

Minutes of a Meeting of the **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 23rd OCTOBER 2013 at 7.15pm.**

PRESENT **Councillor R.S. Fleming (Chairman) and**
Councillors E.M. Adam, J. Atkinson, W.B. Blenkinsopp, A.M. Chandran, J. Clark, N. Collinson, Mrs. M. Dalton, M.A. Dalton, I. Gray, G.C. Gray, Mrs. S. Haigh, B. Hall, K. Henderson, Mrs. I. Hewitson, J.P. Hillary, Mrs. W.P. Hillary, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson, W. Iveson, Mrs. A. Palmer, Mrs. V.M. Raw and C. Wheeler.

IN ATTENDANCE Prof. G. Holmes, Dean & Pro Vice-Chancellor (University of Sunderland).

OFFICERS Mr. A. Bailey (Town Clerk)
Mr. D. Austin (Finance Manager)
Miss C. Ryder (Senior Admin. Officer)

39. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mrs. B.A. Clare, J.D. Clare and D. Summers.

40. **MEMBERS' DISPENSATIONS**

No applications for dispensations had been received.

41. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest submitted.

42. **UNIVERSITY TECHNICAL COLLEGE**

Professor Gary Holmes from Sunderland University was in attendance to give a presentation on a proposal to develop a new University Technical College project.

Following the excellent and informative presentation members were given the opportunity to ask questions.

RESOLVED – as follows:-

- (i) That Professor Holmes be thanked for his excellent presentation and for taking the time to attend and explain the proposals for a University Technical College in Newton Aycliffe.
- (ii) That Professor Holmes be invited to attend a further meeting of the Council next year to give an update as the project progresses.

43. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no questions from the public.

44. **MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor M. Iveson, seconded by Councillor Mrs. M. Dalton and

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 11th September 2013 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

45. **GENERAL APPEALS SUB-COMMITTEE**

It was proposed by Councillor M. Iveson, seconded by Councillor B. Hall and

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the General Appeals Sub-Committee held on the 25th September 2013 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

46. **ASSET MANAGEMENT MEMBER WORKING GROUP**

Notes and recommendations from the meeting of the Asset Management Member Working Group held on the 16th October 2013 were considered.

It was proposed by Councillor M. Iveson, seconded by Councillor B. Hall and

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:-

- (i) That an amount of £3,000 be added to the Capital Programme Budget for 2014/15 to carry out fixed electrical installation testing works on Council buildings.
- (ii) That the Draft Capital Programme Budgets for 2014/15 be accepted for approval by the Policy and Resources Committee as set out in Appendix 1 of the report.

47. **ACCOUNTS CONTROL SHEETS**

Accounts control sheets for the period 6th September to the 11th October 2013 and the General Bank Account for August and September 2013 were submitted.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that the accounts control sheets for the period 6th September to the 11th October 2013 and the General Bank Account for August and September 2013 be received.

48. **GRANTS / DONATIONS**

The Town Clerk had submitted a report which gave the current donation budget for this financial year as £3,398.

The following requests had been received:

- (a) 'Great North Air Ambulance'.
- (b) 'Akari Care'.
- (c) 'Rotary Club of Newton Aycliffe'

Letter of Thanks

A letter of thanks had been received from:-

St Clare's Foodbank – for the £1,000 donation.

Aycliffe Youth Council

The Youth Council donation budget was currently £1,700.

There had been no further applications considered by the Youth Council.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:

(i) That the report be received.

(ii) 'Great North Air Ambulance'

That a donation of £200 be made to the Air Ambulance.

(iii) 'Akari Care'

That 2 meal vouchers at the Oakleaf Sports Complex be given as raffle prizes.

(iv) 'Rotary Club of Newton Aycliffe'

That 2 meal vouchers and 4 golf vouchers be given to the Rotary Club as raffle prizes at their charity night.

(v) That the letter of thanks be noted.

(vi) That the information in connection with the Youth Council be noted.

49. PRE-SCHOOL LEARNING CENTRES

The Early Years Officer submitted her report in connection with attendance figures and waiting lists.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that the information be received.

50. EARLY YEARS SERVICE PLAN 2013/14

The Early Years' Officer submitted a report and draft Early Years' Service Plan for the period September 2013 to August 2014 for members consideration.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that the Early Years' Service Plan for September 2013 to August 2014 be accepted.

51. 2013/14 REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT

The Finance Manager submitted a report to provide members with details of the financial position on the Council's approved Revenue and Capital Programme Budget for the six months to the 30th September 2013 as well as an assessment of the expected year end outturn position.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:

- (i) That the half year financial position on the Council's Revenue Budgets and projection of expected outturn for 2013/14 be received.
- (ii) That a further Revenue and Capital Budget Position report would be submitted to the January Policy and Resources Committee detailing the financial position at the 31st December 2013 and an updated projection of expected outturn.
- (iii) That the Officers be thanked for the production of such an excellent report.

52. **2014/15 DRAFT POLICY AND RESOURCES BUDGETS**

The Finance Manager had submitted a report seeking comments and feedback from members on the draft Revenue and Capital Budgets for 2014/15 in respect of the Policy and Resources Committee.

Members considered each section of the Budgets for the Policy and Resources Committee and:

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that the report and draft Revenue and Capital Budget figures for the Policy and Resources Budgets for 2014/15 be received.

53. **2014/15 OVERALL DRAFT REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET**

The Finance Manager submitted a report setting out a summary of the Council's overall draft 2014/15 Revenue and Capital Budget and the likely level of Precept and Council Tax next year, which would result in an increase of 4.98% (5%).

Members had previously approved the Budget Framework and Timetable for the setting of the Council's 2014/15 Revenue and Capital Budgets at the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 11th September.

Following consideration by members it was recommended that, at the present time, a percentage rise of 3% should be implemented.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That the draft 2014/15 Revenue and Capital Budget be set at an increase of 3% pending information being received from Durham County Council on the Local Council Tax Support Scheme funding.
- (iii) That the shortfall from the percentage change be made by reducing the contribution to capital reserves.
- (iv) That the Finance Manager and his staff be complemented on the quality of the report.

54. **EXEMPT BUSINESS**

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs. M. Dalton, seconded by Councillor J.P. Hillary and

RESOLVED – that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted it was, in the opinion of the Council, advisable that the public and press be excluded from the meeting.

55. **CCTV CAMERAS – DEPOT / COMPLEX**

The Town Clerk submitted a report to provide information on the above CCTV system and seek members views.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:-

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That the two monitored cameras be replaced at a cost of £8,852.
- (iii) That a service level agreement be entered into with Durham County Council at a cost of £3,504.

56. **GOLF MANAGER APPOINTMENT**

The Town Clerk submitted a report to provide details of the 'Heads of Terms' recommended to be used for the procurement of a Golf Complex Manager.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:-

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That the Schedule of Managers and Council duties be accepted.
- (iii) That the financial implications that are expected for the process of a Managers services be agreed.
- (iv) That an item be placed on the Council Meeting agenda seeking a delegation of power to be given to the Personnel Sub-Committee to appoint a Golf Manager.

CHAIRMAN.