

WEST LINDSEY DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee held in the Council Chamber - The Guildhall, Marshall's Yard, Gainsborough, DN21 2NA on 21 September 2017 commencing at 6.30 pm.

Present: Councillor Jeff Summers (Chairman)
Councillor Owen Bierley (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Matthew Boles
Councillor Michael Devine
Councillor Steve England
Councillor Ian Fleetwood
Councillor Paul Howitt-Cowan
Councillor Giles McNeill
Councillor John McNeill
Councillor Mrs Lesley Rollings
Councillor Lewis Strange
Councillor Trevor Young

In Attendance:
Eve Fawcett-Moralee Director Economic & Commercial Growth
Ian Knowles Director of Resources and S151 Officer
Alan Robinson SL - Democratic and Business Support
Rachel Parkin Senior Home Choices Officer
Katie Coughlan Senior Democratic & Civic Officer
Ele Durrant Democratic and Civic Officer
James Welbourn Democratic and Civic Officer

Apologies: Councillor Mrs Sheila Bibb
Councillor David Cotton
Councillor Stuart Kinch
Councillor Tom Regis

Membership: Councillor Giles McNeill substituted for Councillor Mrs Sheila Bibb;
Councillor Lesley Rollings substituted for Councillor David Cotton;
Councillor Paul Howitt-Cowan substituted for Councillor Stuart Kinch;
Councillor Lewis Strange substituted for Councillor Tom Regis.

38 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PERIOD

There was no public participation.

39 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 July 2017 were approved as a correct record.

40 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

41 MATTERS ARISING SCHEDULE

Members gave consideration to the Matters Arising Schedule which set out the current position of all previously agreed actions as at 21 September 2017.

RESOLVED that progress on the Matters Arising Schedule, as set out in the report be received and noted.

42 CARBON EFFICIENCY PROJECT

Consideration was given to a report that updated Members with regard to progress on carbon efficiency projects.

West Lindsey District Council (WLDC) are to look at a range of schemes with the aim of minimising their carbon footprint. These schemes should also have the benefit of cost savings, and the financial savings should lead to the schemes being able to pay for themselves.

Officers informed Members that WLDC are responsible for about 1000 lamps, predominantly around pathways and alleyways, and pay for the energy.

RESOLVED that the Capital Budget for this programme be increased to £270,000 with funding from the £127,000 Carbon Reduction Earmarked Reserve already created and the balance of £143,000 to be sourced from prudential borrowing.

43 COMMERCIAL OPPORTUNITY - BATTERY STORAGE

Consideration was given to a report highlighting the opportunities and risks around the battery storage of electricity.

The Director of Resources informed Members that further information on the detail of the project would be provided in a future paper.

RESOLVED that members agree to officers continuing to work on Option 3 detailed in paragraph 3.2 of this report taking into account all procurement and planning considerations, and agree to receive a further report in order to confirm the level of investment required, and how this will be sourced at the appropriate time.

44 PURCHASE OF A REPLACEMENT CIVIC VEHICLE

Consideration was given to the request to agree to release up to £30,000 from the Capital Earmarked Reserves for a replacement Civic vehicle.

Members debated the options around the civic vehicle, and the following points were raised:

- The costs of maintaining the current car are not ridiculous, but it is time to look at a replacement vehicle;
- There are other alternatives to purchasing a replacement car, such as hiring, getting a sponsored civic car, or using car finance;
- The Civic function is very important to West Lindsey;
- A figure of £51,000 was originally allocated for the car – this could be looked at as a saving of £21,000;
- Not all of the £30,000 needs to be spent; there are viable options available below this amount;
- With the announcement of fees and charges for diesel vehicles, options such as hybrids, fully electric and petrol cars will be looked at;
- A British made car may be favoured.

RESOLVED to approve the capital expenditure of up to £30,000 funded from the Civic Earmarked Reserve for the purchase of a replacement Civic vehicle and that delegated authority be granted to the Monitoring Officer to negotiate and purchase such a vehicle.

Note: Councillors Young, Rollings and Boles requested that their votes against the above recommendation be recorded.

45 GAINSBOROUGH TOWN CENTRE TOWNSCAPE HERITAGE APPLICATION

Consideration was given to a report providing an update on the application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for Townscape Heritage funding for Gainsborough Town Centre.

Members supported the paper, and congratulated officers on getting it to the current stage.

RESOLVED to:

1. proceed with the submission of a Stage 1 Townscape Heritage bid;
2. approve the use of the Investment for Growth Reserve as capital match funding within the application;
3. approve a revised budget within the Capital Programme as detailed within the financial implications.

46 HOUSING INFRASTRUCTURE FUND (HIF) - PROPOSED FUNDING BID

Consideration was given to a report outlining the submission of a funding bid to the Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) to support the delivery of housing in Gainsborough as part of the growth programme.

There was one eligible end project – the infrastructure to open up the southern

neighbourhood. The content of the bid would be agreed by the S151 Officer.

RESOLVED to:

1. To approve the proposal to submit a funding bid to the Housing Infrastructure Fund to support the delivery of housing as part of the growth programme in Gainsborough;
2. To delegate the sign-off of the final funding bid to the S151 Officer, as required by the funding process.

47 COMMITTEE WORK PLAN

Members gave consideration to the Committee Work Plan.

RESOLVED that the Work Plan as set out in the report, be received and noted.

48 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED that under Section 100 (A)(4) 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 paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

49 GAINSBOROUGH MARINA - BLUE AND GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE BID

Members considered a report on Gainsborough Marina - Blue and Green Infrastructure Bid.

RESOLVED to agree the recommendations as written in the report.

50 REPLACEMENT HOUSING REGISTER (CBL) AND HOMELESSNESS IT SYSTEM

Members considered a report on a Replacement Housing Register (CBL) and Homelessness IT system.

RESOLVED to agree the recommendation as written in the report.

51 UNLOCKING HOUSING UPDATE

Members considered an update report on Unlocking Housing.

RESOLVED to agree the recommendations as written in the report.

The meeting concluded at 7.53 pm.

Chairman