

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Date: 7 June 2010

Venue: East Northamptonshire House, Cedar Drive, Thrapston

Time: 7.30 pm

Present: Councillors:-

Robin Underwood (Chairman)
Wendy Brackenbury (Vice-Chairman)
Andy Mercer (Leader of the Council)

Pauline Bradberry
Albert Campbell
Lisa Costello
Roger Glithero JP

Philip Hardcastle
Glenn Harwood MBE
Richard Lewis
Steven North

31. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 April 2010 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

32. APOLOGIES

Councillors David Brackenbury and John Richardson MBE sent their apologies.

33. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Councillors declared a personal interest in the agenda item indicated but remained in the meeting during the discussion and voting thereon:-

Councillors	Item	Nature of Interest
Wendy Brackenbury, Pauline Bradberry, Albert Campbell, Lisa Costello, Roger Glithero, Philip Hardcastle, Glenn Harwood, Richard Lewis, Andy Mercer, Steven North, Robin Underwood	8	Recipients of allowances

34. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10.3

There were no questions.

35. WASTE AND RECYCLING WORKING PARTY

The Committee received and considered the recommendation in the minutes of the meeting of the Waste and Recycling Working Party on 13 April 2010. The minutes are at pages 36 to 38 and form part of this minute.

R.1 RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:

That the recommendation contained in minute 7.3 (Site Waste Management Plans Regulations 2008), with the amendment shown below, be approved:-

That the Executive Director (ES), Head of Environmental Services, and Waste Manager be authorised to accept Site Waste Management Plans and, in conjunction and consultation with all relevant statutory bodies, enforce compliance of these plans under the Site Waste Management Plans Regulations 2008.

36. PRIVATE SECTOR (HOUSING) RENEWAL CAPITAL ALLOCATION FOR 2010/11

The Committee considered a report which outlined options for the use of a grant of £299,000 from the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) for 'Private Sector Renewal', which officers proposed be used for Disabled Facilities Grants. The options considered were:

1. Use the full £299,000 for only mandatory grants for disabled facilities.
2. Allocate £249,000 to be spent on mandatory grants for disabled facilities and £50,000 to be used to support urgent discretionary repairs where a property contains a Category 1 Hazard under the Housing Act 2004 and there is a significant risk to the occupier(s).
3. Use the full £299,000 solely for discretionary grants and private sector renewal.

Members noted that the Council had previously expressed its concerns on the loss of funding for Disabled Facilities Grants to the previous Government and that the funding available might still change as the current Government had not yet announced its plans for mid-year cuts. The Committee considered the implications of each option and agreed that option two would demonstrate to the Government a wider use of the funding and ensure some remedial work would be done to the private housing stock.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That, subject to confirmation of the full amount of funding from DCLG for 'Private Sector Renewal', £249,000 of the grant be spent on mandatory grants for disabled facilities and £50,000 to be used to support urgent discretionary repairs where a property contains a Category 1 Hazard under the Housing Act 2004 and there is a significant risk to the occupier(s).
- (2) That setting up the case review panel be deferred until 2011.

37. HOMELESSNESS GRANT 2010/11

Further to minute 181 (12 October 2009), the Committee discussed arrangements for the administration of the Homelessness Grant 2010/11. The grant had previously been administered by the Housing Strategy Manager and Head of Planning Services, in consultation with the Lead Member for Planning Services, for use in the prevention and reduction of homelessness.

RESOLVED:

That recommendations for grants from the Homeless Grant 2010/11 be submitted to the Policy and Resources Committee for approval and that, should a grant be needed urgently, the Council's Urgency Procedure be used.

38. MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES - REVIEW

The Committee considered a report which set out the process for reviewing the Members' Allowances and recommended the setting up of a working party to formulate detailed representations to submit to a Remuneration Panel to enable a new Scheme to be in place at the beginning of 2011/12.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That a Remuneration Working Group be established with the Terms of Reference outlined in paragraph 4 above.
- (2) That the number of Members to serve on the Group be determined (7 Members served in 2007)
- (3) That the names of Members be determined (if it is desired to go beyond the membership of this Committee, a decision will need to be made by the Council meeting on 19 July).
- (4) That officers explore options for appointing an Independent Remuneration Panel including the possible use of the Panel which makes recommendations to Northamptonshire County Council, and the Chief Finance Officer be authorised to determine, in consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader, the most appropriate Panel to be appointed.

39. WASTE CONTRACT UPDATE

Further to the presentation given to all Members of the Council on 11 January 2010 on the progress of the project to procure the next waste collection, recycling and cleansing contract, the Committee received a report which outlined subsequent major recent developments and set out the next steps for the project. The Lead Member for Environmental Services and Head of Environmental Services answered the Committee's questions regarding the possible effects of Northamptonshire County Council's procurement of a new waste disposal contract and Members were reassured that the disposal authority would be responsible for ensuring the collection authority was no worse off as a result of changes to waste delivery points.

RESOLVED:

That the specialist external adviser be retained by the Council for the remainder of the procurement process at a cost of £15,000 to be funded from the contingency reserve.

40. PROPOSED ROCKINGHAM MASTERPLAN

Members received the draft protocol for the proposed Rockingham Masterplan and a report which sought Members' agreement to act as the accountable body for funding of a Masterplan for Rockingham Motor Speedway and the surrounding area with representation on the Project Board, and to accept a spend of £80,000 from North Northamptonshire Development Corporation to deliver the Masterplan.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That approval be given for East Northamptonshire Council to act as the accountable body for the project;
- (2) That the transfer of the £80,000 grant from North Northamptonshire Development Corporation (should it be offered) be approved; and
- (3) That a budget of £80,000 be approved for the Rockingham Masterplan work to be funded from the grant and as per the protocol.

Chairman