

Meeting **POLICY COMMITTEE**

Date **Wednesday 18 March 2020 (commencing at 10.30 am)**

membership

Persons absent are marked with 'A'

COUNCILLORS

Mrs Kay Cutts MBE (Chairman)

Reg Adair (Vice-Chairman)

Chris Barnfather **A**
Joyce Bosnjak
Richard Butler
John Cottee
Samantha Deakin
Kate Foale
Stephen Garner
Glynn Gilfoyle **A**
Tony Harper

Richard Jackson **A**
Bruce Laughton **A**
Philip Owen **A**
John Peck JP **A**
Mike Pringle
Alan Rhodes
Muriel Weisz **A**
Jason Zadrozny

SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

Roger Jackson for Chris Barnfather
Diana Meale for Glynn Gilfoyle
Gordon Wheeler for Richard Jackson
Phil Rostance for Bruce Laughton
Tracey Taylor for Philip Owen
Nicki Brooks for John Peck
Jim Creamer for Muriel Weisz

OTHER COUNTY COUNCILLORS IN ATTENDANCE

Neil Clarke
Tom Hollis
Helen-Anne Smith

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Anthony May Chief Executives Department
Keith Ford
James Silverward
Nigel Stevenson
Marjorie Toward

Melanie Brooks
Ainsley Macdonnell
Louise Lester

Adult Social Care and Health Department

Colin Pettigrew

Children and Families Department

Adrian Smith
Derek Higon

Place Department

1 MINUTES

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 12 February 2020, having been previously circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The following apologies for absence were reported:-

Chris Barnfather – medical / illness
Glynn Gilfoyle – medical / illness
Richard Jackson – medical / illness
Bruce Laughton – other reasons
Philip Owen – medical / illness
John Peck – medical / illness
Muriel Weisz – medical / illness

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS.

None

4 URGENT ITEM – CORONAVIRUS: SHORT TERM REFOCUSING OF COUNCIL ACTIVITY

The Chair of the meeting was of the opinion that this item, although not included on the agenda, should be considered as a matter of urgency in accordance with Section 100(b)(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972, in view of the special circumstances of the need for an urgent response to this pandemic crisis, following the most recent guidance from Government.

During discussions, Members asked for their gratitude to front line staff to be formally communicated.

RESOLVED: 2020/031

- 1) That the proposed revised service arrangements, set out in paragraph 6 of the committee report, be endorsed.

- 2) That a £1million revenue fund be established to support communities to respond to the impact of Coronavirus and authority be delegated to the Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer for the fund's oversight and management.

5 UPDATE ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY AND ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY

RESOLVED: 2020/032

- 1) That the proposed Corporate Environmental Policy be approved.
- 2) That the key aspirations of the Corporate Environment Strategy, outlined in Appendix B to the committee report, be approved with the final, detailed strategy (including action plan, delivery and resource costs) presented to a future meeting.

6 EMPLOYMENT AND HEALTH STRATEGY

RESOLVED: 2020/033

- 1) That the Employment and Health Strategy 2020-30 be approved.
- 2) That the following staffing resources required to generate and monitor more cross-Council inclusive employment opportunities be established:-
 - 1 full-time equivalent Employment Opportunities Manager
 - 1 full-time equivalent Co-ordinator
- 3) That a contingency request be made from Finance and Major Contracts Management Committee to fund these staffing resources, as detailed in paragraph 16 of the committee report.
- 4) That the Implementation Plan to set out how the Strategy will be delivered be reported to the Improvement and Change Sub-Committee.

7 INCREASING RESIDENTIAL CAPACITY FOR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

RESOLVED: 2020/034

- 1) That the terms of the previous approval given by Policy Committee on 17 July 2019 be amended to enable the establishment of two 2-bed homes, rather than a single 4-bed home.
- 2) That a further two pairs of 2-bed homes be established on the basis that continued expansion of the Council's internal estate be confirmed via a report to Finance and Major Contracts Management Committee in order to approve the allocation of funds for these.

- 3) That authorisation for the purchase of the homes be delegated to the Corporate Director for Place, in consultation with the Corporate Director for Children and Families, the Section 151 Officer and the Chairman of Policy Committee.
- 4) That the purchase of suitable property into which to relocate the Oakhurst Children's Home and the subsequent sale of the current property be approved.
- 5) That the Children and Young People's capital programme be varied by £720,000, funded from borrowing, to reflect the additional £210,000 required to purchase and make operational the two 2-bed residential homes and £510,000 required to fund the purchase and refurbishment of the Oakhurst replacement provision.

8 CAREERS PROVISION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN READINESS FOR ENTERING THE WORLD OF WORK

RESOLVED: 2020/035

- 1) That a revenue contribution of £72,803 (split over the financial years specified under paragraph 16 of the committee report) be approved to extend the two Nottinghamshire Enterprise Co-ordinator posts until August 2021.
- 2) That a sustainable plan for supporting the Enterprise Advisor Network from September 2021 onwards be developed and submitted to a future meeting for approval.

9 PROPOSAL FOR A NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ECONOMIC GROWTH STRATEGY

RESOLVED: 2020/036

That up to £15,000 be allocated from the 2020-21 Growth and Economic Development Initiative Budget to develop a Growth Strategy, to be submitted to a future meeting for approval.

10 DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

RESOLVED: 2020/037

- 1) That £4,975,948 of Government funding towards the 5G Connected Forest Project be accepted.
- 2) That two fixed-term digital connectivity posts be established until June 2022, to support the contract management and promotion of the Better Broadband for Nottinghamshire project rollout.
- 3) That a permanent Digital Connectivity Manager post be established to oversee the management of the Better Broadband for Nottinghamshire project and the 5G Connected Forest Project, to develop digital projects and to generate a pipeline of digital connectivity and smart infrastructure schemes and bids to expand digital coverage (fixed and mobile) across the County.

- 4) That the existing Broadband Project Manager and Broadband Engagement Officer posts be extended until 31 July 2020, to cover the period that the digital connectivity posts are established.

11 HIGH SPEED 2 GROWTH – DELIVERY PHASE

RESOLVED: 2020/038

- 1) That the current investment in the HS2 Delivery Team be continued at the same level in 2020-21.
- 2) That dialogue with Government and key delivery partners be maintained to further scope the evolutionary steps to establishing a delivery body.

12 FLAG FLYING PROTOCOL

Further to Members' discussions, it was agreed that the proposed Protocol be amended to remove the word 'previously' from the opening sentence of paragraph 5, to further clarify that the Council's commitment to fly the flags included in that paragraph was ongoing.

RESOLVED: 2020/039

That the Flag Flying Protocol, as amended by the Committee, be approved.

13 TRANSFER OF COUNTY ENTERPRISE FOODS FROM THE ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT TO THE PLACE DEPARTMENT

RESOLVED: 2020/040

That County Enterprise foods be transferred from the Adult Social Care and Health Department to the Catering and Facilities Management team within the Place Department.

14 ATTENDANCE AT LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION 2020

RESOLVED: 2020/041

That the attendance of the Leader, Deputy Leader, a member of the main Opposition Group and the Chief Executive at the Local Government Association Annual Conference and Exhibition be approved.

15 LINDHURST SITE DEVELOPMENT UPDATE: SITE DISPOSALS

RESOLVED: 2020/042

- 1) That the disposal of Phase Two (Residential) land in accordance with the Lindhurst Developers Collaboration Agreement to the preferred bidder on the terms outlined in the exempt appendix to the committee report be approved.
- 2) That authority be delegated to the Corporate Director - Place, in consultation with the Group Manager – Legal, Democratic and Complaints, the Service Director – Infrastructure and Improvement and the Chairman (or Vice-Chairman) of Policy Committee to negotiate and finalise detailed terms of the sale contracts, as set out in the exempt appendix in the committee report.

16 URGENT ITEM – DISPOSAL OF LAND AT DENEWOOD CRESCENT, BILBOROUGH

The Chair of the meeting was of the opinion that this item, although not included on the agenda, should be considered as a matter of urgency in accordance with Section 100(b)(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972, in view of the special circumstances that the issue had only arisen since the meeting agenda had been published and a decision was required before 27 March 2020.

RESOLVED: 2020/043

That approval be given to sell the site to the preferred bidder at the revised sale price outlined in the exempt appendix to the committee report.

17 WORK PROGRAMME

RESOLVED: 2020/044

That no specific amendments to the work programme were required at this point.

18 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED: 2020/045

That the public be excluded for the remainder of the meeting on the grounds that the discussions were likely to involve disclosure of exempt information described in Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

19 LINDHURST SITE DEVELOPMENT UPDATE: SITE DISPOSALS – EXEMPT APPENDIX

RESOLVED: 2020/046

That the information set out in the exempt appendix be noted.

**20 URGENT ITEM – DISPOSAL OF LAND AT DENEWOOD CRESCENT,
BILBOROUGH – EXEMPT INFORMATION**

The Chair of the meeting was of the opinion that this item, although not included on the agenda, should be considered as a matter of urgency in accordance with Section 100(b)(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972, in view of the special circumstances that the issue had only arisen since the meeting agenda had been published and a decision was required before 27 March 2020.

RESOLVED: 2020/047

That the contents of the exempt appendix be noted.

The meeting closed at 12.48 pm.

CHAIRMAN