
POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**MINUTES**

Of a meeting held in the Penn Chamber, Three Rivers House, Rickmansworth, on Monday 9 December 2019 between 7.30pm and 7.50pm.

Councillors present:

Sara Bedford (Chairman) (Local Plan)
Matthew Bedford (Resources and Shared Services)
Sarah Nelmes (sub for Cllr Stephen Giles-Medhurst)
Steve Drury (Infrastructure and Planning Policy)

Chris Lloyd (Vice-Chairman) (Leisure)
Andrew Scarth (Housing)
David Raw (sub for Cllr Reena Ranger)
Roger Seabourne (Community Safety and Partnerships)
Phil Williams (Environment and Sustainability)
Alison Wall

Officers Present: David Hill, Interim Chief Executive
Joanne Wagstaffe, Director of Finance
Geof Muggerridge, Director of Community and Environmental Services
Sarah Haythorpe, Principal Committee Manager

PR50/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Stephen Cox, Stephen Giles-Medhurst, Alex Hayward, Reena Ranger and David Sansom with the substitutes being Councillors Sarah Nelmes (for Cllr Giles-Medhurst) and David Raw (for Cllr Ranger).

PR51/19 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on 4 November 2019 were confirmed as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

PR52/19 NOTICE OF OTHER BUSINESS

None received.

PR53/19 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None received.

PR54/19 BUSINESS RATES POOLING

The report sought approval to enter into a business rates pool with Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) and a number of other Districts within the County for 2020/21.

On being put to the Committee the motion was declared CARRIED by the Chairman the voting being unanimous.

RECOMMEND:

That Council agrees that, subject to a final review following the Local Government Settlement for 2020/21, Three Rivers District Council enters into the Hertfordshire Business Rates Pool.

Recommend Council delegate authority to the Chief Executive and the Director of Finance, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee to sign up to the Hertfordshire Business Rates Pool, within 28 days of the Local Government Finance Settlement.

PR55/19 EXEMPTION FROM PROCUREMENT PROCEDURE RULES – MULTI USE GAMES AREA REFURBISHMENT, HORNHILL RECREATION GROUD, MAPLE CROSS

The report advised Members that an exemption to the Procurement process was approved by the Director of Community and Environmental Services under the Limited Market exemption as permitted by the Council's Constitution.

A Member asked why only one tender was received and why the Council did not have a large database of companies to do the work. The Director of Community and Environmental Services advised that for this type of work there was a limited pool of people who could do the work and within the timescales. After the first open tender, only one tender was received which did not meet the requirements of the specification. When the Council asked for feedback from the contractors who chose not to bid, they had highlighted they were unable to tender due to build timescales of when the work had to be completed. They had explained they would have tendered if the installation date was delayed until January 2020. Timescales were adjusted to take these points on board and the tender re-advertised. Only one tender was received, which included two options: one which did not meet the specification requirements, and the other met the requirements of the specification, but was significantly over budget. The Conditions of the HS2 Award Agreement requires at least 3 quotes for the works to be provided.

Due to the requirements of the Award Agreement to receive at least 3 quotes and Officers were unwilling to pay above market rate, 6 quotations were sought from 6 contractors who specialise in Multi-Use Games Areas and had completed work for TRDC previously. The specification and T&Cs were exactly the same as those previously tendered.

On being put to the Committee the motion was declared CARRIED by the Chairman the voting being unanimous.

RESOLVED:

Noted the action taken.

PR56/19 STRATEGIC, SERVICE AND FINANCIAL PLANNING 2020-2023

This report enabled the Committee to comment on its draft service plans and the growth bids from the Service Committees.

The Committee noted all the draft service plans. The growth bids relevant to this Committee had been presented at the November meeting.

The Committee received the growth bids which had been presented to the Service Committees and made the following comments:

Oak Processionary moth and tree health

It had been identified there was an issue in the District with regard to the Oak Processionary Moth and Tree Health. Members noted that at the Service Committee it had been advised that the Council would be happy to involve voluntary groups once guidance had been provided.

Watersmeet Stage Lighting replacement

The old lighting was failing and a more cost effective solution was required which would also be environmentally friendly.

Watersmeet Roof access

The revised growth bid was now to have the second access from the side of the building.

ASB casework management system

Noted the growth bid.

PSCO

It was very important to have the PCSOs out on the streets and not on a computer or in a car. They were essential members of the safety neighbourhood teams.

Corporate Climate Change Officer

A Member said the timeframe for the strategy to be place on climate change was due to be the end of the year and asked if the strategy would be in place. The Chairman advised that following an away day it was agreed that a dedicated officer was required to pull together the work required.

The role would cover many different aspects and would be very in-depth so needed a specialist officer.

The Chief Executive said the strategy would have come to this Committee meeting but due to the election on Thursday and the Council being in purdah a report would come to the February Council meeting.

GIS Officer

The Director of Community and Environmental Services said the growth bid was for a corporate resource to co-ordinate all the GIS work. The Council currently did not have the resource or mapping software and it was felt we needed this function as we are behind the capabilities of quite a few Councils.

Lone Working devices

Noted the growth bid.

On being put to the Committee the motion was declared CARRIED by the Chairman the voting being unanimous.

RESOLVED:

Noted the draft service plans attached at Appendix 1 and would receive the final service plans in March 2020 for recommendation to Council.

Commented on Service Committee growth bids contained within Appendix 2 for consideration by Council as part of the budget setting process.

PR57/19 WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee received their work programme.

RESOLVED:

That the work programme be noted.

PR58/19 PETITION: COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY

The Committee noted the receipt of a petition. The reason the petition was only noted was because of the purdah period with which the Council must comply following the announcement of the General Election on 12 December 2019. The petition would formally be received at the 21 January 2020 meeting.

RESOLVED:

Noted receipt of the petition.

CHAIRMAN