

## **FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**THURSDAY, 9 JULY 2020**

Present: Councillor G Marshall, Chair.

Councillors: S J Carr  
E Cubley  
T A Cullen (substitute)  
S Easom  
T Hallam (substitute)  
R I Jackson (ex -officio)  
E Kerry  
P Lally  
P J Owen  
M Radulovic MBE  
P Roberts-Thomson  
P D Simpson  
E Williamson

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors B C Carr and S A Bagshaw.

### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 March 2020 were confirmed as a correct record.

### **REFERENCES**

#### **POLICY AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE**

1 July 2020

#### **Member Devices**

The Committee considered a reference from the Policy and Performance Committee in respect to the provision of ICT devices.

#### **RESOLVED that:**

- 1. The procurement of the appropriate module for the Committee Management System to allow for secure remote access to Section 12 documents goes ahead.**
- 2. Option 1 be adopted with point 4 omitted and an annual review of new technology/licenses to be included.**
- 3. It be recommended to the Finance and Resources Committee to include £45,000 in the 2020/21 capital programme as outlined to be funded by a carry forward of £45,500 from 2019/20.**

## PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REVIEW OF BUSINESS PLAN - SUPPORT SERVICE AREAS - OUTTURN REPORT

The Committee noted a report on the progress against outcome targets identified in the Business Plans for support services areas, linked to Corporate Plan priorities and objectives. It was agreed that data relating to previous financial years should be removed as they related to the previous Corporate Plan. It was confirmed that there would be a review of the information reported. There had been an increase in the amount of people registered to vote. A full written answer would be provided outlining the reasons why.

### GRANT AID 2020/21

Members had previously approved grant aid of £73,750 to Citizens Advice Broxtowe (CAB). The resolution included a commitment to award grant aid at this level in both 2019/20 and 2020/21, subject to a suitable Service Level Agreement being in place. This three-year funding settlement was seen to provide some much-needed stability for Citizens Advice Broxtowe and give it a platform to lever in additional funds from other sources. The Committee praised CAB for the work that it does in the community. It was noted that no financial statements had been circulated as yet and these would be shared once received.

### GRANT AID REQUEST - TRENT VALE COMMUNITY SPORTS ASSOCIATION AND BEESTON FOOTBALL CLUB

On 9 January 2020, the Committee had approved a capital grant award of £10,000 to Trent Vale Community Sports Association (TVCSA), in conjunction with Beeston Football Club (BFC). This was towards the cost of an ambitious scheme to redevelop sports and community facilities at the sports ground on Trent Vale Road, Beeston Rylands. The total cost of the scheme is £571,686, with the Premier League and Football Facilities Fund having pledged £481,656. TVCSA/BFC had to raise the outstanding funds. A late request for further financial support was submitted as a result.

**RESOLVED to approve the capital grant award.**

### GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS, CHARITABLE BODIES AND INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED IN SPORTS, THE ARTS AND DISABILITY MATTERS

The Committee considered the requests for grant aid in accordance with the provisions of the Council's Grant Aid Policy. Members praised the groups for the work that they do, particularly during the Covid-19 pandemic. It was confirmed that the Grant Aid Policy would be reviewed as it currently discounted animal charities. An all-party working group would look at this.

It was queried if The Helpful Bureau needed its full £10,000 bid as it had recently received funding through Nottinghamshire County Council.

The following amendment was proposed by Councillor S J Carr and seconded by Councillor T Hallam:

To match the £5,000 grant received last year instead of the proposed £10,000. Further information would be sought as to why the bid was higher than the previous year. The charity could submit another bid for the outstanding amount when the information was provided. The issue would then be discussed at the next Finance and Resources Committee meeting.

Upon being put to the meeting the amendment was carried.

**RESOLVED to approve the request in appendix 1 of the report subject to the above amendment.**

### SECTION 106 ITPS ALLOCATIONS

The Committee was updated on available s.106 Integrated Transport (ITPS) funds and considered utilising some of these to amend the 2020/21 capital programme with an additional contribution to the Bennerley Viaduct scheme and new schemes associated with the Mushroom Farm development in Eastwood; also to support measures for disabled persons in Beeston. A written answer would be provided detailing the proposed bus stop infrastructure upgrades and footpath improvements.

**RESOLVED that the amendments to the 2020/21 capital programme set out below in section 4 be approved.**

- **To allocate an additional £100,000 to the Bennerley Viaduct proposal.**
- **To allocate £385,000 for upgrades to the existing bus stop infrastructure in the vicinity of the Mushroom Farm development along the A610 corridor. This investment would offer a step-change improvement in the public transport offer in Eastwood, Newthorpe, Giltbrook, Kimberley, Nuthall, Brinsley and Watnall.**
- **£15,000 for improvements to Kimberley Footpath 35**
- **£30,000 for improvements to Strelley Bridleway 4**
- **£20,000 for the introduction of traffic signal controller upgrades at the Sun Inn gyratory**
- **£10,000 for Beeston Shopmobility**
- **£2,000 for wheelchair signage on Broxtowe-owned land near Beeston train station**

### TREASURY MANAGEMENT AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS - ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

Members were updated on treasury management activity and the actual prudential indicators for 2019/20. During 2019/20 the minimum reporting requirements were that an annual treasury management strategy be approved in advance of the year, a mid year report and finally an annual report be produced following the year describing the activity compared to the strategy.

## STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS UPDATE AND OUTTURN POSITION 2019/20

The accounts for 2019/20 had been finalised, subject to audit, and showed an underspend on the General Fund revenue account of £362,388 and an underspending on the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) of £898,758 when compared to the revised estimates. It was hoped that the final, audited 2019/20 accounts would be presented for approval to the Governance, Audit and Standards Committee on 21 September 2020.

Members discussed the various reserves budgets. The reserve budget in respect of Noise Pollution Equipment replacement, was queried as new apps were now available which were admissible in court and would reduce costs. Environmental Health would look at this matter and report back to this Committee. Further information regarding Central support charges (CSCs) to Civic Affairs was requested as was clarification on the transport study. A written answer would be provided.

### **RESOLVED that:**

- 1. The accounts summary for the financial year ended 31 March 2020 subject to audit, be approved.**
- 2. The revenue carry forward requests outlined in section 2 of appendix 1 be approved and included as supplementary revenue estimates in the 2020/21 budget.**
- 3. The capital carry forward requests outlined in appendix 2b be approved and included as supplementary capital estimates in the 2020/21 budget.**

## MUSHROOM FARM - ADDITIONAL INDUSTRIAL UNITS

The Committee was updated of progress on the capital scheme to provide additional industrial units at Mushroom Farm. The LEP have indicated that, based on the projected cost of £270,000, they would be prepared to increase their contribution towards the scheme from £124,000 to £160,000 if the Council's contribution were to increase by £15,000 from £95,000 to £110,000. As previously agreed, the cost of the Council's contribution would be financed by borrowing. The site had been a success with businesses on a waiting list for units.

**RESOLVED that the 2020/21 capital programme be amended such that the budget for additional industrial units at Mushroom Farm be increased from £219,000 to £270,000 with financing as set out in the report.**

## FINANCIAL IMPACT OF COVID 19 (2020/21)

The Committee discussed the latest estimates of the financial impact of Covid-19 on the Council's 2020/21 financial position, and the impact on the Council's medium term financial strategy. Financial estimates were being revised on a monthly basis, to reflect the various advice and guidance being issued by the government. The Government had provided a grant of £1,187,365 to provide support to various community groups and to help offset the significant shortfalls in income to the Council. More money was needed, however as the loss of income was far higher.

Leisure Centre's had lost the most income. Councillors agreed it was good news that they had been given the go ahead by Government to re-open. More clarity on proposals for recovery and funding were requested for the next committee meeting.

## WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee considered the Work Programme and agreed that a Review of the Voluntary and Community Organisations Grants Policy be submitted to a future meeting.

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

## 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.

## BEESTON SHOP MOBILITY

The Committee considered a report on Beeston Shop Mobility.

**RESOLVED** that the principle of a deal be considered in accordance with the report and the negotiation of any final deal be delegated to the Deputy Chief Executive in consultation with the Chair of the Finance and Resources Committee.

## BEESTON SQUARE PHASE 1 - ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20

The Committee noted details of the Beeston Square 2019/20 financial position.

## IRRECOVERABLE ARREARS

Members considered a report on 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.