COUNCIL MEETING – 16 JUNE 2020

REPORT OF THE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

17 February 2020

Present: Councillors Carr (Chairman), Bell, Ekins, Hallam, G Lawman, L Lawman, Maguire, Skitrall, Walia and V Waters.

Also present: Mr A Piper (Assistant Director/Committee Manager), Mrs S Bateman, (Senior Planning Officer), Mr T Shaw (Planning Policy Officer), Mr J Udall (Design and Conservation Officer), Mrs V Phillipson (Principal Property and Projects Manager) and Mrs C A Mundy, (Democratic Services Officer).

(Councillors Griffiths attended as an observer.)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

RESOLVED to note that apologies were received from Councillors Anslow, Emerson, Partridge-Underwood, Patel 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, no declarations were made.

3. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE OF 28 OCTOBER 2019

The minutes of the development committee of 28 October 2019 were received.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the development committee of 28 October 20219, be confirmed and signed.

4. LOCAL LISTING OF THE ROUNDHOUSE AND PROPOSED ARTICLE 4 DIRECTION

The annexed circulated report of the principal planning manager was received to consider the designation of the roundhouse (number 2 engine shed) as a locally listed building and for the committee to also consider an application for the addition of an Article 4 (1) direction on the building in order to remove permitted development rights and prevent unauthorised demolition.

Appended to the report were the following:
Appendix 1: Site location plan;
Appendix 2: Photos of site;
Appendix 3: Historic mapping
Appendix 4: Historic England report for listing
Appendix 5: Local list criteria

The chairman had received one request to address the meeting from Mr C Tompkins of Vistry Homes, who owned the subject building. Mr Tompkins spoke for three minutes and expressed concern that the correct validation process had not been followed, as notices had not been received and his company had not been informed or invited to attend the committee meeting. He also commented that the building had not met the standards for a listed building under English Heritage guidelines. The chairman thanked Mr Tompkins for his comments.

Mr Udall, the council’s design and conservation officer, presented the report to committee.

Members asked questions over the legality of the local listing process and whether the committee could make a decision at this meeting.

Mr Udall confirmed that a decision could be made to ‘locally list’ the roundhouse as it met the criteria set out in the Local List of Heritage Assets SPD, as adopted by the council in 2013. With regard to the Article 4 (1) direction for the removal of permitted development rights, a notice would be served on the owner, and there would be a site display and an advertisement. The secretary of state would also be notified. The process is not immediate and allows representations from the owner to be considered. The process takes a minimum of seven weeks; where after the Article 4 (1) is confirmed.

Members debated the report and considered that as the building was nearly 150 years old, and was of historical interest, that it should be preserved. There was much that could be done to enhance the building particularly inside with an option being to add another floor. A number of historic railway buildings had disappeared over the years and it was considered that this should remain, and any work required, be carried out.

The motion to resolve to approve the local listing and to begin the process of making an Article 4(1) direction was put to the vote and declared carried.

RESOLVED that:

(i) approval be given to the Roundhouse being locally listed;
(ii) agreement be given to commence the process of making an Article 4(1) Direction.

5. OPEN SPACE DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTIONS SPD

The annexed circulated report of the principal planning manager was received in relation to the adoption of the Supplementary Planning Document Open Space: Developer Contributions SPD.
The following were appended to the report:

Appendix 1: Open space: Developer contributions SPD;
Appendix 2: Schedule of changes made from the draft documentation;
Appendix 3: Statement of consultation including summary of consultation responses received.

R1 RECOMMENDED that the Open Space Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) be adopted.

6. SPORTS PROVISION: DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTIONS SPD

The annexed circulated report of the principal planning manager was received in relation to the adoption of the supplementary planning document Sports Provision: Developer Contributions SPD.

The following were appended to the report:

Appendix 1: Sports Provision: Developer contributions SPD;
Appendix 2: Schedule of changes made from the draft document;
Appendix 3: Statement of consultation including summary of comments received.

Members asked that the congratulations of the committee be extended to Mr Shaw who had produced the report.

They raised various points of clarification, particularly as most of the content of the report had been sourced in 2017 and was now considered to be out of date. Particular reference was made to athletics, tennis and the delivery of sport within North Northamptonshire for health and wellbeing. Reference was also made to the sports provision within the villages, with particular reference to Irchester and Isham, at a number of senior schools, and at Wellingborough Old Grammarians site, which also had a running track and a considerable amount of land where pitches could be added. Members considered there was insufficient emphasis on this.

Mr Shaw responded to the points raised and noted the comments made.

R2 RECOMMENDED that the Sports Provision: Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) be adopted.

7. RURAL EXCEPTIONS SITES SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT

The annexed circulated report of the principal planning manager was received to enable consultation to take place on the proposed supplementary planning document (SPD) to support Policy 13 of the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy and Policy H6 of the Plan for the Borough of Wellingborough.

Appended to the report were the following:
Appendix 1: Rural exceptions sites supplementary planning document consultation draft;  
Appendix 2: Strategic environmental assessment screening report;  
Appendix 3: Habitats regulations screening.  

It was intended that a consultation would be carried out on the draft supplementary planning document, using the normal methods of consultation.

**RESOLVED** that consultation take place on the supplementary planning document and associated documents.

8. **TOWN CENTRE VISION**

The annexed circulated report of the director was received to seek approval to consult on the proposed Town Centre vision for Wellingborough.

Appended to the report were the following:

Appendix 1: Town Centre vision workshop summary;  
Appendix 2: Town centre vision leaflet.

It was proposed that a six week consultation take place with residents.

Members supported the consultation and asked that this be commenced as soon as possible to enable the vision to be progressed. Members made various comments about specific areas, which officers noted and these would be considered when the specific projects or work on these areas were progressed.

The report also proposed to establish a Wellingborough Town Regeneration working group made up of three Conservative councillors and two Labour councillors. Councillor Maguire informed the meeting that it would be himself and Councillor Anslow as the Labour group members.

**RESOLVED** that approval be given to consult on the Town Centre vision as detailed in appendix 1 of the report;

**R3 RECOMMENDED** that a Wellingborough Town Regeneration working group be established with three members of the Conservative group and two members of the Labour group to be appointed thereto.

9. **TITHE BARN AND CROYLAND GARDENS PROJECT UPDATE**

The annexed circulated report of the assistant director was received in relation to the work proposed for the improvement of the Tithe Barn and Croyland Gardens area.

Appended to the report were the following:

Appendix 1: Tithe Barn concept design;  
Appendix 2: Croyland Gardens concept design.
The report detailed the proposals for the area outside the Tithe Barn. Members asked for assurance that the car park, to the rear of the Tithe Barn, would be retained and that a wider pavement area be placed outside the restaurant area and some more seating be considered. Whilst appreciating that a fountain may not be the best option it was agreed that some sort of water feature would be good in the town centre, officers reported that further work was being done to consider the options for a water feature, however, suggested that the best location for this could be the Market Square as part of a scheme for this area. A suggestion was also made that the windows to the rear of the reception area at the Tithe Barn be replaced with a door so people could access the rear car park, it was agreed that officers will consider this.

With regard to Croyland Gardens members queried the installation of a timber bridge and considered it would be better if this was a stone or brick construction. Councillor Ekins recalled that when the Friends of Swanspool Gardens were looking at this they had been told by the Environment agency that it had to be a wooden construction.

Officers thanked members for their comments and suggestions, which they would take into consideration.

**RESOLVED** to note the works taking place at the Tithe Barn and Croyland Gardens.

Chairman

The meeting concluded at 8.30pm.
COUNCIL MEETING – 16 JUNE 2020

REPORT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM SUB-COMMITTEE

3 March 2020

Present: Councillors Griffiths (Chairman) and Councillors Francis, Harrington, Scarborough and Partridge-Underwood.

Also present: Mrs L Elliott (Managing Director), Mr S Darcy, (Director of Resources/Section 151 Officer), Mr E Symons (Assistant Director) and Miss E McGinlay (Electoral Services Officer.)

(Councillors L Lawman, G Lawman, V Waters and M Waters attended as observers.)

(The meeting commenced at 7pm.)

1. APOLOGIES

RESOLVED to note that apologies were received from Councillors Allebone and Graves.

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, no declarations were made.

3. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 4 FEBRUARY 2020

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 4 February 2020 be confirmed.

4. NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE JOINT COMMITTEE

The managing director referred to the next meeting of the North Northamptonshire Joint Committee (NNJC) which would be taking place on 5 March 2020 at Kettering Borough Council.

The managing director updated the sub-committee on the content of the agenda and confirmed that Paul Helsby the Programme Director would be speaking on the local government reform programme.

This would include updates on the following:

- The programme status;
- The design phase;
- Recruitment to statutory roles;
- Engagement and progress with trade unions;
• Communication and engagement, including an update on the change champions;
• Change management.

She informed the sub-committee that during the last month a considerable amount of work had been undertaken on the work streams with many officers from the council being heavily involved in the various working groups. Senior officers and councillors had attended several meetings to look at the progress made and review any actions needed.

Upcoming meetings would be held to allow each council leader an opportunity to review the design principles of the unitary councils in the form of a “straw person”. The straw person is a design tool which pulls together all the principle services together in one place to allow them to be debated, scrutinised and improved. Once the design had been finalised a “blueprint” would be produced and costed.

The managing director confirmed that the statutory changes order had now been approved by parliament and noted the programme had already satisfied the requirements set out by the order – to have two joint decision-making committees and an implementation team for the programme.

It was noted that the design phase of the project was on track for finalisation at the first meeting of the unitary councils after the May elections. Once the newly elected councillors approve the draft design plans, the implementation phase will begin across the two councils.

Discussions around finance of the unitary councils took place and concerns were raised about the lack of clarity in the finance report prepared for the NNJC on 5 March 2020. It was noted that these concerns were raised at the previous meeting, so the continued lack of clarity was disappointing for members. The section 151 officer confirmed that he would raise these concerns again to finance colleagues leading on the financial management section of the unitary programme.

The managing director also referred to the Children’s service and the progress that had been made on the creation of the Children’s Trust. A significant investment into the service had been made in the next year’s budget, but savings and efficiencies were still planned to reduce the overall cost of the service.

A chair of the Trust board had been appointed who had a considerable amount of experience in this field. It was noted that the recruitment process for the role of chief executive for the trust was coming to an end with the interviews for the candidates scheduled for March 2020.

The communications team had continued to be proactive in issuing information to officers and a number of staff from all authorities had volunteered to become ‘change champions’ – they would be able to inform fellow colleagues of the progress with the programme and would be regularly updated. It was noted
that 25 of the 275 champions were from Wellingborough, which was very positive seeing as there are only 104 full time equivalents across the council.

It was confirmed that the election planning was going well for Thursday 7 May 2020 and the date for the count of unitary papers for the Borough of Wellingborough was confirmed as Sunday 10 May 2020 at Redwell Leisure Centre. Members expressed their concerns for the potential disruption of the polls due to the outbreak of the coronavirus in the UK. It was noted that the elections team had this as part of their risk register and measures would be put in place to alleviate any potential issues but that any cancellation or delay of polls would be on the advice of central government.

The managing director confirmed she would be raising a query on wording of some of the reports being brought to the NNJC on 5 March 2020 as they still referred to the unitary as “Shadow” for its first year of operation. It has been previously communicated by the Returning Officer for the unitary elections that the correct terminology of “unitary council in its shadow year” be used.

Councillor Griffiths thanked the managing director for the information and confirmed that all officers from the borough council were playing a big part in securing the future of services and shaping how they would look.

RESOLVED that the verbal update be noted.

Chairman

The meeting concluded at 7:50pm
COUNCIL MEETING – 16 JUNE 2020

REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

10 March 2020

Present: Councillors Weatherill (Chairman), Bell (Vice-Chairman), Francis, Henley and Simmons.

Also present: Mr S Darcy, (Director & S151 Officer), Mr E Symons (Assistant Director), Mrs S Penfold, (ICT Business Support Manager), Mr M Watkins (Head of Internal Audit), Mr N Harris, (Associate Partner at EY), Miss N Harewood (Policy and Compliance Officer) and Miss E McGinlay (Electoral Services Officer).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

RESOLVED to note that apologies were received from Councillors Allebone and L Lawman.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

RESOLVED to note that no declarations of interest were received.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 24 September 2019 be confirmed and signed.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT UPDATE

The annexed circulated report of the S151 officer was received to provide members with a summary of the councils’ risk management, confirm the key corporate risks and provide an overview of the councils control of those risks.

The policy and compliance officer introduced the risk management update report to members. It was noted that the current risk management strategy was approved in December 2014 and had not been updated since, but that a review would be taking place in the coming months prior to the creation of the unitary authorities.

Members discussed the report and raised concerns over the length of time since the last review of the strategy. Officers confirmed that a gap in resources was the main reason for the irregular reviews but confirmed that the council’s risk management was now back on track with regular review meetings being had by SMT and other relevant stakeholders.

The head of internal audit presented an overview of the audit of the councils’ risk management which gave a moderate level of assurance. He noted that the report was written before the compliance and policy officer was in post and that a lot of work had since been completed meaning the key issues were being addressed. The S151 officer confirmed to members that he was confident of a much better level of assurance from the next risk management audit.
RESOLVED that the risk management update and internal audit report be noted, as part of the committee’s role in ensuring the risk management strategy is being adhered to and corporate risk register is updated and maintained.

5. INTERNAL AUDIT OPERATIONAL AUDIT PLAN APRIL 2020 – MARCH 2021

The annexed circulated report of the S151 officer was received to present members with the internal audit operational plan for 2020/21 for consideration and approval.

The head of internal audit presented the report to the committee and confirmed that he was just presenting a one-year plan instead of the normal three-year plan due to the unitary authorities coming into force from April 2021. He noted that a significant amount of time had been scheduled to allow audits relating to the local government reform (LGR) and that most of the other audits would feature some element of LGR within them.

It was noted that the audit plan was flexible and could be changed at the request of the audit committee or the senior management team.

Members discussed the audit plan and noted that 10 days had been allocated to cyber security audits within the next year. The head of internal audit confirmed that due to the limited assurance opinion in the previous audit, more time needed to be focused there to make sure that one of the biggest risks for the council was being carefully monitored. He did note a lot of work has taken place recently and that the current audit of cyber security would be able to provide an updated position on all 35 of the recommendations made in the original report.

Members noted that CW audit has just under a year to complete the audit plan given LGR and queried whether the amount of time was enough to complete the plan. The head of audit confirmed they were aware of the reduced time available and would be able to call on other staff within the organisation if needed.

RESOLVED that the internal audit operational plan April 2020 to March 2021 be approved.

6. PROGRESS REPORT ON INTERNAL AUDIT ACTIVITY FOR 2019-20

The annexed circulated report of the S151 officer was received to brief the committee on the work carried out by the internal audit service for the first eleven months of the 2019-20 financial year to the end of February 2020.

The head of internal audit presented the report to members and gave an overview of the ten reviews that had been completed since the last Audit Committee meeting had taken place. A summary of some key reviews, findings and levels of assurance are as follows:

- Financial management and reporting – it was noted that the level of assurance had gone from limited to full which was an excellent
achievement for the council. The reason for the increased level of assurance was due to the council no longer relying on reserves to deliver a balanced revenue budget. Setting more realistic budgets and improved forecasting had also played a part in the increased level of assurance.

- High level controls for income and finance systems – it was noted that four out of seven systems had received an increased level of assurance; now scoring full assurance, with three remaining at significant as per last year.

- Wellingborough Norse partnership – it was noted that an action plan was in place to review the key issues that arose from the audit and was being managed by the S151 officer. He noted that some progress had been made but he was not expecting to receive full assurance for the next audit.

- Partnerships (revenue & benefits) – it was noted that work had taken place since the previous review to address the issues that arose from the audit. The S151 officer noted that a formal shared service would not be put in place as originally planned, but that the level of resilience within the revenue and benefits service for BCW and East Northamptonshire council (ENC) was much higher. It was confirmed that both teams used the same system and had access to both councils’ databases so any member of the team could work on either council’s cases if needed.

- Counter fraud and corruption – it was noted that SMT had recently met to discuss this risk and it was felt that there were not enough staff resource to commit a large volume of time into this. The S151 officer confirmed that the legal minimum was being achieved to ensure BCW were compliant with legislation and that LGR workstreams were reviewing this thoroughly for the unitary councils who should be looking to adopt best practice.

As well as reviewing the individual audits, the committee received an update on cyber security from the ICT business support manager who was currently responsible for cyber security across BCW and ENC. It was noted that all the ongoing level 2 recommendations made by CW Audit were around cyber security.

It was confirmed that lots of work had been undertaken by the ICT team regarding the recommendations and that many items had been marked as complete during their recent self-assessment. The head of audit confirmed that the technical expert from CW Audit was currently in the process of reviewing ICT’s self-assessment on their progress and would be confirming whether enough progress had been made to close these soon. He also noted that a lot of the open recommendations were being progressed but that he did not want to close them until they were fully implemented due to their severity.

Members queried why the cyber security was still such a large issue for the council given that a recent transformation and restructure programme, with
the purpose of achieving higher quality service delivery and cost savings, had just taken place.

The ICT business support manager confirmed that there had been a prolonged period of under investment for the ICT service across both councils which had led to the current issues. She also noted that there were a lot of staffing changes within a short period of time which led to the service being without key technical knowledge for a prolonged period. There were also some issues raised regarding the communications supplier, who will soon be replaced.

The S151 officer reassured members that the strategy and current issues were being reviewed by SMT and the joint ICT board and that mitigations were being put in place where possible to alleviate future issues with the service. He also noted that future northants had a very good team leading on ICT for the unitary programme which was very positive for the future unitary councils.

RESOLVED that the progress report on internal audit activity be noted, as part of the committee’s role in ensuring that sufficient progress is being made against the agreed internal audit plan for the 2019-20 year.

7. 2018/19 AND 2019/20 EXTERNAL AUDIT UPDATE

The annexed circulated report of the S151 officer was received to give the committee the external audit update on their latest position. EY, along with other audit firms, have had national difficulties in delivering the 2018/19 audits.

The associate partner for EY addressed members and conveyed his disappointment that the 2018/19 audit had not been completed yet. He apologised to members about the delay and noted that this was mostly owing to staffing resource issues but confirmed that it would be completed by the end of the month. He also noted that there were some issues with the pension fund assurance which had also contributed to the delay. There was an over-valuation of the Northamptonshire assets which led to an error of £3.5million; £77,877 of which was attributed to Borough Council of Wellingborough (BCW).

Discussion took place regarding the 2019/20 audit and it was noted that EY were currently assessing each council’s readiness for audit so they could finalise their work plans for the coming months. It was confirmed that BCW were ready for the audit and would be prioritised due to LGR and the delay with the previous year’s audit. It was also noted that BCW has a low relative level of assessed risk compared to other councils.

Members discussed the update and letter from EY’s head office and conveyed their extreme disappointment that the 2018/19 audit had still not been completed. They also noted that there was no audit plan for 2019/20 within the report and confirmed their wishes to review it as soon as it’s ready. The S151 confirmed he would send it to committee members once it had been received from EY.
The S151 officer noted his frustrations with the delay and re-enforced that the issues needed to be rectified immediately so that finance staff could concentrate on the LGR workstreams.

The associate partner confirmed that he was hopeful that EY could issue their audit opinion in July, but that he would be confirming this date to the S151 officer in the next week. He relayed his thanks to officers and members for their patience over the last year and hoped that the July audit opinion would go some way to rectify the current dissatisfaction at EY’s audit service.

**RESOLVED** that the external audit update be noted.

Chairman

The meeting concluded at 9pm
COUNCIL MEETING – 16 JUNE 2020

REPORT OF THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

11 March 2020

Present: Councillors Griffiths (Chairman), Allebone, Bell, Carr, Emerson, Francis, Gough, Graves, Harrington, Henley, Morrall, Partridge-Underwood, Scarborough and M Waters and Weatherill.

Also present: Mrs L Elliott (Managing Director), Mr S Darcy (Director/Section 151 Officer), Miss K Denton, Mrs V Jessop, Mr A Piper and Mr E Symons (Assistant Directors), Mr R Watson (Senior Revenue Officer), Ms T Cave (Service Accountant), Ms C Conway-Hook (Service Accountant), Ms C Mani (Service Accountant), Mrs G Chapman (Principal Community Support Officer), Mr R Thompson (RPT Consulting), Mr S Churchman (Places Leisure), Mr G Kane (Northamptonshire County Council), Mr R Boulton (Northamptonshire County Council) and Mr S Whiteley (Electoral Services Team Leader).

(Councillors G Lawman and G Simmons attended as observers. Cllr L Lawman attended to speak on agenda item 5).

1. APOLOGIES

No apologies for absence were received.

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 following declaration was made:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Councillor</th>
<th>Minute no.</th>
<th>Reason</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scarborough</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Prudential indicators and treasury management strategy 2020-21</td>
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3. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 5 FEBRUARY 2020

The minutes of the resources committee of 5 February 2020 were received.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the resources committee held on 5 February 2020, be confirmed and signed.

4. IRRECOVERABLE COUNCIL TAX, HOUSING BENEFIT OVERPAYMENTS, NON DOMESTIC RATES AND SUNDRY DEBTS
The annexed circulated report (with exempt appendices) of the Section 151 Officer was received to request approval of the write off of irrecoverable debts.

Appended to the report were the following:

Appendix A Council tax cases;
Appendix B Non-domestic rate cases.

The report detailed the total amount of irrecoverable debts as shown below:

Council tax £8,007.12;
Non-domestic rates £2,089.59.

RESOLVED that:

(i) approval be given to write off the sum of £10,096.71 of irrecoverable council tax and non-domestic rate balances;
(ii) it be noted that the sum of £22,327.24 had been written off under the delegated powers of the section 151 officer.

5. REDWELL LEISURE CENTRE – UPDATE REPORT

The annexed circulated report of the director was received to present an update on discussions regarding the future of leisure services delivered from the Redwell Leisure Centre site and seek approval to add a project for redevelopment of the leisure centre building and grounds to the council’s capital programme.

Appended to the report was a potential new build plan for Redwell Leisure Centre.

The chairman invited Cllr L Lawman to address the committee as a speaker. Cllr Lawman explained the benefits of hydrotherapy and urged members not only to support the proposals in report but to seriously consider both a pool and hydrotherapy pool as part of the redevelopment of Redwell Leisure Centre.

The assistant director outlined the report and explained that further work was required to understand the condition of the land before considering procurement options. She also explained that a planning pre-application would be undertaken with an aim to provide members with a further report at resources committee in June 2020.

Members discussed the report and considered the options, and whilst expressing broad support for the resolutions, that there were some concerns around adding the project to the capital programme without having undertaken surveys on the condition of the land and with clear costs for a re-build. Members agreed to amend the wording on resolution 4.2 to “that the project agreed at 4.1 is considered and is continued to be considered for addition to
the capital programme in principle with more detailed costs to be presented at a future resources committee meeting”.

There was a further discussion about the need for a new health and wellbeing centre in the borough and that this provided an opportunity for a centre to serve residents in the immediate area and beyond.

**RESOLVED** that:

(i) a new build (Option 6) is the preferred option through which to deliver future leisure services from the Redwell site;

(ii) that the project agreed at 4.1 is considered and is continued to be considered for addition to the capital programme in principle with more detailed costs to be presented at a future resources committee meeting;

(iii) that an allowance for fees of £100,000 is made in order to progress the project is added to the capital programme, and;

(iv) that officers are instructed to further explore the revenue implications, procurement options and contractual arrangements to be brought back as part of a report to resources committee later in 2020.

6. **PROPERTY MATTERS**

The annexed circulated report of the director was received to update members on the progress of property matters.

Appended to the report was an update on the current projects.

The assistant director gave a verbal update, confirming that the multi-story car park project set up was ongoing with work commencing the following week, the purchaser of the Croyland Road development site was due to submit an application shortly. He went on to confirm that 20 Sheep Street had been cleared out with a view to exchange contracts soon, and that the car park at Castle Theatre was due for repair and maintenance work in April and May.

Members discussed upcoming potential community asset transfers and cited Glamis Hall as a previous example of an effective and successful community asset transfer. Members agreed that it was positive that all of the current projects on the register were listed as green or amber in progress.

**RESOLVED** that:

(i) the progress of the projects as detailed in appendix one be noted;

7. **FINANCIAL MONITORING AND POSITION STATEMENT FOR 2019-20**

The annexed circulated report of the Section 151 Officer was received to show members the monitoring position for revenue expenditure only, but it was stated that this report should have been read in conjunction with the capital report on the agenda for this meeting to give a total view and understanding of the council’s financial position.
The Section 151 Officer outlined the report and explained some of the shifting pressures impacting on the financial position of the council outlined in the appendices, such as increasing rates on temporary housing accommodation and reductions in anticipated House in Multiple Occupation income.

RESOLVED that:

(i) the position on the revenue monitoring and the reasons for the variances reported and show in Appendix 1 be noted.

8. CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING

The annexed circulated report of the Section 151 Officer was received to provide members with the capital programme monitoring information to 31 January 2020.

The Section 151 Officer outlined the summary of budgets that had been reprofiled over £100k, including the multi-storey car park, property renovations and the 3G pitch at Redwell Leisure Centre.

The chair invited Mr G Kane and Mr R Boulton of Northamptonshire County Council to speak on the proposal for £1m investment to fund the design and development of the strategic outline business case of the Isham Bypass scheme.

A lengthy debate ensued around the history of the Isham Bypass project.

Members sought clarity around the investment and whether this effectively constituted a return to the first phase of a project that had already neared completion on previous occasions. Mr Kane advised members that without the proposed funding, the scheme would not move forward.

The managing director explained that the funding would allow access to Major Road Network funding required to deliver the scheme. Mr Kane thanked the members for their views and passion regarding the Isham Bypass.

Members went on to discuss the request for £24,386 for the purchase of a further four surveillance cameras to continue monitoring fly tipping within the borough. All members agreed that investing in cameras to help deter fly tipping was a sensible use of funds.

Some concern was raised around the refurbishment of the Tithe Barn offices and some members felt that not enough information had been provided either to resources committee, or to members of other committees, about the future location of staff following local government reform to warrant committing to an investment of £2.876m. Some members were also concerned around the rental potential of the building following refurbishment, citing a previous similar project which was subsequently redeveloped.
The Section 151 Officer explained that whilst no decisions had yet been taken, the building was currently outdated, and refurbishment could help to provide a safe and secure working environment with an extended lifespan.

(Cllr Francis left the meeting at 20:56 and did not return.)

**RESOLVED** that:

(i) the projected outturn and anticipated variances as at 31 January 2020 as shown in Appendix 1 be noted;
(ii) the external funding as stated in Appendix 2 be noted, and;
(iii) the updates and amendments to the 2019-20 capital programme as shown in Section 6;

**R1 RECOMMENDED** that:

(I) the allocation of funding for Phase 3 of the Castle Theatre project in section 7 be agreed, and;
(II) the Capital budget requests as shown in section 8 in the current capital programme be agreed;

9. **CAPITAL AND INVESTMENT STRATEGY FOR THE MEDIUM TERM**

The annexed circulated report of the Section 151 Officer was received the present members with the capital strategy for the medium term, together with a list of all agreed capital schemes for the coming years. This now also encompassed the asset investment strategy and newly required non-treasury investment indicators as required.

The report formed part of the council’s capital strategy process and provided the committee with the opportunity to review the strategy and governance of the capital programme.

The Section 151 Officer explained some of the wording had been updated to reflect upcoming changes to local government in Northamptonshire.

**R2 RECOMMENDED** that:

(i) the capital and investment strategy at appendix 1 be agreed;

10. **PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS AND TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2020-21**

The annexed circulated report of the Section 151 Officer was received to inform members of the treasury indicators to allow members to monitor the council’s performance over the coming financial year.

The Section 151 Officer introduced the report and explained that the report added in some delegations to officers, and that whilst correct at the time of
publication, the budgetary announcement from central government earlier in the day may have some impact on the accuracy of the figures.

R3 RECOMMENDED that:

(i) the Treasury Management Strategy Statement set out in Appendix A of the report be approved, and;
(ii) based on a strong business case for investment and revenue returns to cover the costs, borrowing can be considered as a source of financing for certain capital schemes be agreed.

11. PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2020/21

The annexed circulated report of the Assistant Director was received to seek approval from members for the council’s Pay Policy Statement so that it can be published by 1 April 2020.

The assistant director explained to members that there were some inaccuracies in the report, outlined below:

- The reference to Corby Borough Council on page 4 should have read Borough Council of Wellingborough
- On paragraph 1 on page 4, the referenced Spinal Column Point (SCP) should have read as SCP6, with an FTE rate of £19,171 or £9.93 per hour.
- The median pay ratio referenced on page 4 was 2.71:1

Members queried if the honoraria system was still being used. The assistant director stated that the policy was still active, and that in 2019/20, six honoraria had been paid out totalling in the region of £7,000.

R4 RECOMMENDED that:

(i) The Pay Policy Statement 2020/21 be approved for publication.

Chairman

The meeting concluded at 9.05pm.