

MINUTES of a meeting of the CABINET held in the Board Room, Council Offices, Coalville on TUESDAY, 6 MARCH 2018

Present: Councillor R Blunt (Chairman)

Councillors R D Bayliss, T Gillard, T J Pendleton, N J Rushton and A V Smith MBE

In Attendance: Councillors R Adams, J G Coxon, D Everitt, T Eynon, J Legrys and S Sheahan

Officers: Mr J Arnold, Ms T Ashe, Mrs C Hammond, Mr G Jones, Mrs B Smith and Miss E Warhurst

### **113. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

The Chairman advised that Councillor N J Rushton would be late as he was attending a LLEP meeting in Leicester.

### **114. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

There were no interests declared.

### **115. PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION**

There were no questions received.

### **116. MINUTES**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting of the meeting held on 6 February 2018.

It was moved by Councillor R Blunt, seconded by Councillor A V Smith and

RESOLVED THAT:

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 February 2018 be approved by the Chairman as a correct record.

**Reason for decision:** To comply with the Constitution

### **117. TENANT SCRUTINY PANEL REPORT ON COMPLAINTS**

The Housing Portfolio Holder presented the report to members. He highlighted that the report was very detailed and that, as with all the reports of the Tenants Scrutiny Panel, it was all of their own work. He stated that he was pleased with the whole report and drew attention to the first recommendation in relation to reviewing the Corporate Complaints Policy and Compensation Policy to make the assessment of cases clearer.

Councillor T J Pendleton stated that the report before them showed that the Council had listened and taken on board what had been said and that he was pleased to see target dates within the Action Plan that would be met. He commended the work.

It was moved by Councillor R D Bayliss, seconded by Councillor T J Pendleton and

RESOLVED THAT:

The action plan prepared in response to the recommendations from the Tenant Scrutiny Panel's inspection of complaints be approved.

Chairman's initials

**Reason for decision:** The Tenant Scrutiny Panel has concluded their inspection of complaints.

## 118. NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY

The Community Services Portfolio Holder presented the report to members. She highlighted that one of the key actions within the 2018/19 Council Delivery Plan was to work with health partners to develop a health and wellbeing strategy for North West Leicestershire and that the strategy would determine priorities for the delivery of health and wellbeing locally, identifying where and how the various agencies and partners involved could contribute to support it. She stated that it would consider, amongst other things, areas such as physical activity, mental health, substance misuse, smoking, teenage pregnancy, air pollution, breastfeeding initiation, diet and nutrition, road safety, and winter deaths, setting out a long term vision until 2023 which would be supported by a shorter term action plan.

She informed Members that as it was a district wide strategy not just a council one, it was imperative that engagement took place with a wide range of partners to help deliver against the priorities. Internally, it would include engagement with members and service areas including Planning, Environmental Health, Safer and Stronger Communities, Housing, Environmental Protection and Cultural Services. External partners who would be engaged would include:-

- Public Health
- Clinical Commissioning Group
- Leicestershire County Council
- County Sports Partnership
- Sport England
- Local Strategic Partnership
- Parish and Town councils
- NWL Staying Healthy Partnership
- NWL Local Sports Alliance
- Schools
- Voluntary groups

She felt that Cabinet would agree that the health of the residents was of primary importance to give everyone the best opportunity for an improved quality of life and that it was important to remember as well that improving the health of people could also have significant impact upon other socioeconomic benefits such as increasing confidence, reducing social isolation, improving educational attainment and increasing employment prospects, to name a few.

She highlighted that the report set out the methodology by which the strategy would be developed and that it also sought approval for the Council to formally adopt a number of supporting documents which would help to underpin the strategy, something which she urged Members to fully support. These were:-

- North West Leicestershire Playing Pitch Strategy
- North West Leicestershire Sports Facilities Framework Audit
- Leicester-Shire and Rutland Sport and Physical Activity and Sport Strategy
- Sport England Active Design Guidance

The Chairman invited Councillor T Eynon to speak on the item. She put the following question to Councillor A V Smith:

"I welcome this Council's intention to develop a strategy that will "determine the clear vision and associated priorities for the future for facilitation and delivery of health and wellbeing locally".

The principles of this Council's constitution require that Cabinet decisions are clear in their aims and desired outcomes, taking account of professional advice from officers.

This Health and Wellbeing Strategy will be a guiding policy as this Council develops its facilities for the future. The interim outline strategy stage 5 asks the authority to consider its "Priorities; what should they be...and why". It also suggests that partnership-based delivery should be on the agenda for discussion.

It is a matter of some concern that this Council has agreed to go out to tender for an £18M facilities project prior to determining its health and wellbeing priorities. It is disappointing that this Council is only now considering the opportunities for partnership working.

1. How will the Cabinet ensure future plans for the Council's Leisure Centres are made in accordance with the principles of good decision making?
2. If this Health and Wellbeing strategy led officers to consider different delivery models for facilities, what options remain open to this Council?"

Councillor A V Smith gave the following response:

1. "There is a robust procurement process and programme of work in place reflecting best practice particularly from Sport England and a strong project team working hard to ensure that the project is well managed but importantly delivers the council's required outcomes. This includes a thorough assessment of all potential operators, and an extensive dialogue with them to understand how they will deliver against council priorities including the emerging NWL Health and Wellbeing Strategy. The Services Specification specifically states that the strategy is currently being developed, but it is clear that this will be a key document to drive forward the council's priority to help improve community wellbeing and reduce health inequalities. We have a member workshop on 3 April where members will be able to help shape the community, social and health outcomes of the new leisure centre management arrangements.
2. The emerging Health and Wellbeing Strategy isn't a tool to review the delivery models that the council has in place to deliver its services. It will consider the delivery models already in place with a view to identifying the most effective way to work with internal and external partners to ensure that priorities are clearly identified and that there are mechanisms in place to be able to deliver against these not only by the council but a range of partners across the district."

Councillor T Eynon thanked Councillor A V Smith for the response and stated that she fully supported the strategy. She acknowledged that the leisure centre was a small part of it but a notable one. She stated that the landscape had changed since the model had been considered and therefore felt that an £18m decision was going to be made before the strategy, that would inform it, was allowed to bed in. She felt that there should be a pause on the procurement so that the strategy was in place.

Councillor A V Smith stated that building a new centre was a huge commitment. She advised that the Council was currently out for procurement and once the main terms had been discussed talks could take place about what facilities the authority wanted to include, by which time the strategy would be well in hand and then run parallel to the leisure centre project. She reiterated that the strategy was not just about the leisure centre but the

district as a whole and highlighted that there would be a meeting on the 3 April for all members to allow their input as to what they would like to see included in the new centre.

Councillor R Blunt stated that Councillor T Eynon was right to raise the timing issue however highlighted that the two would run together and that there would be a very high risk to the leisure centre project if it was delayed. He informed Members that the operators that had shown an interest were experienced and of high quality.

It was moved by Councillor A V Smith, seconded by Councillor R Blunt and

RESOLVED THAT:

1. The process and timelines to develop a NWL Health and Wellbeing Strategy be noted.
2. The formal adoption of the following documents in order to support the development of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy be approved
  - NWL Playing Pitch Strategy 2017-31
  - NWL Facilities Framework Audit 2017-21
  - LRS Physical Activity & Sport Strategy 2017-21
  - Sport England Active Design Guidance 2015

**Reason for decision:** To approve corporate adoption of the NWL Playing Pitch Strategy, the NWL Facilities Framework Audit, the Leicester-Shire and Rutland Sport 'Physical Activity and Sport Strategy 2017-21', and the Sport England Active Design guidance as key documents that will underpin the development of a Health and Wellbeing Strategy

## 119. COALVILLE FRONTAGES - LOCAL DEVELOPMENT ORDER

The Business Portfolio Holder presented the report to members. He reminded Members that the local development order was first adopted in July 2015 and extended in July 2016, and to date £350,000 of funded had been granted to 16 properties. He ask Cabinet to endorse the renewal for a further 18 months.

Councillor R Blunt was happy to support the recommendations as it ensured the continued regeneration of Coalville.

It was moved by Councillor T Gillard, seconded by Councillor R Blunt and

RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Coalville Conservation Area Local Development Order, at appendix 1, for a 28 day period of public consultation be endorsed.
2. The Portfolio Holder (Regeneration and Planning) be delegated to consider any responses to consultation.
3. The Portfolio Holder (Regeneration and Planning) be delegated to adopt the Coalville Conservation Area Local Development Order for a period of 18 months from 1 June 2018.

**Reason for decision:** Policy approval needed for renewal of the Coalville Conservation Area Local Development Order and The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 provides for the local planning authority to formally adopt the Coalville Conservation Area Local Development Order.

## 120. 2017/18 QUARTER 3 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT

The Leader presented the report to members and highlighted the following:-

- The in-house repairs team were on track to carry out £1m more work this year compared to last year. Over the next 5 years it was planned to undertake the majority of the Decent Homes works in-house - up to almost £20m worth of work over the next 5 years.
- The Coalville Job Centre Plus went "full service" from 7 February 2018 for the implementation of universal credit. This represented a significant change for residents and that the Council had worked collaboratively with agencies to support those affected.
- In Coalville; the principles of the Marlborough Square development were agreed in January; the Christmas in Coalville event was a success, with 16 shops decorating their windows and the Enterprising Town Centres Grant Scheme continued to be popular - 25 expressions of interest, 12 applications and 2 approved in Quarter 3.
- The practical support to businesses continued where the Business Focus team had supported the Coalville jobs fair, retail workshops, a disability confident workshop and business funding workshop.
- Both the general fund and HRA were being well managed.
- The forecast surplus outturn was £1.863m compared to £934k.
- Additional income was forecast from recycling (£122k), building control (£35k) and Council Tax / NNDR summons income (£34k). This would offset some additional costs on ICT equipment (£124k), the leisure centre deficit (£159k) and less income from planning fees of £300k.
- 2.42 days per Full Time Equivalent (employee) were lost in Quarter 3 due to sickness, which was comparable with the same quarter the previous year which was 2.21 days. It was unlikely that the Council target of 8.5 days / FTE would be met as there had been an increase in cold / flu absences since Christmas.
- Managers and the HR team continued to work closely to manage sickness absences.

The Chairman invited colleagues to highlight the performance in their portfolios.

Councillor T Gillard stated that he was pleased to advise that the Council had secured £9,000 in funding to provide digital training workshops to local businesses.

Councillor N J Rushton advised that the General Fund Forecast outturn of £1.863m compared to budget of £934k was as a result of a £1.2m increase in business rate income due to the reduction of appeals provision and release of funds back into retention system, £122k additional recycling income, £32k additional council tax/NNDR summons income which would be offset by a forecast decrease of £300k in planning fee income; additional expenditure on ICT of £124k and an increase in net deficit on leisure centres of £159k. He stated that the outturn surplus would be paid into the Self-Sufficiency reserve, forecast to take reserve to £2.76m and that the Special Expenses was on target. He highlighted that the HRA forecast surplus was £338k compared to budget of £142k which was largely as a result of increase in rental income due to improved empty homes performance and that the Capital Forecast outturn was an £18k underspend against the original budget of £9.926m.

Chairman's initials

Councillor A V Smith advised that the leisure centre deficit was due to a fall in membership as Hermitage classes were at capacity and Hood Park experienced competition from other health facilities in the town. She stated that until the new leisure centre was up and running she could not see any improvement being made.

Councillor T J Pendleton highlighted that planning had achieved a 100% on determining major planning applications within 13 weeks.

Councillor R D Bayliss stated that the repairs satisfaction level was slightly below target but compared to the outcome of the STAR survey report that had previously been considered at PDG. He advised that the satisfaction levels in the Cabinet report was based on current service feedback not historical. He highlighted that the average re-let times were on target.

Councillor T Gillard congratulated the housing repairs team as he had received positive feedback from residents in relation to work that had been carried out.

Councillor R Blunt thanked Cabinet members for their updates and stated that the report was very positive.

It was moved by Councillor R Blunt, seconded by Councillor T Gillard and

RESOLVED THAT:

The Quarter 3 Performance Report (Oct –Dec 2017) be received and noted.

**Reason for decision:** The report is provided for members to effectively monitor the organisation's performance.

**121. FORMER TENANT RENT ARREARS, CURRENT TENANT RENT ARREARS, COUNCIL TAX, NON DOMESTIC RATES AND SUNDRY DEBTOR WRITE OFFS**

The Corporate Portfolio Holder presented the report to members. He advised that the report asked Cabinet to note the delegated write offs and approve three debts over £10,000. He informed Members that two NNDR debts amounting to £38k, which both cases were where the company/individual had become insolvent and one sundry debtor case for £18k where the company was in liquidation with no assets. He stated that writing off debts was only considered where all appropriate recovery and enforcement measures had been taken, or where the council were legally prohibited from pursuing the debt.

It was moved by Councillor N J Rushton, seconded by Councillor A V Smith and

RESOLVED THAT:

The Non Domestic Rates and Sundry Debt Write Offs that are over £10,000 be approved and the amounts written off under delegated powers be noted.

**Reason for decision:** To comply with proper accounting practices.

Councillor N J Rushton entered the meeting at 5.10pm.

The meeting commenced at 5.00 pm

The Chairman closed the meeting at 5.28 pm