

The Executive – 6 February 2019

Minutes of the meeting of **The Executive** held on **6 February 2019** when there was present:-

Chairman: Cllr T G Cutmore
Vice Chairman: Cllr M J Steptoe

Cllr Mrs C E Roe
Cllr S P Smith
Cllr I H Ward

Cllr M J Webb
Cllr A L Williams

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Cllr G J Ioannou

OFFICERS PRESENT

S Scrutton	- Managing Director
A Hutchings	- Strategic Director
N Lucas	- Section 151 Officer
J Bostock	- Assistant Director, Democratic Services
M Hotten	- Assistant Director, Environmental Services

21 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 5 December 2018 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

22 QUARTER 3 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Portfolio Holder for Finance presented the Quarter 3 Financial Management and Performance report.

It was noted that salary underspend was not expected to be at the same level next year with many vacant posts having been filled. In terms of risks associated with the time limited nature of grants, the Section 151 Officer advised that most grants were projected to be used for the purpose intended and that the position would be closely monitored to minimise the risk of grants being lost.

The Portfolio Holder for Planning welcomed the proposed transfer of underspend monies to the Local Development Fund reserve which increased the funds for planning policy work to support delivery of the Local Plan, Joint Strategic Plan and related development plan documents over the next five years. Rochford District Council had managed to avoid issues experienced by some neighbouring authorities where there had been ministerial interest in Local Plan delays.

The Portfolio Holder for Finance endorsed the report and the projects therein. The effective planning of facilities was key to the Council's future and would

build on success. The Council continued to fare well in nationally published statistics associated with the District being a desirable place to live.

In response to a question on the impact to the Council should the United Kingdom withdraw from the European Union with no deal in place, the Section 151 Officer advised that the subject was being kept under review. The Council had reserves that, depending on circumstances, could be utilised. The Government had introduced a small grant for local authorities to help defray any one-off costs associated with withdrawal.

Members endorsed the observation of the Chairman that the Section 151 Officer and all other officers associated with production of the report should be thanked.

Resolved

- (1) That the Quarter 3 2018/19 revenue budget and capital position set out in sections 3 and 4 and detailed in Appendices 1 to 4 of the report be noted.
- (2) That the transfer of £600,000 of budget from the in-year underspend to the Local Development Fund reserve, to increase the funds for planning policy work to support the delivery of the Local Plan, Joint Strategic Plan and related development plan documents over the next five years be approved. This will leave a residual projected underspend of £450,000 in 2018/19.
- (3) That the latest position on the Council's key performance indicators, as shown in Appendix 5 of the report, be noted.

23 AWARD OF ENOVERT COMMUNITY GRANT FOR PLAY EQUIPMENT AT GREAT WAKERING OPEN SPACE

The Portfolio Holder for the Environment presented the report on the grant award and consequent execution of the project.

Responding to questions the Assistant Director Environmental Services advised that, although such awards are time limited, resources were in place to ensure that the community grant could be delivered.

Members agreed that thanks should be extended to officers for their work to achieve this funding.

Resolved

That authority be delegated to the Assistant Director, Environment Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder of Environment, to approve the grant award of £45,000 and consequent execution of the project.

24 HERITAGE GROWTH PROJECT

The Executive considered the report on arrangements being made to secure the long-term visitor potential of Wallasea Island.

During discussion of proposals in relation to the Island and the broader Discover 2020 Festival Members observed that, going forward, it would be appropriate to consider whether additional financial resource should be included in next year's budget. Notwithstanding that, apart from officer and volunteer resources, planning was on the basis that events would be cost neutral/at minimal cost to the Authority, proposals reflected well on the Council and its aim of successful events and monies should be available where appropriate.

It was noted that the commemoration of HMS Beagle fitted well with other events planned for 2020, such as Mayflower 400 and the British Science Festival based at Anglia Ruskin University's Chelmsford campus, and the associated international tourism interest that would be engendered.

Resolved

That the arrangements being made to secure the long-term visitor potential of Wallasea Island, including an event in May 2020 allied to the Council's Discover 2020 Festival, be noted.

25 PROCESS FOR AWARDING VOLUNTARY SECTOR GRANTS 2019/20

The Portfolio Holder for Community presented the report on the process for awarding grants to the voluntary sector in 2019/20.

It was observed that the Council could be proud of its arrangements in relation to grant funding for the voluntary sector, with this year's proposals focusing on health and well-being.

Members concurred with the observation of the Portfolio Holder for Finance that, given the nature of applications and the experience that could be brought to bear, it would be appropriate for the Portfolio Holder for Community to chair the Member Advisory Group.

Resolved

- 1) That the ongoing procedures for allocating the Voluntary Sector Grants fund for the financial year 2019/20 using a process that aligns outcomes with local strategic priorities, as detailed in the Council's Business Plan and the Joint Rochford and Castle Point Health and Wellbeing Strategy, be agreed.
- 2) That the Rayleigh, Rochford and District Association for Voluntary Services receive top sliced funding from the same pot, based on performance as the community connector and expert.

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Note: Item 11 of the Agenda on the materials recovery facilities contract had been withdrawn. The meeting closed at 8.57 p.m. .

Chairman

Date

CONFIRMED

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