

The Executive – 11 January 2022

Minutes of the meeting of **The Executive** held on **11 January 2022** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr S E Wootton
Vice Chairman: Cllr Mrs C E Roe

Cllr D S Efde
Cllr S P Smith
Cllr D J Sperring

Cllr I H Ward
Cllr M J Webb
Cllr A L Williams

OFFICERS PRESENT

A Hutchings	- Strategic Director
M Harwood-White	- Assistant Director, Assets & Commercial
M Hotten	- Assistant Director, Place & Environment
N Lucas	- Assistant Director, Resources
L Moss	- Assistant Director, People & Communities
D Tribe	- Assistant Director, Transformation & Customer
Sonia Worthington	- Principal Democratic & Corporate Services Officer
D McLoughlin	- Senior Property & Asset Officer
S Braney	- Transportation Team Leader

1 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 6 December 2021 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

2 SOUTH ESSEX PARKING PARTNERSHIP – PROPOSED NEW WORKING ARRANGEMENTS

The Executive considered the report of the Assistant Director, Assets & Commercial providing details of the proposed South Essex Parking Partnership (SEPP) Joint Committee Agreement.

Resolved

To agree the proposed terms of the new working arrangements from Essex County Council to enter into a new South Essex Parking Partnership Joint Committee Arrangement from 1 April 2022 for a period of five years with the option to extend for a further twelve months on three consecutive occasions. (ADAC)

(This was unanimously agreed.)

3 CONNECT PROGRAMME

The Executive considered the report of the Assistant Director, Transformation & Customer seeking approval for drawdown against the Connect Transformation reserve.

A Member observed that although the digitalisation of the Asset Register would see a financial payback over a period of 9 years there were other areas where it was harder to quantify savings that were equally as important. Members discussed the importance of the customer service improvement that would be a result of carrying out this work. It was understood that there was a need to understand the sum of money saved, but the value in customer service was difficult to quantify, although this would be equally invaluable.

In response to a Member question as to whether other Authorities used Uniform, Officers advised that most councils used the system; Southend in particular had success with using it.

The Leader endorsed the proposals which he could see would lead to more efficient, economical and convenient ways of working. He thanked officers for their hard work.

Resolved

- (1) To approve the Digitisation of the Asset Register business case and drawdown of £135,248 from the Connect Transformation Reserve.
- (2) To delegate the approval of any unallocated funding for invest to save projects held in the Connect Transformation Reserve, for individual projects up to the value of £50,000, to the Assistant Director, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder.
- (3) To agree that the underspend of £8,000 against the original budget of £20,000 allocated for East of England LGA resource be used to continue current programme management arrangements. (ADTC)

(This was unanimously agreed.)

4 ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS GRANT: ROUND 5 SCHEME

The Executive considered the report of Assistant Director, Place & Environment, seeking agreement of the Additional Restrictions Grant: Round 5 Scheme.

Members queried the total disbursements paid out by this Council to businesses from all sources, since November 2020. Officers advised that just over £30 million had been paid out to businesses. Thanks were extended to Members and officers involved in this. There was a lot of hard work across the board to ensure these funds were received by businesses. There had been a bounce in the economy which wouldn't have been the case if these businesses had ceased to trade.

Resolved

- (1) That the Council opens a direct business grant scheme funded by the Council's Additional Restrictions Grant allocations and implements the scheme in accordance with the policy attached at Appendix A.

- (2) That the Assistant Director, Place and Environment, in liaison with the Portfolio Holder for Commercial, Business, Local Economy & Leisure, be delegated authority to make amendments to the policy as necessary to comply with supplementary Government requirements and/or in the interests of operating an effective and fair grant scheme. (ADPE)

(This was unanimously agreed.)

EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved

That under Section 100 (A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the remaining business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12 of the Act.

5 MATERIALS RECOVERY FACILITIES (MRF) CONTRACT

The Executive considered the exempt report of the Assistant Director, Place & Environment on the materials recovery facilities Contract.

Debate of this item is set out in the exempt appendix to the Minutes.

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm

Chairman

Date

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