

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Date: 03 September 2018

Venue: East Northamptonshire House, Cedar Drive, Thrapston

Time: 7.30pm

Present: Councillors: Richard Lewis (Chairman)
Glenvil Greenwood-Smith (Vice Chairman)
David Jenney (Deputy Leader of the Council)

Tony Boto
David Brackenbury
Val Carter
Roger Glithero JP

Dudley Hughes JP
Andy Mercer
Rupert Reichhold
Phillip Stearn

159. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors John Farrar, Steven North and Sarah Peacock.

160. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 July 2018 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

161. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

162. QUESTIONS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10.3

No questions were submitted under Procedure Rule 10.3.

163. MINUTES OF SUB-COMMITTEES AND WORKING PARTIES

a) Personnel Sub-Committee – 16 July 2018

The minutes of the meeting of the Personnel Sub-Committee held on 16 July 2018 were received (see pages 192 to 194).

b) Finance and Performance Sub-Committee – 23 July 2018

The minutes of the meeting of the Finance and Performance Sub-Committee held on 23 July 2018 were received (see pages 195 to 196).

R.7 RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL:

Asset Management – July 2018 Update

The Approved Capital Programme be increased by £50,000, to be funded from capital reserves, in order to undertake the demolition of 103 High Street, Rushden and to make the site safe and clean in preparation for delivery of the wider master plan.

(Reason: To follow correct approval process for amendments to the Capital Programme.)

164. GAMBLING POLICY CONSULTATION

The Health Protection Manager presented a report which sought approval for the commencement of a six week consultation period for the revised Gambling Policy. The Gambling Act 2005 required each licensing authority to publish a Statement of Licensing Principles, otherwise known as the Gambling Policy Statement, which must be reviewed every three years.

The current policy was a countywide document and the review had been led by Daventry District Council and Kettering Borough Council, in conjunction with the Countywide Licensing Group, to ensure consistency of approach.

The Gambling Act required the licensing authority to determine a resolution on the provision of casinos within the district which would form part of the Statement of Licensing Principles. The Council had previously passed a resolution not to have a 'no casino' policy and at this time, as we had no casinos and had received no requests for a casino, it was felt appropriate that the resolution be continued.

During debate on the item, Members asked what the other North Northamptonshire councils' position was with regard to casinos. The Health Protection Manager advised that she did not know but she would find out and let members know.

RESOLVED:

To approve that the draft Statement of Licensing Principles, under the Gambling Act 2005, goes out for a six week consultation period and subject to there being no significant changes, to take the Policy to the next appropriate Full Council meeting for approval; and

R.8 RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL:

That the Council maintains its current position of not having a 'no casino' policy under Section 166 of the Gambling Act 2005.

(Reason: To accord with legislation and current Council policy.)

165. ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES TO POLICIES

The Monitoring Officer presented a report which sought to obtain delegated powers, in consultation with the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee, to approve administrative changes when policies and strategies were reviewed in order to obtain a

balance between the need to gain approval from the Committee for significant policy and strategy development and day to day administrative work. This would be particularly relevant in the run up to any local government changes relating to unitary councils.

RESOLVED:

To delegate the approval of minor and/or administrative changes to policies and strategies to the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Chairman or Vice Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee.

(Reason: The recommended course of action is the most cost-effective and time-effective for the Council.)

166. MODERN SLAVERY STATEMENT

The Monitoring Officer presented a report which provided Members with information about the obligations of the Council under the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and detailed the required statement on the steps to be taken to ensure human trafficking and slavery did not occur within the Council or its supply chains. The Modern Slavery statement covered the previous financial year and must be published no later than September of each year.

The Modern Slavery Act 2015 specifically addressed slavery and trafficking in the 21st century and consolidated the current offences relating to trafficking and slavery and specified the duties incumbent on organisations under the Act. The transparency in supply chains provision in the Act meant that every large commercial organisation had a responsibility to publish a statement about what it was doing to prevent slavery in its business and supply chain.

A slavery and human trafficking statement was:

- a statement of the steps the organisation had taken during the financial year to ensure that slavery and human trafficking was not taking place in any of its supply chains and in any part of its own business; or
- a statement that the organisation had taken no such steps.

During discussion on the item, a number of amendments were identified in the draft Statement and these would be actioned by officers prior to signature and publication.

RESOLVED:

To approve the Modern Slavery Statement, as amended, for signature and publication.

(Reason: To accord with legislation.)

Chairman