strategy. In view of the comments made earlier, Members asked that the Chief Executive convey their thanks to staff when a pay rise was announced.

RESOLVED: That

- i) A 1% cost of living pay rise, effective from 1 April 2014, be approved (subject to the Council abiding by any other changes to Green Book terms and conditions that are agreed as part of any national pay deal); and
- ii) This 1% pay rise be applied to all staff.

(Reason: to ensure the Council can successfully recruit and retain knowledgeable and skilled employees)

8.0 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED:

That the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business because exempt information, as defined under paragraphs 2 and 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, may be disclosed.

9.0 SP28: SHARED SERVICES DISCUSSIONS WITH THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF WELLINGBOROUGH

9.1 The Chief Executive presented a report outlining the discussions which were taking place with the Borough Council of Wellingborough concerning possible shared services. Following these initial discussions, where a business case was identified in a particular service area, further detailed discussions would take place and proposals would be prepared to enable staff consultations to be undertaken.

9.2 Members would be kept informed of developments and reports would be submitted to the Sub-Committee as discussions progressed and any proposals for shared services were produced.

RESOLVED: That

- i) The report be noted; and,
- ii) Should there be a business case for a possible shared service, officers be authorised to consult relevant staff in preparing detailed proposals for consideration by Members.

(Reason - to ensure that staff are involved at an appropriate stage in discussions about possible changes that affect them)

Chairman



Finance Sub-Committee

Minutes of a meeting held on Wednesday 26 March 2014 at 7.30pm, Kasen Room, East Northamptonshire House, Thrapston

Present: Councillors: Steven North - Chairman
Richard Lewis – Vice-Chairman
Peter Baden
Roger Glithero JP
Glenvil Greenwood-Smith
Glenn Harwood MBE

Officers: David Oliver (Chief Executive)
Glenn Hammons (Chief Finance Officer)
Kelly Watson (Finance Manager)

1.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillor David Brackenbury and Katy Everitt (Head of Resources and Organisational Development).

2.0 MINUTES

2.1 The minutes of the meeting of the Finance Sub-Committee held on 3 February 2014 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

3.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3.1 No declarations of interest were declared in addition to the declarations made at previous meetings relating to the sale of land and buildings.

4.0 QUESTIONS UNDER PROCEDURE RULE 10.3

4.1 There were no questions submitted under Procedure Rule 10.3.

5.0 COUNCIL IMPROVEMENT RESERVE

5.1 The Chief Finance Officer presented a report providing an overview of the proposed use of the Council Improvement Reserve (CIR) and seeking to establish criteria and timescales for progressing proposals during the next financial year.

- 5.2 It was noted that the CIR comprised approximately £2.6m of the Council's estimated reserves of £6.5m at the end of the 2013/14 financial year and that some of the benefits accruing from improvement schemes could be recycled through the improvement fund for other projects or to assist with generating new business growth.
- 5.3 Reports on proposals prepared for CIR funding would be submitted to the Sub-Committee on a regular basis, including the business cases prepared to support specific proposals.

RESOLVED:

That the criteria for consideration of Council Improvement Reserve proposals set out in Appendix 1 to the report be approved.

(Reason – to be able to assess all future business cases seeking funding via the Council Improvement Reserve)

6.0 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED:

That the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business because exempt information, as defined under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12a of the Local Government Act 1972, may be disclosed.

7.0 ASSET MANAGEMENT – SALE OF LAND AND BUILDINGS PROGRESS UPDATE

- 7.1 The Chief Executive provided the Sub-Committee with an update on progress made in relation to the sale of Council owned land and buildings. The Chief Executive reported that the sale proceeds for the site at Barrington Road, Rushden and Herne Park, Oundle had now been received.
- 7.2 With regard to the grazing land at King's Cliffe, the Council's Agent had confirmed that the process used to market the site had been a competitive process and, accordingly, the sale could be completed without the need to seek Council approval.

RESOLVED:

That the contents of the report be noted.

(Reason - to note the progress of the sale of assets)

8.0 LAND ADJACENT TO RINGSTEAD CofE PRIMARY SCHOOL

- 8.1 Further to the decision made by the Sub-Committee at its meeting held on 24 June 2014 to retain ownership of the above site, the Chief Executive provided the Sub-Committee with an update on the negotiations which had taken place with the School concerning the lease arrangements and legal advice obtained on the provisions of the current lease on the site.

- 8.2 Whilst Members were of the view that sale of the land to the School on the terms offered was the favoured option from a financial viewpoint, it should be conditional on a claw-back clause being implemented should the land be sold on in the future.

RESOLVED:

- i) That subject to the inclusion of a suitable claw-back clause in the sale contract relating to any future sale of the land in part or whole, the land be sold to Ringstead Cof E Primary School for the purchase price offered by the School
- ii) The Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chairman of the Finance Sub-Committee, be authorised to agree the terms of the claw-back clause.

(Reason: to ensure a decision is made before the lease expires and to ensure Ringstead CoE Primary School can have certainty over the status of the site)

9.0 PROVISION OF A SWIMMING POOL IN THE SOUTH OF THE DISTRICT – UPDATE ON ACTIONS AGREED AT COUNCIL ON 13 JANUARY 2014

- 9.1 Further to the decision made at the Council meeting held on 13 January 2014, the Sub-Committee was provided with an update on the resolutions relating to essential maintenance and the implications of options 1, 3 and 7 set out in the report to Council.
- 9.2 The Chairman noted that the decision to focus on these options had been made by Council and it was not for the Sub-Committee to re-consider them. The Council would consider the matter again, with the updated information, at its next meeting. It was not considered appropriate for the Sub-Committee to recommend a preferred option to Council.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

Chairman