

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Date: 28 July 2014

Venue: East Northamptonshire House, Cedar Drive, Thrapston

Time: 7.30 pm

Present: Councillors:-

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

Peter Baden	Roger Glithero JP
David Brackenbury	Sue Homer
Wendy Brackenbury	Andy Mercer
John Farrar	Rupert Reichhold

114. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on 30 June 2014 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

115. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Marika Hillson, Dudley Hughes JP and Jeremy Taylor.

116. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor John Farrar declared an other interest in agenda item 8 (Removal of Claw-back Liability – Charles Street, Thrapston) on the basis of his role as Chairman of Spire Homes.

117. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10.3

There were no questions under Procedure Rule 10.3.

118. MINUTES OF SUB-COMMITTEES AND WORKING PARTIES

(a) District Regeneration Working Party – 5 June 2014

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 June 2014 were received (pages 125 to 126).

119. CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY 2014 - 2017

The Committee considered a report of the Head of Resources and Organisational Development that sought approval of the revised Consultation and Engagement Strategy for the next three years, which set out the proposed approach to consulting and engaging with residents, businesses, service users and non-users, partners and stakeholders.

It was reported that the strategy set out the reasons for consulting, who would be consulted, the methods of consultation and when consultation would take place. It would also be accompanied by a toolkit for officers to assist in designing consultation.

RESOLVED:

That, subject to the inclusion of the words "such as:" at the end of paragraph of 1.2 of the strategy and having had regard to the Equality Impact Assessment, the Consultation and Engagement Strategy 2014 – 2017 be approved.

(Reason: To update the existing Consultation Strategy and recommend an approach to consultation which is cost effective and will support the council to meet its legal obligations.)

120. 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 paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, may be disclosed.

121. UPDATE ON LAND CHARGES SEARCH REFUNDS

The Committee considered a report from the Executive Director which provided an update on the proposed settlement of legal actions relating to requests for refunds for Land Charges searches following the abolition of personal search fees in 2010.

RESOLVED:

1. That the current position in relation to the legal actions be noted.
2. That, subject to the figure being below £200,000, the payment of any settlement in relation to the two claims detailed within the report be authorised.
3. That the continued contribution to the joint legal action to recover additional monies to cover the settlements from central government as part of the New Burdens regimen be authorised.

(Councillor John Farrar, having declared an interest in the following item of business, left the meeting during consideration of the items, taking no part in the discussion or voting thereon)

122. REMOVAL OF CLAW-BACK LIABILITY – CHARLES STREET, THRAPSTON

The Housing Strategy and Delivery Manager presented a report detailing a request from a local housing association to sell a rented property to a current owner-occupier without the claw-back provision to enable the potential development of affordable housing.

The committee considered the options available and the implications associated therein and

RESOLVED:

1. That Spire Homes be enabled to transfer a rented property to the owner-occupier of the property referred to in the report, in exchange for their property.
2. That the transfer be treated as an 'exempt and clear' disposal, not subject to the claw-back provisions.
3. That the arrangement in this case be regarded as a one-off decision and that any future cases be determined according to their own merits.

(Reason – To ensure that the council disposes of its assets in accordance with legal requirements and to support the development of affordable housing in the district..)

Chairman



District Regeneration Working Party

Minutes of meeting held on Thursday 5 June 2014
at 2pm in The Kasen Room (formerly CHG2)

Present:

Councillors:	Councillor Steven North (Chair)	Cllr SN
	Councillor Glenn Harwood	Cllr GH
	Councillor Roger Glithero	Cllr RG
	Councillor Richard Lewis	Cllr RL
Officers:	David Oliver, Chief Executive	DO
	Lisa Hyde, Head of Customer & Community Services	LJH
	Katy Everitt, Head of Resources & Organisational Development	KE

Additional Attendees – for item 4 only

Mike Greenway, Community Partnerships Manager	MG
Sean Silver, Community Partnerships Officer	SS
Su Davies, External Funding Manager	SD
Jenny Walker, Environmental Protection Manager (deputy for Mike Deacon)	JW
Minutes: Sharon Prior, Executive Support Officer	SP

ACTION

1. **Apologies**

1.1. Apologies had been received from:-

- Councillor David Brackenbury
- Sharn Matthews, Executive Director
- Mike Deacon, Head of Environmental Services
- David Reed, Head of Planning Services
- Glenn Hammons, Chief Finance Officer
- Kelly Watson, Finance Manager

2. **Minutes of previous meeting held on 27 February 2014 and matters arising**

Matters arising

2.1. **Minute 5.2 – Superfast Broadband**

DO confirmed BDUK had been successful in obtaining additional funding to complete the Broadband project. Their bid requested £3.8m, but they had received £5.5m. DO noted that this meant that our contribution of £300,000, as agreed at the previous meeting, was likely to attract further broadband coverage for the district. DO then advised the funding agreement was expected from NCC for signature, to confirm our £300,000 contribution; this document would be discussed with the Leader prior to signature.

**DO/Cllr S North
(Leader)**

2.2. The minutes of the previous meeting held on 27 February 2014 were agreed as a true record. These minutes had been approved by the Policy & Resources Committee at its meeting held on 10 March 2014.

SP

3. **Growth Peer Challenge**

- 3.1. DO presented his covering report together with the Peer Challenge report from the LGA (Appendix 1), which DRWP noted. An Action Plan, included at Appendix 2, listed the recommendations contained within the Peer Challenge report and subsequent actions required to progress those recommendations.
- 3.2. The Working Party reviewed the Action Plan in detail and noted their comments and amendments. DO agreed to revise the Action Plan and agree the final version with the Leader. The Peer Challenge report and Action Plan would be published on the Council's website in due course.

DO/SP

DO left the meeting at 3pm.

MGreenway, SSilver, SDavies and JWalker joined the meeting at 3.05pm.

4. **Community Facilities Fund 2014/15 – to consider Expressions of Interest (Eols)**

- 4.1. Cllr SN initially presented the item outlining the good response received in the first year, and the number of projects that received funding that will make a hands-on difference to communities. The funding available for this year was noted as £219,000.
- 4.2. LJH outlined the process prepared by the Community Partnerships Team to review the Expressions of Interest (Eols) – 32 in total – received for the second round of the Community Facilities Fund (2014/15), which the meeting noted.
- 4.3. Members considered the bids received, and noted their comments on the proposals put forward. The following bids were rejected, as Members felt they did not meet the criteria – projects numbered 17, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31 and 32. Members then **recommended** to progress to the full bid stage for all those projects scoring a total of 4 or 5, at total cost of £520,130. LJH/MG/SS to contact those groups whose bids scored 4 or 5 to progress their projects to the full bid stage. These bids would then be discussed at the next meeting of the Working Party, scheduled for August 2014.
- 4.4. Following the recommendation made above in 4.3, LJH/MG/SS would contact those groups who had been unsuccessful.

LJH/MG/SS

5. **Any Other Business**

- 5.1. No further items were raised.

6. **Date of Next Meeting**

- 6.1. The Working Party agreed to hold the next meeting in August 2014; SP to finalise date with Members and Officers.

The meeting closed at 3.54pm.

DO/SP 19.6.14

Minutes approved by the Chair of the Working Party – 25.6.14