

## COUNCIL MEETING – 19 APRIL 2016

### REPORT OF THE SERVICES COMMITTEE

21 March 2016

Present: Councillors Carr (chairman), Anslow, Beirne, Ekins, Emerson, Gough, Griffiths, G Lawman, Maguire, Patel and Scanlon.

Also present: Mrs B Gamble, Head of Resources, Mr C Culling, Assistant Principal Housing Officer, Mrs V Phillipson, Principal Planning Policy and Regeneration Manager, Mrs A Wilcox, Principal Environmental Health Manager, Mr Q Allen, Sports Development Officer and Mrs C A Mundy, Democratic Services Officer.

(Councillor Bell was also in attendance as an observer.)

#### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

**RESOLVED** to note that apologies for absence were received from Councillors Harrington, Skittrall, Stevenson and Watts.

#### 2. 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:

<b>Name of councillor</b>	<b>Minute no.</b>	<b>Report title</b>	<b>Reason</b>
Beirne	9	Waste Issues	Personal & prejudicial – step-father and mother are on Wollaston parish council and step-father is the chairman.

#### 3. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7 DECEMBER 2015

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Services Committee held on 7 December 2015 be confirmed and signed.

#### 4. NEW MARKET LAYOUT PROPOSALS

The annexed circulated report of the Head of Planning and Local Development was received in relation to the new layout for the market recommended by the external consultant 'Market Place Europe'; proposing a phased approach for implementation of such new layout.

**RESOLVED** that it be noted that this report had been withdrawn from the agenda.

## **5. MARKET RIGHTS POLICY**

The annexed circulated report of the Head of Planning and Local Development was received in relation to the adoption of the Market Rights Policy which was appended to the report.

A six week consultation had been held between 21 December 2015 and 5 February 2016, in regard to the Market Rights Policy. No comments had been received.

**R1 RECOMMENDED** that the Market Rights Policy as appended to be report be adopted.

## **6. EQUALITY OBJECTIVE 2016-2020**

The annexed circulated report of the Head of Resources was received to seek approval to the publication of the council's Equality Objective 2016-2020; 'to continue to promote equality through the provision of services that are fair and accessible to all', and to approve the appended action plan.

Some members considered that the objective did not address the council's statutory duty, and was neither robust nor challenging enough in itself. It was acknowledged that, whilst the targets in the action plan were specific, measurable, attainable, relevant and time-bound, the objective failed to refer sufficiently to the action plan objectives and targets. Other members believed that the borough was diverse and inclusive and that officers addressed the issues of all groups in the community and that the objective - together with action plan - was clear and appropriate.

The Head of Resources advised members that more detailed information was published annually to demonstrate how the council's services have met, and will continue to meet, equalities objectives and action plans. She assured members that the objective was intended to be the starting point for demonstrating that the council had due regard to its equality duty, with the detail being incorporated into the action plan.

Councillor Emerson proposed an amendment to the recommendation at 4(a) as follows:

"to adopt the equality objective for 2016-20 to 'continue to promote equality through the provision of services that are fair and accessible to all' and to adopt the equalities objectives as set out in the equalities action plan".

This amendment was seconded by Councillor Anslow.

On being put to the vote there were four votes in favour and six against and the chairman declared the amendment lost.

The chairman then put the motion to the committee and this was declared carried with six votes in favour, one against and three abstentions.

**R2 RECOMMENDED** that:

- (i) the Equality Objective for 2016-2020 'to continue to promote equality through the provision of services that are fair and accessible to all' be adopted and that the under-pinning action plan be approved;
- (ii) delegation be given to the Head of Resources to maintain and update the action plan.

**7. FOOD SAFETY AND HEALTH AND SAFETY ENFORCEMENT SERVICE PLANS**

The annexed circulated report of the Head of Planning and Local Development was received in relation to the service plans for food safety and health and safety enforcement for the period 2016-17.

Appended to the report were the two service plans.

Members thanked officers for their continuing excellent work in both these areas.

**R3 RECOMMENDED** that the food safety enforcement service plan 2016-17 be adopted;

**RESOLVED** that the health and safety enforcement service plan 2016-17 be adopted.

**8. PROVISION OF 3<sup>RD</sup> GENERATION SPORTS PITCH AND UPGRADE OF TENNIS/NETBALL COURTS**

The annexed circulated report of the Head of Planning and Local Development was received in relation to the submission of a capital bid for a new 3<sup>rd</sup> generation (3G) football pitch and upgrade to tennis/netball courts at Redwell Leisure Centre.

A request was being made for the submission of a capital scheme for a new 3G surface to be provided at the current second pitch at Redwell Leisure Centre, along with the installation of flood lighting and flexible lines to accommodate a variety of different uses. Funding was also sought for an upgrade to the existing tennis/netball court to include a new porous tarmac surface and replacement fencing.

The report explained that a 3G pitch is a 3<sup>rd</sup> generation astro turf football or rugby pitch where the pile (artificial grass blades) is supported by a thin base layer of sand and an infill of rubber crumb. It is designed to offer play quality

that replicates natural turf, whilst increasing the level of use and is the current recommended surface for high quality Football Association approved pitches. Wellingborough was the only borough in the county without this facility.

Investigations of other sites including educational establishments had found them to be unsuitable. The Football Association considered that Redwell Leisure Centre was a suitable site to accommodate such facility.

Some members raised concern about Redwell Leisure Centre being the best option for the siting of this facility and asked if consideration had been given to alternative locations in the surrounding villages.

The Sports Development Officer clarified that any funding from the FA needed match funding and that sites needed to be owned by the borough council if a funding bid was to be sought.

Members were also concerned that the pitch would be for football use only, but were assured that this would not be the case as other sports such as rugby could be played on this surface. There were some sports such as hockey that were not compatible with this sort of surface.

Concern was expressed about whether there was sufficient car parking at the site, whether there would be light pollution and how this would affect local residents. Comments were also made about the size of the pitch and the effect this would have on the current cricket pitch as well as accessibility to the leisure centre.

It was agreed that the tennis/netball courts needed to be improved and that this would be of benefit to those in the borough. Netball was proving to be popular with a large team already using Redwell Leisure Centre on a Thursday evening.

Other members fully supported this proposal considering that Redwell Leisure Centre was a good place to site the pitch, and that all the issues mentioned would be resolved during the planning stages and through the capital working group. They felt that this would be a very good facility for the borough and that as this was council owned land this should be put forward for capital funding.

A lengthy debate ensued in relation to sports provision in general and this proposal in particular.

Councillor Ekins suggested an amendment to the recommendation as follows:

“that a capital bid be submitted to support the installation of a new 3G multiple sports pitch and that further investigations be carried out to find a more suitable location”. This did not find a seconder.

(Councillor Ekins left the meeting at 8pm due to a prior engagement.)

Councillor Maguire also proposed an amendment as follows:

“that a working party be established to ascertain the best location within the borough for the siting of a 3G pitch.”

A further amendment was proposed by Councillor Lawman as follows:

“that the committee be invited to recommend to Resources Committee the submission of a capital bid to support the installation of a new 3G sports pitch, and for a bid for floodlights and tennis/netball court upgrades at Redwell Leisure Centre”.

Councillor Maguire reiterated the need for a working group but The Head of Resources clarified that as this was to be put forward for a capital bid there was already a capital working party where further discussion could take place. With this assurance Councillor Maguire withdrew his amendment and seconded Councillor Lawman’s amendment.

The chairman put Councillor Lawman’s proposed amendment to the vote.

This was declared carried with four votes in favour, three against and one abstention.

This then became the substantive motion and was put to the vote and declared carried.

**RESOLVED** to recommend to resources committee the submission of a capital bid to support the installation of a new 3G sports pitch, and for a bid for floodlights and tennis/netball court upgrades at Redwell Leisure Centre.

## **9. WASTE ISSUES – WOLLASTON HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING CENTRE**

The annexed circulated report of the Chief Executive was received to seek a decision in relation to the future of Wollaston Household Waste Recycling Centre, (HWRC) and to seek a capital finance bid in relation to replacement waste bins.

(Councillor Beirne left the meeting during discussion on this item having declared an interest.)

The report detailed the operation of the Wollaston HWRC over the last 12 months. It was noted that this facility had previously been provided by the county council and it was anticipated that by the end of the financial year the gross cost was around £90,000 with the income from recycling being less than £5,000. The service is valued by local people particularly those in Wollaston who wish it to continue. Wollaston Parish Council had made an offer to contribute £5,000 per annum to the cost of keeping the centre open and £10,000 has been offered from Wellingborough Norse. It was possible that other parish council’s may feel that they could also contribute.

The report proposed that the existing temporary arrangement be continued for a further six months to allow for further discussions with parish councils about possible contributions.

There was a requirement for additional waste bins to be purchased to replace stolen, lost or damaged bins and to provide for the increasing number of new property completions. A capital bid of £15,000 was proposed pending further discussion by the waste collection working group.

Members considered that the recycling centre was well used by villages in the surrounding area and raised concern that closure would result in more fly-tipping. Members also asked about the cost of purchase of wheelie bins for new properties as they thought this cost would be met by developers. The Principal Planning Policy and Regeneration Manager clarified that this was no longer the case and that the council had to pay for bins for any new properties built if an existing historical arrangement was not already in place.

**RESOLVED** that:

- (i) the waste collection working group be convened to consider strategic matters in relation to waste collection;
- (ii) It be recommended to resources committee that the Wollaston Household Waste Recycling Centre be operated for a further six months at an approximate cost of £45,000 to be funded from reserves;
- (iii) It be recommended to resources committee that a capital bid of £15,000 be agreed to enable the purchase of additional waste receptacles in the short term.

(Councillor Beirne returned to the meeting.)

#### **10. DISABLED FACILITIES GRANT BUDGET 2016/17**

**RESOLVED** to note that the report and appendices relating to this item had been withdrawn from the agenda.

#### **11. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED** that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item in accordance with Section 100A(4) to the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that they would involve the likely disclosure of exempt information of the descriptions shown in schedule 12A to the Act:

<b>Minute No.</b>	<b>Items</b>	<b>Paragraph of Schedule 12A</b>
12	Urgent action taken – shared cost of disabled adaptations between the disabled facilities grant budget and registered providers.	E1 and 2

**12. URGENT ACTION TAKEN – SHARED COST OF DISABLED ADAPTION BETWEEN THE DISABLED FACILITIES GRANT BUDGET AND REGISTERED PROVIDERS**

The annexed circulated exempt report of the Head of Planning and Local Development was received in relation to urgent action taken to share the cost of adapting a Wellingborough Homes property to accommodate a disabled child being discharged from hospital.

**RESOLVED** that the urgent action taken be noted to share the cost, with Wellingborough Homes, of the work required to adapt a property up to a maximum of £9,000 from the Disabled Facilities Grant budget.

Chairman

The meeting concluded at 9pm.

