

COUNCIL MEETING – 9 DECEMBER 2014
REPORT OF THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

22 October 2014

Present: Councillors Bell (Chairman), Allebone, Emerson, Graves, Griffiths, Harrington, Henley, Partridge-Underwood, Scarborough, Ward and M Waters.

Also present: Mr J T Campbell, Chief Executive, Miss S Lyons, Solicitor, Mrs L Elliott, Head of Finance, Mrs B Lawrence, Head of Resources, Miss J Thomas, Interim Head of Planning and Local Development, Mrs S Knowles, Principal Accountancy Manager, Mr N Robinson, Principal Revenue and Benefits Manager and Mrs C A Mundy, Democratic Services Officer.

(Councillor Bass attended as an observer.)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

RESOLVED to note that apologies for absence were received from Councillors Carr, Dholakia, Hollyman and Morrall.

2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 16 September 2014 be confirmed and signed.

3. 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 councillor declared an interest in the following items:

Councillor	Minute	Report Title	Reason
Scarborough	4	Mid-year report Treasury management	Registerable - wife has contract with principality building society.

4. MID -YEAR REPORT ON TREASURY MANAGEMENT

The annexed circulated report of the Head of Finance was received to inform members of the treasury management activity.

(Councillor Scarborough left the room during discussion on this item.)

The report detailed the performance and investments held at 30 September 2014 and gave an overall outline of expected performance for the remainder of the financial year. Also included were details of the current UK economy and

the forecast for interest rates in the future which were key factors in the level of returns that could be expected from investments.

RESOLVED that the mid-year treasury management update be noted.

(Councillor Scarborough returned to the room.)

5. LOCAL COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME 2015/16

The annexed circulated report of the Principal Revenue and Benefits Manager was received to advise members on the Council's Local Council Tax Support scheme (CTS) for 2015/16 and subsequent years.

The annual total expenditure was predicted to be in the region of £4,050,000 for 2014/15, which was less than previously reported. At the half-year position, the scheme was self-financing and did not present any additional burden on the revenue budget.

RESOLVED that no change be made to the Borough Council of Wellingborough's Local Council Tax Support Scheme for 2015/16.

(Councillors Emerson, Henley and Scarborough abstained from voting on this item.)

6. REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES

The annexed circulated report of the Head of Resources was received on the outcome of the consultation on the proposals relating to polling districts and polling places for the borough.

The report also detailed the recommendations in relation to the location of individual polling stations to be determined by the (Acting) Returning Officer.

Members made the following comments:

Polling district IB - The Miller Public House function room.

This was considered to be a good location for polling district IB. The Head of Resources confirmed that as Millers Park was now in polling district FA the electorate would vote at the Memorial Hall in Great Doddington.

Polling district KB - Glamis Hall - should the hall not be transferred, and therefore not available, Councillor Scarborough proposed that a portakabin to be placed in the car park adjacent to the hall, rather than the electorate moving to Olympic or Ruskin schools.

Polling district MC – a request was made that the Hope Church be considered along with the Oakway Academy and the Hemmingwell Skills Centre. A number of comments were made about the suitability of Oakway Academy due to its multiple entrances.

R1 RECOMMENDED that the proposed polling districts and polling places be published for the new wards in the borough as detailed in the report.

RESOLVED that the following recommendations be made to the (Acting) Returning Officer in respect of the location of individual polling stations:

- (a) Polling district IB: Miller Public House function room;
- (b) Polling district KC: Ruskin Infant/Junior School;
- (c) Should Glamis Hall not be available on 7 May 2015, electors currently allocated to Glamis Hall be relocated to a portakabin in the Glamis Hall car park;
- (d) Polling district BC: Freemans School if the car wash site on Westfield Road was not available on 7 May 2015;
- (e) Polling district MC: Consideration be given to either the Hope Church, Oakway Academy or the Hemmingwell Skills Centre.

7. BUSINESS PLAN 2015/16: WELLINGBOROUGH NORSE

The annexed circulated report of the managing director of Wellingborough Norse Ltd was received in relation to the annual business plan for the year 2015/16.

Councillors commented on the excellent performance of the grounds maintenance and grass cutting teams this year whilst appreciating that the weather had been more favourable than in recent years. The chairman asked the managing director to pass the committee's appreciation onto his team.

The managing director thanked members for their comments and informed the meeting that the operatives and managers had worked extremely hard this season, as well as benefitting from improvements arising from the re-engineering of the service. He believed that the improvements would continue.

RESOLVED that the annual business plan be noted.

8. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items 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:

Min. no.	Item	Paragraph of Schedule 12A
9	Wellingborough Norse exempt appendix: Annual Business Plan	E3

9. WELLINGBOROUGH NORSE EXEMPT APPENDIX: ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN

The annexed circulated exempt appendices were received.

Members commented on the information contained therein and suggested that the good news stories be publicised. The managing director confirmed that it was his intention to do so and that he would also provide a members briefing note.

Reference was also made to the brown bin collections with a request that the extension of the service further into the autumn be re-considered. The chief executive clarified that Council had made a decision to provide this service over an 8 month period and this had not changed. The liaison board had looked at whether or not the period of non-collection should be adjusted but had concluded that the current arrangements provided the best possible solution.

Members considered that the proposal for business growth within the plan was a good way to progress the business and that the business plan was robust.

A report by Wellingborough Norse on performance would be submitted to the next Partnerships and Performance Committee.

RESOLVED that the Annual Business Plan be noted.

Chairman

The meeting closed at 8pm.