

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Date: 08 April 2019

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)

David Brackenbury Dudley Hughes JP
Val Carter Andy Mercer
Roger Glithero JP Rupert Reichhold
Helen Harrison Phillip Stearn

503. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Tony Boto, John Farrar, Steven North and Sarah Peacock and David Oliver, Chief Executive.

504. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 February 2019 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

505. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

506. QUESTIONS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10.3

No questions were submitted under Procedure Rule 10.3.

507. MINUTES OF SUB-COMMITTEES AND WORKING PARTIES

a) Community Facilities Fund Working Party – 27 February 2019

The minutes of the meeting of the Community Facilities Fund Working Party held on 27 February 2019 were received (see pages 481 to 482).

b) Community Facilities Fund Working Party – 03 April 2019

The minutes of the meeting of the Community Facilities Fund Working Party held on 03 April 2019 were received (see pages 483 to 484).

2019 Programme

An amendment to the recommendations was moved and seconded that the limit of one application per organisation be removed and replaced with multi applications from an organisation would be allowed if there were insufficient applications to meet the budget of £150,000. On being put to the vote the amendment was lost.

RESOLVED:

That the Policy and Resources Committee are minded to note their support for the recommendations below, subject to formal agreement via an urgent item at the Council meeting on 15 April 2019:

- (i) Round 7 of the Community Facilities Fund is launched, inviting applications for up to £10,000, limiting one application per organisation or per precept authority, without requiring match-funding and to be completed by 31 January 2020; and
- (ii) £150,000 from the New Homes Bonus reserve will fund this last round.

c) Personnel Sub-Committee – 04 March 2019

The minutes of the meeting of the Personnel Sub-Committee held on 04 March 2019 were received (see pages 485 to 486).

d) Finance and Performance Sub-Committee – 25 March 2019

The minutes of the meeting of the Finance and Performance Sub-Committee held on 25 March 2019 were received (see pages 487 to 492).

Local Discretionary and Retail Rate Relief Schemes for 2019/20 and 2020/21

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the amendments to the Council's Discretionary Rate Relief Policy to incorporate the LDR Scheme for 2019/20 and Retail Relief Scheme for 2019/20 and 2020/21 be approved; and
- (ii) To review the LDR Scheme for 2020/21 during 2019/20 following the decision being made by the Secretary of State on the proposal for two unitary authorities in Northamptonshire.

(Reason: To support businesses by supporting them financially.)

Asset Management Update

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the Wet Flush plot be sold as it is surplus to requirements be approved, with an appropriate covenant that maintains to an equal value the natural habitat.

R.30 RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL:

- (ii) That the disposal of the Wet Flush plot through a route other than auction or competitive tender be approved.

(Reason: To support commercial and economic development objectives.)

508. MEMBER EMPOWERMENT FUND

The Head of Customer and Community Services presented a report which requested the Committee to consider whether to extend the current Member Empowerment Fund (MEF) until the end of the current term of office.

The MEF had been introduced in 2011 and allowed members to support small, local community projects and activities taking place in their wards. For the current 2015-19 MEF, £1,000 per annum had been made available to each member for allocation to community groups under the scheme with any underspend in the first three years rolled over to the final year. The current MEF had been scheduled to end on 31 March 2019, however as the 2019 election to the Council had been postponed it was proposed that the current scheme be extended until the end of the current term of office on the same basis, i.e. £1,000 per councillor per year, with any unspent money in the March before the elections being transferred to the general reserve.

Members welcomed the MEF as a valuable resource for the Council which was very much appreciated in the local communities.

RESOLVED:

That the continuation of the existing Members Empowerment Fund until the end of the current term of office be approved.

(Reason: To decide whether a Member Empowerment Fund is operated in ENC)

509. DRAFT CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2019/20

The Monitoring Officer presented a report which requested that the Committee consider a calendar of council and committee meetings for the 2019/20 municipal year.

The draft calendar had been prepared having regard to the timing of certain matters which must statutorily be considered by the Council and the expected date on which the Council was to be abolished on 1 April 2020, subject to the expected local government reorganisation and move to unitary status. If the vesting day of the proposed new unitary authority was delayed, a revised programme of meetings would be taken to a future meeting of Council for agreement.

R.31 RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL:

That the draft Calendar of Meetings for the 2019/20 municipal year, as detailed at Appendix A, be approved.

Chairman