

EXECUTIVE

Minutes of a meeting of the Executive held in the Chamber Suites, The Arc, Clowne, on Tuesday, 14 January 2014 at 1000 hours.

PRESENT:-

Councillor E Watts in the Chair

Members:-

Councillor R Bowler, D Kelly, B R Murray-Carr, K Reid and A Tomlinson

Also Present:-

T Witts (Groundwork Creswell, Ashfield and Mansfield)

Officers:-

W Lumley (Chief Executive Officer), B Mason (Director of Corporate Resources), P Hackett (Director of Health and Well Being), P Campbell (Head of Housing), S Brunt, (Streetscene Manager), M Kane (Governance Manager), J Fieldsend (Senior Principal Solicitor) and T Garrod (Projects Officer – Tourism).

0716. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor A Syrett.

0717. URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

There were no urgent items of business considered at the meeting.

0718. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor A F Tomlinson declared a significant other interest in item six on the agenda, Grants for Voluntary Organisations Programme – Groundwork Creswell, Ashfield and Mansfield, arising from his membership of the Groundwork Creswell, Ashfield and Mansfield Board. Councillor Tomlinson would remain in the meeting room for the presentation to Members but would leave prior to the debate and vote.

0719. MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE HELD ON 9 DECEMBER 2013

Moved by Councillor B R Murray-Carr and seconded by Councillor E Watts.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of Executive held on 9 December 2013 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

EXECUTIVE

0720. RECOMMENDED ITEMS FROM OTHER STANDING COMMITTEES

Improvement Scrutiny Committee – 21 October 2013 – Minute No 949 – Choice Based Lettings (CBL) – Update and Information relating to properties to let in the areas of Clowne, Creswell and South Normanton.

Executive considered a recommendation from the Improvement Scrutiny Committee on 21 October 2013 in connection with their scrutiny review of Choice Based Lettings.

A review into Choice Based Lettings was undertaken by the Improvement Scrutiny Committee in November 2012. Amongst the recommendations was that a Community Rural Lettings Plan be considered and, if appropriate, developed to assist those applicants who were already living in a parish and wanted to be housed in a property in that same parish within Bolsover District.

Work on this recommendation had been undertaken by the Committee and although they noted that evidence suggested no real need for a rural lettings policy they asked that allocation to some groups of local people and other issues be investigated by the Housing Working Group when they undertook work into the Council's Allocations Policy.

Moved by Councillor K Reid and seconded by Councillor E Watts.

RESOLVED that Executive notes that evidence shows no real need for a rural lettings policy but allocation to some groups of local people and other issues needed to be considered through the proposed Housing Working Group, which would look at the Allocations Policy.

(Head of Housing/Governance Officer)

0721. GRANTS FOR VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS PROGRAMME – GROUNDWORK CRESWELL, ASHFIELD AND MANSFIELD

Executive considered a report and presentation on the work being undertaken by Groundwork Creswell, Ashfield and Mansfield and sought agreement to allocate a Council grant of some £13,600 subject to satisfactory progress being made against key performance indicators. Trevor Wits, from Groundwork Creswell, Ashfield and Mansfield, attended the meeting to give the presentation and answer any members' questions.

The presentation focused on the key educational, environmental and construction projects Groundwork had completed throughout the year. In addition, the programme had resulted in 28 new jobs and 200 people gaining additional qualifications. At the end of the presentation Executive were asked what further work Groundwork could do for Bolsover.

The following ideas were proposed:-

- Solid wall insulation;
- Dealing with vandalism on Brooke Park;

EXECUTIVE

- Assistance with facilitating house building;
- Addressing issues relating to empty properties with a particular focus on the Council's Growth Agenda.

Following the presentation and prior to the debate, Councillor A F Tomlinson withdrew from the meeting room having declared a significant other interest.

Moved by Councillor D Kelly and duly seconded

RESOLVED that:-

- (1) The report and presentation from Groundwork Creswell, Ashfield and Mansfield be received.
- (2) Executive agree to the grant for 2013/14 of £13,600 being released.

REASON FOR DECISION:

Delivery of the Programme has contributed to the priorities and aims of the Sustainable Community Strategy and Corporate Plan.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED:

None.

(Chief Executive)

0722. BOLSOVER TOWN ERDF PUBLIC REALM AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT AND THE MARKETING AND PROMOTION TENDER

Executive considered a report of the Projects Officer - Tourism which sought commitment to the delivery of the Bolsover Town ERDF Public Realm and Infrastructure Project and award a tender to deliver the Bolsover Town Marketing and Promotion Tender as part of that initiative.

Executive was advised that the Council had bid for funding in December 2013 for a total project value of £749,732 split between £423,820 on capital infrastructure works and £325,912 on revenue (to include a marketing and events programme). This money accounted for 62.72% of the total project cost with the rest being committed by the District Council, Section 106 monies and Old Bolsover Town Council.

The public realm improvements would focus on public realm and infrastructure improvements around the Cenotaph area and Castle Street and would aim to improve the link between the Castle and the rest of the town. The project would aim to create five new businesses and attract £279,500 in public or private sector investment.

One element of the project was the delivery of a robust marketing and promotions campaign which would aim to change the image and perception of the town, showcase the town and project nationally and communicate the stages of development with stakeholders.

EXECUTIVE

The tender for the marketing and promotion aspect of the project saw six companies bid with the weighting set at 40% Price and 60% Quality. The panel recommended Ruby Slippers as the winning submission for providing a clear and concise tender that showed a passion for delivering the project.

Moved by Councillor A Tomlinson and seconded by Councillor E Watts.

RESOLVED that:-

- (1) The Council's commitment to the delivery to the ERDF Project be noted.
- (2) Ruby Slippers be awarded the tender to deliver the Bolsover Town Marketing and Promotion Tender as part of the Bolsover Economic Infrastructure ERDF Project.

REASON FOR DECISION:

To advise Executive of the Bolsover Town ERDF Public Realm and Infrastructure Project and to award the Marketing and Promotion Tender.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED:

Details of the alternative tenderers were provided in the report.

(Projects Officer - Tourism)

0723. PARTNERSHIP PROPOSALS FOR COMMISSIONING

Executive considered a report of the Partnership Consultant and Programme Manager which sought to allocate up to £100,000 to support a number of partnership initiatives.

A review of the Sustainable Community Strategy had been undertaken in April 2013 which resulted in the Derbyshire Partnership identifying a series of future priorities for action. These included:-

- A Bolsover traineeship and apprenticeship programme;
- Volunteering in Bolsover District;
- A financial inclusion pilot project;
- An evaluation of the outcomes for the voluntary and community sector;
- Disability issues.

Funding in the region of £100,000 was required to secure the implementation of these initiatives which, if approved, by Executive had the potential to lever in an estimated £250,460 in additional resources.

The proposals were as follows:-

EXECUTIVE

Activity	Target Communities	Total Cost	Funding Required	Match Funding	Contribution to Corporate Plan Aims
Apprenticeships (3 year project)	District wide	£256,860	£45,000	Residual WNF £211,860	CP: Promote the development of skills and learning SCS: Support activity that will create opportunities for individuals to gain employment
Volunteering (18 months delivery)	District wide	£27,000	£15,000	Residual WNF £4,500 Limestone Journeys £7,500 Volunteer time as leverage – each voluntary hour represents £7.35. Estimate 1,000 voluntary hours over 18 months = £7,350	CP: Promote the development of skills and learning SCS: Support activity that will create opportunities for individuals to gain employment
Financial Inclusion (12 month pilot)	Clowne and South Normanton	£13,650	£8,650	£5,000 partnership funding for health priorities Estimate 1,008 voluntary hours over 42 weeks = £7,408	CP: Reduce poverty CP: Contribute to improving the health of the district SCS: Enhance access to transport, infrastructure, accommodation and finance for residents and businesses
CVP Evaluation of Outcomes (one-off piece of work)	District wide	£8,000	£8,000		CP: Provide services that are fair, equitable and open SCS: Build healthy communities
Disability (2 year project)	District wide	£43,200	£21,600	£21,600 match funding for second year delivery will be sought from CCG/partnership funding if priorities are co-terminus	CP: Contribute to improving the health of the district SCS: Build healthy communities
		£348,710	£98,250	£250,460	

EXECUTIVE

Moved by Councillor K Reid and seconded by Councillor B R Murray-Carr.

RESOLVED that:-

- (1) The report be received.
- (2) Up to £100,000 be approved in principle to support the initiatives detailed above.
- (3) The Chief Executive, following consultation with the Leader of the Council, be granted delegated powers to agree final activity and resulting spend.

REASON FOR DECISION: Council underspend should be tailored to meet the needs of local communities and respond to the priorities of the Sustainable Community Strategy and Corporate Plan.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED: None.
(Partnership Consultant and Programme Manager)

0724. HOUSING DEPARTMENT – QUARTERLY UPDATE

Executive considered a report of the Head of Housing which gave quantitative and qualitative data on the progress of the housing service during the second quarter of 2013/14.

The update contained information regarding the Council's position in respect of rent arrears, allocations, repairs, gas servicing, stock condition, capital work, rent setting, central control/monitoring and mutual exchange software. Executive was advised that a new online system would allow mutual exchanges electronically and this system was being used.

Moved by Councillor K Reid and seconded by Councillor E Watts

RESOLVED that the report detailing the Housing Department's quarterly update for the second quarter of 2013/14 be noted.

REASON FOR DECISION: To provide Members with an update on performance within the Housing Service.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED: None.
(Head of Housing)

0725. ARREARS – IRRECOVERABLE ITEMS OVER £1,000

Executive considered a report of the Billing and Recovery Manager which requested the write-off of irrecoverable items, including costs amounting to some £4,931.63 as itemised in the report.

EXECUTIVE

Members were advised that where debtors left properties without forwarding addresses extensive efforts were made to trace them. In addition to departmental checks, statutory undertakers and other agencies were contacted and enquiries were made of neighbours and family or employers where known. Where it was known that a person had moved to another area contact was made with the relevant local authority to alert them and request reciprocal information.

Moved by Councillor R Bowler and seconded by Councillor E Watts.

RESOLVED that the write-off of irrecoverable items including costs amounting to £4,931.63 be approved, with the proviso that should any of the debts become collectable the amounts be re-debited.

REASON FOR DECISION: In order that outstanding debts can be written off.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED: None.
(Director of Corporate Resources)

0726. THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Moved by Councillor A. Tomlinson and seconded by Councillor D. Kelly

RESOLVED that under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), the public 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 the stated Paragraph 1, 3 and 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act and it is not in the public interest for that to be revealed.

0727. EXEMPT – PARAGRAPH 1 ARREARS – IRRECOVERABLE ITEMS OVER £1,000

Executive considered a report of the Billing and Recovery Manager which requested the write-off of irrecoverable items, including costs amounting to some £1,051.83 as itemised in the report.

Members were advised that where debtors left properties without forwarding addresses extensive efforts were made to trace them. In addition to departmental checks, statutory undertakers and other agencies were contacted and enquiries were made of neighbours and family or employers where known. Where it was known that a person had moved to another area contact was made with the relevant local authority to alert them and request reciprocal information.

Moved by Councillor R Bowler and seconded by Councillor E Watts

RESOLVED that the write-off of irrecoverable items including costs amounting to £1,051.83 be approved, with the proviso that should any of the debts become collectable the amounts be re-debited.

EXECUTIVE

REASON FOR DECISION: In order that outstanding debts can be written off.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED: None.
(Director of Corporate Resources)

0728. EXEMPT – PARAGRAPH 3 PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEM OF THE ARC

Executive considered a report of the Director of Health and Wellbeing which sought approval for a 50kWh photovoltaic system to be installed at the Council's headquarters.

Such a system would be installed on the roof of The Arc and generate electricity for use at the building, protecting the authority from future rises in energy costs and generating income from the national feed-in tariff.

A desktop study of The Arc had been undertaken with an installer who had recommended the type of system that could be installed and provided a quote for the work. The recommendation was that a 50kWh system was the most appropriate for the building.

The system would generate an income of around £184,414 under the national feed-in tariff scheme over a 20 year period. When combined with the savings made from not having to pay for electricity from the grid, coupled with the deemed export tariff, a further figure of around £500,000 was available. The indicative cost of the project was £64,648.00 subject to a full detailed survey being undertaken.

A company known as Nationwide Solar were initially approached to advise on a suitable system and provide an initial quote. This company was selected as they were on Efficiency East Midlands Framework as a provider for solar electricity systems. The company had installed a number of systems locally for councils and housing providers. The authority could benefit from the Efficiency East Midlands Framework and due to the cost of the works it would be necessary to procure the works by mini tender competition.

Moved by Councillor D Kelly and seconded by Councillor B R Murray-Carr

RESOLVED that:-

- (1) A 50kWh photovoltaic system be installed at The Arc.
- (2) A mini competition procurement process is undertaken using the Efficiency East Midlands Framework to appoint a suitable contractor.
- (3) Appropriate funding for the project be allocated from the Efficiency Grant.

EXECUTIVE

- (4) Resolutions (1) – (3) be made subject to a satisfactory structural survey being carried out.

REASON FOR DECISION: In the interests of environmental efficiency and cost effectiveness.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED: Not progressing the option outlined in the report would leave the Council open to future energy price rises and carbon footprint increase.

(Director of Health and Well Being)

0729. EXEMPT – PARAGRAPH 3 AND 4 TANKER SERVICE CESSATION

Executive considered a report of the Streetscene Services Manager which proposed changes to the direct provision of septic tanks and cesspool emptying from the end of March 2014.

The Council provided a chargeable cesspool and septic tank emptying service to households who were not connected to the main drains and/or sewers. It was found that resources employed in undertaking the tanker service were not fully utilised to the extent the Council subsidised it. The operational tanker vehicle employed in the service fell due for replacement in February 2014 and if replaced would need to be financed over a seven year period.

The service had previously met a demand from 151 customers but this had fallen to 113 customers, the equivalent of a 25% reduction. The vehicle was able to operate on 207 effective annual days in 2012/13 but only operated on 65 days, yielding effective utilisation of 31%. Utilisation at the time the vehicle was replaced in 2006 stood at 50%.

Arising from the ongoing reduced demand for the service, it was proposed not to replace the tanker vehicle and cease direct service provision from the end of March 2014 prior to which customers would need to arrange alternative service provision. Subject to cessation of the service delivery ending March 2014 being agreed, the tanker vehicle's lease would be extended to the end of March 2014.

Existing staff working on the tanker service would be redeployed to other streetscene services.

Moved by Councillor D Kelly and seconded by Councillor B R Murray-Carr.

RESOLVED that the Council:-

- (1) Ceases in direct provision of a septic tanks and cesspool emptying service at ending March 2014.

EXECUTIVE

- (2) The current tanker vehicles not be replaced on falling due at February 2014; rather, its finance lease be extended up to ending March 2014, after which its lease would be permanently terminated.
- (3) The Council's septic tank and cesspool customers be advised of the decision to cease in direct service provision and the Waste Services Team arrange customer service needs via other external providers.

REASON FOR DECISION:

Reducing demand and trading viability resulting in subsidy from the General Fund.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED:

Consideration was given to promoting this service to North East Derbyshire to increase resource utilisation and income. However, due to households having their own arrangements in place and the Council not having a definitive list of households with cesspool or septic tanks no increased demand had been established. Increasing service rates by 44% to meet the true cost of operating the service was considered. However, such an increase would influence customers to seek other service providers and accelerate already reducing demand and viability of the service.

(Streetscene Manager)

The meeting concluded at 1115 hours.