

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Date: 21 September 2015

Venue: East Northamptonshire House, Cedar Drive, Thrapston

Time: 7.30pm

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

Tony Boto	Helen Harrison
David Brackenbury	Dudley Hughes JP
Wendy Brackenbury	Andy Mercer
Val Carter	Sarah Peacock
Roger Glithero	Rupert Reichhold

Councillors Dorothy Maxwell and Peter Wathen attended as observers.

139. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Steven North and Anna Sauntson and Glenn Hammons (Chief Finance Officer).

140. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 July 2015 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

141. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following interest was declared in the Agenda item specified below:

Councillor	Agenda item	Nature of Interest	DPI	Other Interest
Andy Mercer	Climate Change Strategy 2014-2017	Member of North Anglia Flood and Coastal Committee		Yes

142. QUESTIONS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10.3

There were no questions submitted under Procedure Rule 10.3.

143. MINUTES OF SUB-COMMITTEES AND WORKING PARTIES

a) Finance Sub-Committee – 7 September 2015

The minutes of the meeting of the Finance Sub-Committee held on 7 September 2015 were received (see pages 105 to 107) and the following recommendation was considered.

The Chief Executive provided an update concerning the distribution of recycling credits where it was noted under minute 5 that distribution payments to District/Borough Councils had been paused. The Chief Executive of Northamptonshire County Council had subsequently confirmed that payments would continue to be made to District/Borough Councils and further discussions would take place at the County Chief Executives' meeting taking place the following week.

Minute 5 – Budget Monitoring to 31 July for 2015/16

R2. RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:

That an increase to the Approved Capital Programme budget in respect of the following items be approved:

- i) The late Nene Centre Roof invoice of £3,000 to be met from existing capital reserves
- ii) An increase of £20,000 for the purchase of additional wheeled bins, to be funded through an additional revenue contribution to capital.

(Reason – to follow the formal process for approval of the amendment to the Capital Programme Budget for 2015/16.)

144. STATEMENT OF GAMBLING POLICY

The Interim Health Protection Manager reported that the Gambling Act 2005 required each licensing authority to publish a Statement of Licensing Principles, otherwise known as the Gambling Policy. ENC's current policy had been in place for the past three years and a review was required to be undertaken and public consultation to be carried out on the proposed revised policy.

The Gambling Act required the licensing authority to determine a resolution on the provision of casinos within the District which then formed part of the Statement of Licensing Principles (Gambling Policy). The Council had previously agreed not to have a policy on casinos within the District (a 'no casino' resolution) which had been included in the current policy. Whilst this resolution could be revoked by a counter resolution being passed, there were currently no casinos located within the District and none had been applied for and it was therefore considered that a continuation of the 'no casino' resolution was appropriate.

In response to Members' questions concerning the control of on-line gambling, the Interim Health Protection Manager would ascertain the powers available to the Gambling Commission and provide a response to Members after the meeting.

RESOLVED: That

- i) the draft Statement of Licensing Principles under the Gambling Act 2005 attached to the report be approved for the 6 week consultation period.

(Reason - To accord with legislation)

- ii) the 'no casino' resolution as in the existing policy under Section 166 of the Gambling Act 2005 be approved

(Reason - To accord with legislation and current council policy)

145. CONTAMINATED LAND INSPECTION STRATEGY

The Interim Environmental Protection Manager reported that Under Part IIA of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 local authorities in England had been given responsibilities for regulating contaminated land incorporating an inspection function and an enforcement function.

There was a statutory requirement for each local authority to publish a strategy for carrying out the inspection of its area to identify land that may be contaminated. ENC had first published its Contaminated Land Strategy in June 2001 and Statutory Guidance required local authorities to keep its strategy under periodic review. The current ENC strategy had been produced in 2006.

RESOLVED: That,

subject to any necessary grammatical changes being made, the revised strategy attached at Appendix 1 to the report be adopted.

(Reason - to accord with legislation and statutory guidance)

146. CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY 2014 – 2017

The Interim Environmental Protection Manager submitted a report advising the Committee of the outcome of the Northamptonshire Climate Change Strategy 2010-2014 and associated annual action plans over the past four years and seeking approval of the proposed Northamptonshire Climate Change Strategy 2014-2017 and first year action plan.

RESOLVED:

That the revised strategy attached to the report be adopted.

(Reason – to have a policy in place for the period 2014-2017 in collaboration with other Authorities)

147. FEES AND CHARGES FOR LAND CHARGES, TAXIS AND SAFER FOOD BETTER BUSINESS PACKS

The Interim Head of Customer and Community Services reported that revised fees and charges for Land Charges, Taxi Driver and Operator Licences and Safer Food Better Business Packs were being sought. This had arisen as a result of the following:

- i) An internal audit report conducted in 2014 on the land charges service had recommended a review of the fees and charges element of the service be carried out.
- ii) The Deregulation Act 2015 introduced changes to the length of time licences for taxi drivers and private hire operators should be issued for. The legislation had taken effect in October 2015 and, consequently, revised fees and charges were required.
- iii) The fees and charges made by the ENC Print Room had recently been reviewed and this has impacted on the fee currently paid by businesses for a copy of the food safety management system known as Safer Food Better Business.

RESOLVED:

That the amendments to the Fees and Charges for Land Charges, Taxis and Safer Food Better Business Packs set out in the report be adopted.

(Reason – to ensure that the Council meets financial requirements and accord with legislation)

148. ENTERPRISE ZONE – UPDATE ON SUBMISSION OF BID

The Chief Executive reported that a bid for a Corby & East Northamptonshire Enterprise Zone covering the Rockingham area of East Northamptonshire and nearby sites in Corby had been submitted by the Northamptonshire Enterprise Partnership on 18 September 2015 and consultants had been engaged to advise on various issues relating to the Enterprise Zone. An initial approval decision was now awaited.

The Chief Executive outlined the governance arrangements which would be applied and confirmed that there would be ENC Member representation on a sub-board of the Enterprise Partnership and, therefore, involvement in the governance arrangements.

149. 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.

150. HOUSING POLICY WORKING PARTY

The Housing Strategy and Delivery Manager reported that the Council would be required to undertake a number of significant pieces of work in relation to housing and housing policy issues over the coming months. Accordingly, the Committee was requested to re-institute the Housing Policy Working Party and appoint Members to it.

RESOLVED: That

- i) the reinstatement of a Housing Policy Working Party be approved.
- ii) the Terms of Reference for the Housing Policy Working Party set out in Appendix 1 be approved:

- iii) Councillors Tony Boto, Richard Lewis, Steven North, Sarah Peacock and Rupert Reichhold be appointed to the Housing Policy Working Party.

(Reason – to ensure the continued relevance and appropriateness of the council's policies and procedures)

151. COVENANT CONSENT – SANDLANDS AVENUE, BRIGSTOCK

The Head of Resources and Organisational Development presented a report seeking approval for covenant consent for works to a property in Sandlands Avenue, Brigstock and set out the background to the request being made and the legal procedures involved.

RESOLVED: That

- i) the restrictions set out in paragraph 1.3 of the report be lifted.
- ii) where legal advice confirms that a premium cannot be charged by the Council to remove a consent from a property sold under the Right to Buy legislation, each of the following officers be given delegated authority to determine a request made:
 - Chief Executive
 - Executive Director
 - S151 Officer
 - Head of Resources and Organisational Development.

(Reason: to enable officers to respond to the request to lift the restrictions contained in the covenant on this property)

Chairman

Housing Policy Working Party

Terms of Reference

1. Membership

Members: Councillors Tony Boto, Richard Lewis, Steven North, Sarah Peacock and Rupert Reichhold

Lead Officers:	Sharn Matthews Richard Palmer Jenny Walker Karen Pell Carol Conway Louise Bagley Aine Cooper	Executive Director Planning Policy Manager Health Protection Manager Environmental Protection Manager Housing Strategy and Delivery Manager Housing Services Officer Housing Enabling Officer
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There may also be a need to involve other officers as and when required, such as representatives from Benefits, Finance, or Planning Services as well as from our Registered Housing Providers and other partners.

2. Terms of Reference

- i. To consider any proposed changes to the terms and conditions of the Contract for the Housing Options Service prior to presentation to Policy and Resources Committee
- ii. To review the Housing Allocation Policy for presentation to Policy & Resources Committee
- iii. To steer the development of flexible and fair housing policies for the provision, adaptation and allocation of accessible properties for presentation to Policy and Resources Committee
- iv. To steer the development of a Supplementary Planning Document in respect of the Housing Mix Requirements for the district for presentation to Planning Policy Committee
- v. To consider the consequences for housing in the district, and report any recommended action to the appropriate committee, as a result of
 - a. Changes to the Right to Buy and rent setting legislation for housing associations
 - b. Welfare reform and in particular the introduction of Universal Credit
 - c. The current refugee crisis.
- vi. If appropriate following the review of the Allocations Policy and changes to legislation, to review the Tenancy Strategy for presentation to Policy & Resources Committee



Finance Sub-Committee

Minutes of a meeting held on Monday 7 September 2015 at 7.30pm, East Northamptonshire House, Thrapston

Present: Councillors: Richard Lewis (Vice-Chairman in the Chair)
Val Carter
Glenvil Greenwood-Smith
Glenn Harwood MBE

Councillor Dorothy Maxwell attended as an observer

Officers: Glenn Hammons (Chief Finance Officer)
Michelle Drewery (Finance Manager)
Katy Everitt (Head of Resources and Organisational Development)

1.0 MINUTES

1.1 The minutes of the meeting of the Finance Sub-Committee held on 22 June 2015 were approved and signed by the Vice-Chairman.

2.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2.1 Apologies for absence were received from the Chairman of the Sub-Committee, Councillor Steven North, Councillors David Brackenbury and Roger Glithero and the Chief Executive, David Oliver.

3.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3.1 No declarations of interest were made.

4.0 QUESTIONS UNDER PROCEDURE RULE 10.3

4.1 There were no questions submitted under Procedure Rule 10.3.

5.0 BUDGET MONITORING TO 31 JULY FOR 2015/16

5.1 The Finance Manager presented a report providing an update on the forecast Revenue and Capital positions against the approved budgets for the period ended 31 July 2015.

- 5.2 It was noted that a £20,000 increase had been included in the capital programme for the wheeled bins scheme as part of the waste contract. The funding source was from within approved waste revenue budgets and was subject to approval by Council.
- 5.3 The forecast outturn for 2015/16 was shown being £3,000 above budget. This had arisen following the receipt of a legitimate late invoice relating to works carried out on the Nene Leisure Centre roof after the project had been removed from the programme due to its completion and approval to fund this from existing capital reserves was being sought.
- 5.4 The Sub-Committee was apprised of the outcome of a meeting which had taken place earlier in the day between District/Borough Councils and the County Council regarding the distribution of Recycling Credits. Payments to District/Borough Councils in Northamptonshire had been paused and legal advice was being sought on the position by District/Borough Councils in the County. It was noted that Recycling Credits distributed to ENC amounted to approximately £600,000 annually, of which some £36,000 was from Green Waste Recycling Credits.

RESOLVED:

That the revenue, capital and reserves positions for 2015/16 be noted.

(Reason – information / monitoring report – no decision required)

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL:

That an increase to the Approved Capital Programme budget in respect of the following items be approved:

- i) The late Nene Centre Roof invoice of £3,000 to be met from existing capital reserves
- ii) An increase of £20,000 for the purchase of additional wheeled bins, to be funded through an additional revenue contribution to capital.

(Reason – to follow the formal process for approval of the amendment to the Capital Programme Budget for 2015/16.)

6.0 TREASURY MANAGEMENT REPORT TO 31 JULY FOR 2015/16

- 6.1 The Chief Finance Officer presented a report setting out the current position for Treasury Management for the period to 31 July 2015.
- 6.2 It was reported that the Council had recently appointed Capita as its Treasury Management advisor to provide support and advice on financial management matters. Capita had offered to provide a briefing session for Members on its role and this could be arranged to take place prior to the next meeting of the Sub-Committee.

RESOLVED:

That the Treasury Management performance for the period to 31 July 2015 be noted.

(Reason – in accordance with CIPFA guidance and best practice in Treasury Management)

7.0 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

7.1 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.

8.0 ASSET MANAGEMENT – SALE OF LAND AND BUILDINGS PROGRESS UPDATE

8.1 The Head of Resources and Organisational Development presented a report providing the Sub-Committee with an update on progress made in relation to the sale of Council owned land and buildings, together with information about remaining Council-owned land sites and the Sub-Committee was asked to determine whether any of these remaining sites should be sold.

RESOLVED: That

- i) the contents of the update report be noted.
- ii) the transfer of 16 garages to Spire Homes be completed.
- iii) the Council be registered as the owners of the Single Garage at Oundle.
- iv) the grazing land at Kings Cliffe be placed back on the market for sale should the contracts not be signed by the current prospective purchaser by the end of September 2015.
- v) the Council-owned land assets identified in section 5.1 of the report be not marketed for sale at the present time and the options available for the disposal or development of the five sites identified in Rushden and Raunds be explored and a further report be submitted to this Sub-Committee.

(Reason: to note the progress on the sale of assets and help the Council to provide financial stability)

Chairman