

FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, 8 OCTOBER 2020

Present: Councillor G Marshall, Chair

Councillors: S A Bagshaw
B C Carr
S J Carr
E Cubley
S Easom
T Hallam (Substitute)
P J Owen
P D Simpson
P Roberts-Thomson
M Radulovic MBE
P Lally
E Kerry

An apology of absence was received from Councillor E Williamson.

18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

19 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 July 2020 were confirmed as a correct record.

20 REFERENCES

20.1 COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

20 September 2020
Public Conveniences

Members considered a reference from the Community Safety Committee in respect of the current provision of Public Conveniences in the Borough and future maintenance needs, improvements and new provision.

RESOLVED that a budget of £140,000 be set aside to allow the installation of a high quality Space to Change plus a unisex toilet facility adjacent to the former Explore Learning Unit in Beeston. Reflecting its location immediately adjacent to the bus/tram interchange it is suggested that this be largely funded via s.106 ITPS and any shortfall via a new General Fund capital allocation. A formal tendering exercise would be required.

20.2 POLICY AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

1 October 2020

Leisure Facilities Strategy

The Committee considered a reference from the Policy and Performance Committee the request for £30,000 to procure external professional financial advice to cover the financial implications and risks associated with the two Bramcote site options for a new leisure centre as part of the Leisure Facilities Strategy.

RESOLVED that the expenditure of £30,000 to complete this work be approved.

20.3 POLICY AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

1 October 2020

Devolution and Local Government Structure Reform

Members considered a reference from the Policy and Performance Committee to approve expenditure to respond to a request from the Secretary of State in respect of proposals put forward for a review of local government structures within Nottinghamshire.

RESOLVED that a supplementary estimate of up to £30,000, if necessary, be established for the commissioning of work required in connection with a review of local government structures in Nottinghamshire.

21 GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET VARIATIONS 2020/21

The Committee was updated on the amendments to the General Fund 2020/21 due to recent government announcements, particularly in response to the Covid-19 pandemic and detailed budget monitoring had identified a number of General Fund 2020/21 revenue budgets and a number of other service priorities that required amendments. Members thanked the Officers in managing the budgets under the circumstances especially in delivering the Business Support Grants.

Discussions took place surrounding the impact on finances Covid-19 had presented including loss of income with planning fees, car parking fees, expectation of commercial rents to fall and additional costs having to be made to support resources to maintain safe and secure practices across the borough. Income from the Government's scheme to compensate local authorities and further schemes to support residents and businesses will hopefully support some of the financial burden.

The Committee expressed concern about the impact Covid-19 on finances and the risks and uncertainties the Borough would be faced with consideration to a further potential lockdown.

It was highlighted to all members of the Committee to share the information from Broxtowe Communications team to help the prevention of Covid-19 spreading within the Borough.

RESOLVED that the amendments to the General Fund 2020/21 revenue budget as set out in appendices 1 and 2 be approved.

22 CAPITAL PROGRAMME UPDATE 2020/21

The Committee was asked to approve a number of capital budget variations in the current financial year. A query was raised in regards to the Transport Feasibility Study –Walker Street, Eastwood to confirm whether the scheme had been carried out and the funding had come from a different budget.

RESOLVED that the capital budget variations for 2020/21 as set out in appendix 3 of the report be approved.

23 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2020/21 TO 2024/25 AND BUSINESS STRATEGY 2021/22 TO 2022/23

Members were updated on the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy and the progress with the delivery of the Business Strategy. Significant issues concerning local government finances were discussed that will have a major impact upon the financial position of both this Council and other local authorities, including the significant financial impact of Covid-19 and how this may affect the General Fund revenue budget, the Housing Revenue Account and the Capital programme.

As it is currently difficult to predict at this stage the impact upon the Council's financial position, members would be provided with further details as the situation becomes clearer.

RESOLVED that the updated Medium Term Financial Strategy as set out in appendix 2 of the report, and the Business Strategy 2021/22 to 2022/23 as set out in appendix 3 of the report, be approved.

24 BUDGET TIMETABLE AND BUDGET CONSULTATION 2021/22

The Committee was advised on the budget consultation process for 2021/22 and the proposed timetable and budget scrutiny process. Updates to the budget consultation were suggested prior to the promotional activity taking place.

RESOLVED that:

- 1. The budget-setting process for 2021/22 be approved.**
- 2. The Budget Consultation questionnaire be approved.**

25 GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS, CHARITABLE BODIES AND INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED IN SPORTS, THE ARTS AND DISABILITY MATTERS 2020/21

The Committee considered the requests for grant aid in accordance with the provisions of the Council's Grant Aid Policy. Members praised the work of the groups particularly under the Covid-19 pandemic.

RESOLVED that the applications be dealt with as follows:

	£
Toton Coronation Hall Community Association	7,000
Eastwood Athletic Football Club	1,800

26 CAPITAL GRANT REQUEST- PHOENIX INHAM FOOTBALL CLUB

Members considered a request for capital grant aid in accordance with the provisions of the Council's grant aid policy. The work of the group was praised with its ideas to become the first free-to-play football club in the Country by building a sustainable infrastructure with a constant flow of funds raised by the club and the community. Opportunities of increasing the ten-year lease to 25 years on the Council owned premises at Inham Nook, Football Association funding and Nottinghamshire County Council funding to support the idea.

RESOLVED that an award of up to a maximum of £9,000, funded from Capital Contingencies, be approved.

27 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REVIEW OF BUSINESS PLAN PROGRESS

The Committee noted a report on the progress against outcome targets identified in the Business Plans for Support Service areas, linked to Corporate Plan priorities and objectives.

28 WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee considered the Work Programme and agreed that a report on Liberty Leisure be added in addition to a request from the Leisure and Health Committee regarding the operation of the grants budget, in order to ensure the excellent work undertaken by voluntary and mutual aid groups during the pandemic is nurtured and encouraged.

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

29 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 involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1,2 and 3 of schedule 12A of the Act.

30 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 Deputy Chief Executive's delegated authority under financial regulation 5.9.

31 ACCELERATED FUNDING REQUEST

RESOLVED that the resolution be agreed as included in the report contained within the confidential item.