

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Date: 02 November 2020

Venue: Virtual Meeting

Time: 7.30pm

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

Tony Boto
David Brackenbury
Wendy Brackenbury
Val Carter

John Farrar
Dudley Hughes JP
Andy Mercer
Sarah Peacock

. **COUNCILLOR RON PINNOCK**

Members and officers held a minute's silence in honour of Councillor Ron Pinnock, who had sadly passed away.

. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Roger Glithero, Helen Harrison and Steven North.

. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 07 September 2020 were approved as a correct record.

. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made.

. **QUESTIONS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10.3**

No questions were submitted under Procedure Rule 10.3.

. **MINUTES OF SUB-COMMITTEES AND WORKING PARTIES**

a) Finance and Performance Sub-Committee – 09 September 2020

The minutes of the meeting of the Finance and Performance Sub-Committee held on 09 September 2020 were noted.

b) Finance and Performance Sub-Committee – 19 October 2020

The minutes of the meeting of the Finance and Performance Sub-Committee held on 19 October 2020 were noted.

In response to questions from Members, officers confirmed that, following the Government's announcement of a new lockdown from 5 November, officers and Freedom Leisure would be meeting to look to understand the implications for delivery of the leisure contract and if necessary a further report would be taken to Full Council.

Economic Recovery Prospectus

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL:

- (i) That progress to date on the Economic Recovery Prospectus Phase 1 be noted.
- (ii) That the Economic Recovery Prospectus Phase 2 and associated work streams be approved.

(Reason: To put in place measures to support and accelerate economic recovery across the district to address the economic crisis resulting from the pandemic.)

c) Personnel Sub-Committee – 14 September 2020

The minutes of the meeting of the Personnel Sub-Committee held on 14 September 2020 were noted.

d) Personnel Sub-Committee – 26 October 2020

The minutes of the meeting of the Personnel Sub-Committee held on 26 October 2020 were noted.

PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER UPDATE 2020

The Waste Manager presented a report which sought approval to update the existing Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) as a review was required every three years by the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

In September 2017, the Committee had approved the making of a number of PSPOs relating to responsible dog ownership, with the following elements:

- A requirement that people cleaned up after their dog if it defecated on public land.
- A provision which required people to place their dog on a lead.
- A provision prohibiting dogs from all outdoor enclosed children's play areas in the district.
- A requirement for dogs to remain on a lead at all times in certain locations.
- A limit to the number of animals one individual could walk in a public place.

During discussion on the report, Members enquired what could be done for dog fouling on private land and officers advised that the Act had other powers in relation to private land

which could potentially assist with private land owners. Officers explained that the team did a lot of work with anti-social owners and dogs and would also be looking to do some work showing that the district was quite clean against the perception that everywhere was dirty. It was noted that drink and drugs was also an issue in some areas and it was confirmed that these areas had been flagged up with the Community Partnerships Team and Future Northants going forward into unitary.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the equality implications be noted.
- (ii) That the publication of the dog-related Public Space Protection Orders, as listed in Appendix 2 of the report, be approved.

(Reason: To accord with legislation.)

HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION GRANTS 2021-22

The Housing Strategy and Delivery Manager presented a report which sought approval for an 'in principle' extension to the Homelessness Prevention Grant arrangements, with a recommendation that provisions for the financial year 2021/22 were included in the draft budget for the new North Northamptonshire Council.

For a number of years ENC had allocated annual Homelessness Prevention Grants to organisations which operated locally to prevent and relieve homelessness in the district. These grants had been very successful in providing good value for money solutions to assist the Council in delivering its statutory homelessness duties. As we moved towards the start of North Northamptonshire Council, thought was now being given as to how to continue to support these organisations and to ensure that their work in partnership with the Council to prevent and relieve homelessness in the district continued into the new authority.

In 2020/21, grants totalling £49,985 had been made. The agreements would terminate on 31 March 2021 and should the grant funding not be continued in 2021/22 the organisations would no longer be able to provide the services. The organisations had been advised in the last funding round that no guarantees of further funding could be given after 31 March 2021 due to the move to unitary council status. In order for the organisations to continue to provide services, they needed to have some certainty going forward. It was therefore important that they were given certainty about the funding which would be available for 2021/22 in good time so that they could plan their provision from the outset of the new authority.

RESOLVED:

- (i) To note the initial Equalities Impact Assessment.
- (ii) To approve an 'in principle' extension to our current Homelessness Prevention Grant funding for the organisations as set out in the report.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO THE NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE SHADOW AUTHORITY:

- (iii) That the financial provisions to cover the funding referred to in recommendation (ii) above are included in the 2021/22 draft budget for the new North Northamptonshire Council.

(Reasons:

1) To ensure the fair and transparent allocation of the available funding and ensure appropriate funding of statutory duties.

2) To maintain strong and effective partnership arrangements to enable the continuation of specialist services for homeless people within the district.)

Chairman