

## COUNCIL MEETING – 31 MARCH 2015

### REPORT OF THE SERVICES COMMITTEE

16 March 2015

Present: Councillors Morrall (Chairman), Carr (Vice-Chairman), Blackwell, Dholakia, Elliott, Graves, Gough, G Lawman, M Patel, Raymond, V Waters and Watts.

Also present: Mrs B Lawrence, Head of Resources, Mrs V Phillipson, Principal Planning Policy and Regeneration Manager, Mrs A Wilcox, Principal Health Protection Manager, Mr J Udall, Project Manager and Mrs C A Mundy, Democratic Services Officer.

(Councillor Bell attended as an observer.)

#### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

**RESOLVED** to note that apologies for absence were received from Councillors Allebone and Simmons.

#### 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

**RESOLVED** to note that no declarations were made.

#### 3. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 2 FEBRUARY 2015.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Services Committee held on 2 February 2015 be approved.

#### 4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

**RESOLVED** to note that in accordance with the Localism Act 2011, the council's code of conduct and the council's constitution, the under-mentioned councillors declared an interest in the following items:

Councillor	Minute	Report Title	Reason
G Lawman	7	Street lighting.	He is the county councillor for the town centre.

#### 5. FOOD AND HEALTH AND SAFETY ENFORCEMENT SERVICE PLANS

The annexed circulated report of the Head of Planning and Local Development was received to seek approval of the Food Safety and Health and Safety Enforcement Service Plans.

The plans set out the objectives of the health protection service for the next year and were appended to the report.

Members asked questions of clarification in relation to target inspections, performance indicators and the number of food premises inspections carried out. The Principal Health Protection Manager responded to these.

**R1 RECOMMENDED** that the Food Safety Enforcement Service Plan 2015-16 be adopted.

**RESOLVED** that the Health and Safety Enforcement Service Plan 2015-16 be adopted.

## **6. LICENSING ACT 2003 – LICENSING POLICY STATEMENT**

The annexed circulated report of the Head of Planning and Local Development was received on the licensing authority's licensing policy statement as prescribed by section 5 of the Licensing Act 2003.

The statement of licensing policy was appended to the report for review.

Members asked a number of questions for the purpose of clarity in relation to the licensing of premises and individuals serving alcohol, the policy in relation to sexual entertainment venues and the policy for gambling/betting. The Principal Health Protection Manager clarified that this statement referred only to the premises and not individuals. The council did, however, have control over any designated premises supervisor. With regard to sexual entertainment venues there was a separate policy and the council had set a limit of zero, she would make reference to this policy in the statement. With regard to the Gambling Act this would be reviewed this year.

**RESOLVED** that approval be given to the statement of licensing policy as reviewed and as prescribed by the Licensing Act 2003.

## **7. STREET LIGHTING POLICY**

The annexed circulated report of the Head of Planning and Local Development was received in relation to the current position with regard to street lights in the borough and to gain approval for a street light policy for the town centre, residential areas and rural areas.

The county council had entered into a 25 year street lighting contract and was in the process of replacing or upgrading all of the highway street lighting for which they had responsibility as the highway lighting authority. The new lights will consume less power than the existing and produce a white light.

The report informed the committee that all street lamps were powered from unmetered supplies. The county council and borough council provide inventories of the installed lights to Western Power. E-on then produce electricity bills based on this information. The borough council was currently

responsible for 47 lights located in the parks and open spaces, 37 in the town centre and 51 in car parks and on industrial estates. An additional 184 lights on roads, owned by the council, had been missed from the inventory and needed to be added. The budget for maintenance and electricity for 2014-15 was £7,050.

A number of issues were raised within the report regarding lighting in the borough in relation to the town centre, Wellingborough Homes car parks, and roads to be adopted. Members also asked about borough council and county council inventories and other lights not on the borough council or county council's inventories.

The street lighting advisory group had discussed the above and recommended various options within the report on each of the issues.

Members considered that the options to upgrade the lighting particularly in the town centre would be of great benefit to the night time economy and ensure the safety of the public. Councillor Lawman, as county councillor, informed the meeting that the lighting in the town centre would be of a much better standard than currently, even though there would be fewer lamps. This standard could be enhanced further if the borough council wished to do so. Councillor Elliott expressed his concern that the borough council would consider funding the town centre upgrade with capital funding. He was also concerned that lights may be turned off in other areas of the town. The chairman clarified that the council's funding for the town centre upgrade was in relation to the maintenance of its own lights and there was no proposal to fund county council owned lights.

The chairman confirmed that no lights would be turned off that belonged to the borough council. Councillor Lawman also confirmed that the county council had no intention to turn any more lights off but commented that there was no legal requirement on the county council to provide street lighting.

The Principal Planning Policy and Regeneration Manager confirmed that discussions were taking place with Wellingborough Homes to see if they would take on some of the street lighting around their areas. She clarified that the outcome of these discussions would be reported to the street lighting advisory group and there was no proposal to switch lights off.

Councillor Morrall proposed that the word 'maintenance' be added to the proposed action at 4.3.

It was also proposed by Councillor Lawman that an additional proposal be added at 4.4 as follows:

“a further report be presented to this committee on the wider town lighting.”

Both proposals were seconded and on being put to the vote declared carried.

**RESOLVED** that:

- (i) approval be given to progressing option B for the town centre, option B for other lights and option C for rural lighting.
- (ii) the council's inventory be updated to reflect the current lights owned and that it be recommended to Resources Committee that the budget be amended to reflect this;
- (iii) further information be sought on the possibility of transferring the maintenance responsibility for the wider town and all lights to another body;
- (iv) a further report on the wider town lighting be presented to this committee.

Councillor Elliott asked that his abstention be recorded on recommendation (i) above.

**8. ANY OTHER ITEM THAT THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES IS URGENT**

The chairman referred to a number of his fellow councillors who were retiring from the council. He thanked them for their service over the years and wished them a happy and relaxing retirement.

Chairman

The meeting concluded at 8pm.