

FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, 11 OCTOBER 2018

Present: Councillor P D Simpson, Chair

Councillors: S A Bagshaw
T P Brindley (Vice-Chair)
S J Carr
E Cubley
S Easom
R I Jackson
P Lally
G Marshall
P J Owen
M Radulovic MBE
A W G A Stockwell

There were no apologies for absence.

24 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor E Cubley declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 9, as he was member of Greasley Parish Council, minute number 31 refers.

25 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 July 2018 were confirmed and signed.

26 **REFERENCES**

26.1 **Leisure and Environment Committee** 26 September 2018 **Clean and Green**

Members were informed that the creation of a new 'Clean and Green' initiative would complement the 'Pride in Parks' project. 'Clean and Green' would demonstrate the Council's commitment to improving aspects of the Environment for all residents of the Borough.

There was a discussion regarding dumping hotspots, such as on Newmanleys Road, Eastwood.

RESOLVED that revenue and capital funding be provided for these activities in 2018/19 as set out in appendix 4.

26.2 LEISURE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

26 September 2018

Bowling Greens

In January 2017, as part of a review of the Parks revenue budgets, Cabinet took the decision, in line with users' experiences, to remove the automatic irrigation systems at the bowling greens and take out the granular fertiliser application programme. The decision was seen as a 'win win' with a cost saving of £13,800 and faster bowling greens. In summer 2017 the revised programme, with manual watering when necessary and liquid fertiliser, worked and the greens performed well.

In summer 2018, however, with the prolonged hot and dry weather, the manual watering systems were not effective and following advice from Severn Trent to minimise the use of water, the greens became very dry with extensive wear.

RESOLVED that the restoration works be funded from outside existing budgets.

26.3 Leisure and Environment Committee

26 September 2018

Hall Park Eastwood – Access Improvements

A contribution of £7,000 had been received Futures Homescape Ltd in respect of the housing scheme at Great Northern Road, Eastwood. The section 106 agreement stated that this has to be used at Hall Park, Eastwood for works to the footpaths, steps and car park. This work will help improve access around the park in areas where the surfaces have deteriorated over time.

RESOLVED that a further £7,000 be added to the 2018/19 capital programme for access improvement works to Hall Park at Great Northern Road, Eastwood funded from section 106 Parks and Open Spaces contributions.

26.4 Policy and Performance Committee

3 October 2018

Open Water Education Network Trust

Members considered a payment of £3,000 per year being made to Liberty Leisure to enable water safety education in schools to be undertaken in support of the Open Water Network Trust (OWEN Trust) and to note the use of Council resources to provide equipment and other support to the OWEN Trust.

RESOLVED that a contribution of £3,000 be made to Liberty Leisure in 2018/19 for work in support of the OWEN Trust and funded from revenue contingencies.

27 GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET AMENDMENTS 2018/19

Detailed monitoring had identified a number of General Fund 2018/19 revenue budgets that needed to be amended. Most of these budget variations were reported to the Policy and Performance Committee on 3 October 2018. There were also a number of other service priorities that required amendments to the General Fund 2018/19

revenue budget, including provision for the 'Clean and Green' initiative and the restoration works at bowling greens. There were also a number of measures to improve performance in the collation of rents.

The Committee considered the impact of the rollout of Universal Credit on the collection of rents.

RESOLVED that:

- 1. The amendments to the General Fund 2018/19 revenue budget as set out in appendix 1 of the report be approved.**
- 2. An exemption from Section 5.3 of the Council's Financial Regulations (Contracts) to allow the purchase of the Rentsense software from Mobyssoft without the requirement to obtain at least three quotations be approved.**

28 CAPITAL PROGRAMME UPDATE

The Committee noted the capital expenditure incurred in 2018/19 up to 31 August 2018 along with the planned financing of the 2018/19 capital programme and to seek approval for a number of capital budget variations in the current financial year.

There was a discussion about the purchase of land at Redwood Crescent. The sensitive nature of the purchase was discussed along with other confidentiality and legal considerations.

The debate progressed on the 'Clean and Green' initiative and it was noted that adjustments to the budget were routinely made in response to emerging service requirements.

RESOLVED that the capital budget variations for 2018/19 as set out in appendix 3 be approved.

29 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY UPDATE AND BUSINESS STRATEGY 2019/20 TO 2021/22

Members considered an update on issues likely to affect the Council's medium term financial strategy (MTFS), and reports which recommended participation in the Nottinghamshire business rate retention pilot bid for 2019/20 and sought approval for an updated Business Strategy from 2019/20 to 2021/22.

Members considered the New Homes Bonus and concerns about how it had been allocation. It was asked that the housing delivery test would be and it was agreed that a written answer would be provided to the Committee.

Debate moved on to the Revenue Support Grant and the gap between outgoings and income.

RESOLVED that:

- 1. The Council participates in the Nottinghamshire bid to become a business rates retention pilot in 2019/20.**
- 2. The Business Strategy 2019/20 to 2021/22 as set out in appendix 3 of the report be approved.**

30 GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS, CHARITABLE BODIES AND INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED IN SPORTS, THE ARTS AND DISABILITY MATTERS 2018/19

The Committee considered a request for grant aid in accordance with the provisions of the Council's Grant Aid Policy and noted the grants awarded under delegated authority.

RESOLVED that the application be dealt with as follows:

	£
Dig-In Community Allotment	515

31 GRANT AID REQUEST FROM GREASLEY PARISH COUNCIL

The Committee considered a request for grant aid assistance from Greasley Parish Council in accordance with the protocol for the consideration of grant aid to parish and town councils. The grant was to fund the purchase of a life – sized sculpture to commemorate the end of the first world war.

RESOLVED that £625 be granted to Greasley Parish Council for the purchase of a commemorative sculpture.

32 BENNERLEY VIADUCT

The Committee noted the progress on the restoration and opening to the public of the Bennerley Viaduct.

The size of the scheme was discussed and it was considered that the Council's commitment of funds could draw other similar investments.

RESOLVED that a budget of £20,000 be allocation in the 2018/19 capital programme to support the restoration works at Bennerley Viaduct to be funded by £14,450 from ITPS monies and £5,550 from capital contingencies.

33 ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING POINTS

The Committee considered a government and user funded scheme to install electric vehicle charging points in a number of Council owned car parks.

It was noted that all capital and revenue costs were to be borne by the project with no costs or risks transferred to the Council.

RESOLVED that the proposed electric vehicle charge point project in Broxtowe-owned car parks be approved and the completion of the associated legal agreements and details be delegated to the Interim Deputy Chief Executive.

34 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT - REVIEW OF BUSINESS PLAN PROGRESS -
SUPPORT SERVICE AREAS

The Committee noted the progress outcome targets identified in the Business Plans for support services areas, linked to Corporate Plan priorities and objectives.

Consideration was given to tram compensation and the percentage of tenants of industrial units with rent arrears. There was also a discussion about the data that had been collated, whether the Council was benchmarking performance and the manner in which data was presented.

35 MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES - AD HOC COMMITTEE

Consideration was given to the level of allowances payable to the Ad Hoc Committee following the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel.

The Independent Remuneration Panel considered the remits of the two new committees that were formed at the Council meeting held on 1 March 2017. It was recommended that the Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee be paid in line with the Licensing and Appeals Committee (£2,712 p.a.) as this was the closest comparable payment for a Committee Chair with quasi-judicial responsibilities over disciplinary issues. It was further recommended that each Committee member who was not a Chair receive a payment in line with members of the Alcohol and Entertainments Committee (£678 p.a.). These payments were to be triggered when the Committee met. It was suggested that payments be received allowing for the Ad Hoc Committee's work over a 12 month period. Should this be the case, a total of £10,848 would be allocated from the members' allowances budget.

RECOMMENDED to Council that:

1. **the Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee be paid £2,712 per annum**
2. **the members of the Ad Hoc Committee be paid £678 per annum**
3. **these payments be triggered when the Committee met. It was suggested that payments be received allowing for the Ad Hoc Committee's work over a 12 month period.**
4. **a total of £10,848 would be allocated from the members' allowances budget.**

36 BUDGET TIMETABLE AND BUDGET CONSULTATION 2019/20

The Committee considered the budget consultation process for 2019/20 and the proposed timetable and budget scrutiny process with particular regard to the budget consultation questions. It was stated that the questionnaire could be shorter and that the questions should be reviewed.

RESOLVED that the budget-setting process for 2019/20 be approved pending consultation between the Interim Deputy Chief Executive and group leaders regarding the questions on the budget consultation.

37 WORK PROGRAMME

RESOLVED that the Work Programme, as amended, be approved.

38 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED that, under Section 100A of the Local Government Act, 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

39 IRRECOVERABLE ARREARS

RESOLVED that the arrears in excess of £1,200 on national non-domestic rates, council tax, rents, housing/council tax benefit overpayment and sundry debtors as set out in the report be written off and to note the exercise of the Interim Deputy Chief Executive's delegated authority under financial regulation 5.9 be noted.

40 HOUSING SYSTEM UPGRADE - FINANCIAL WAIVER

RESOLVED that a waiver from 5.5 Contract Standing Order to allow the purchase of further project management support for the implementation of the housing system utilising the existing provision be approved.