

STRATEGY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

4 October 2018

7.00 pm – 10.20 pm
 Council Chamber, Ebley Mill, Stroud

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Minutes

Membership:

Councillor Doina Cornell (Chair)	P	Councillor Mattie Ross	P
Councillor Nigel Cooper	P	Councillor Tom Skinner	P
Councillor Stephen Davies	P	Councillor Chas Townley	P
Councillor Colin Fryer (Vice-Chair)	P	Councillor Ken Tucker	P
Councillor Nick Hurst	P	Councillor Martin Whiteside	P
Councillor Keith Pearson	P	Councillor Debbie Young	P
Councillor Simon Pickering	P		

P = Present A = Absent

Officers Present:

Chief Executive	Principal Accountant
Director of Customer Service	Head of Business Service Planning
Director of Development Services	Head of IT
Head of Property Services	Revenue and Benefits Manager
Property Manager	Community Services Manager
New Homes & Regeneration Manager	Head of Community Services
Head of Finance	Democratic Services Officer
Accountancy Manager	

Other Members Present:

Councillors Tom Williams, McKeown, Robinson, Brine, Marjoram.

The Chair announced that this was the final meeting for the Chief Executive, David Hagg, thanked him and wished him well for the future.

SRC.028 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

SRC.029 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Townley declared an interest in Item 11, Subscription Rooms, Stroud as he is a Member of Stroud Town Council.

Councillor Young declared an interest in Item 12, Delivery Strategy for the redevelopment of Brimscombe Port.

Committee agreed that Item 11, Subscription Rooms, Stroud would be heard after Item 5 on the agenda.

SRC.030 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED **To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 12 July 2018.**

SRC.031 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were none.

SRC.032 **WORK PROGRAMME**

Members discussed the following items on the work programme:

- Budget setting process – all Committees to receive budget reports in December 2018.
- Performance Monitoring to be added to the work programme for January 2019.
- Pensions Committee – January 2019, overview of changes during the year.

SRC.033 **SUBSCRIPTION ROOMS, STROUD**

The Head of Property Services introduced this report explaining that it was not possible to transfer the Subscription Rooms to Stroud Town Council by the deadline of 31 October 2018 and requested that the report be withdrawn and the exchange deadline removed but with completion of the transfer still to take place on or before 31 March 2019.

An amended resolution was proposed by Councillor Ross and seconded by Councillor Whiteside. On being put to the vote the proposal was carried, there were 5 votes in favour, 1 against and 4 abstentions of the amendment.

RESOLVED **That negotiations continue for the transfer of the freehold interest in the Subscription Rooms and forecourt and the business operated there from, with a view to completion no later than 31 March 2019 with final terms to be reported back to Committee for approval to exchange of contracts.**

SRC.034 **MEMBER REPORTS**

- (a) Performance Monitoring was discussed by Members who had received the report prior to the meeting. As Councillor Whiteside was the only performance monitor he encouraged other Members to volunteer.
- (b) Investment and Development Panel – Councillor Cornell explained that most of the discussion focussed on Brimscombe Port.

SRC.035 **TASK AND FINISH GROUPS**

- (a) ICT Working Group – IT Strategy and Investment Progress

The Head of Business Service Planning introduced the report and explained that a workshop had taken place to discuss the future IT needs as a council. A report with draft proposals would be discussed at Committee in January 2019. The Head of IT explained that the investment process was in progress with some tasks completed.

Members discussed what type of IT access the residents of the district would need to be able to contact the council in future. Improvements in efficiency and performance would need to be an important factor when implementing the strategy.

RESOLVED **To note the report.**

(b) First Report of the Constitution Working Group 2018

The Chair of the Task and Finish Group presented this report, which was the first of two reports the group will be submitting to Committee. Discussion took place on the following issues.

- The cost of committee, reducing the number of officers attending; reading reports and asking questions of officers prior to the meeting;
- important that all committees take part in the budget setting process;
- youth council to be more involved with the work of the Council.

RESOLVED

1. **No changes be made to the committee structure;**
2. **The Chairperson and the lead officer for each committee ensure that officer attendance is reduced as outlined in the report paragraph 2.3; and**
3. **The practice applied to the budget setting process in 2013/2014 to 2017/18 which ensured that all service committees had the opportunity to consider the annual budget proposals, be continued.**

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL **That the terms of reference of the District Planning Review Panel (aka 'PRP') be amended as outlined in the report paragraph 2.7.**

SRC.036 **RECOMMENDATION FROM HOUSING COMMITTEE – 11 SEPTEMBER 2018 – Additional Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Borrowing Programme (2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22)**

Councillor Townley presented this report which provided Committee with details of the proposed bids to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government for the HRA borrowing programme.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL **To approve the bids to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), through Homes England, for additional borrowing from the 'Additional HRA Borrowing Programme (2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22)' for the following schemes:**

**Broadfield Road, Eastington
Orchard Road, Ebley
Queens Drive, Cashes Green
Ringfield Close, Nailsworth
Southbank, Woodchester
Summersfield Road, Minchinhampton
Tanners Piece, Nailsworth
The former Ship Inn site, Bridgend**

SRC.037 **LOCAL COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME**

The Revenue and Benefits Manager presented this report which sought approval to set a support scheme for the period 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020. Council tax benefit was abolished as part of the welfare reform. Different options were explained to Members if the scheme was not adopted.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL **That it adopts the current Local Scheme as the scheme for Stroud District Council for the period 01 April 2019 to 31 March 2020, keeping the scheme unchanged.**

SRC.038 **CAR PARK REVIEW 2018**

The Director of Customer Services presented this report explaining the background of the variation order put before Committee.

Councillor Ross proposed a motion to amend the resolution to remove car parking charges from Stonehouse until the review of the health of the market towns has been completed. This was seconded by Councillor Fryer.

Following this motion Councillor Pickering declared an interest and left the Council Chamber for this item. He explained that visitors to his Air B&B business have had car parking tickets when parking in the Stonehouse car park.

Advice was given to Members that this matter should be considered by Full Council, as there was a risk of legal challenge to the authority if not decided by Full Council.

The motion proposed by Councillor Ross and seconded by Councillor Fryer was put to the vote this was carried with 4 votes in favour and 8 abstentions.

Members voted on the recommendation to Council. When being put to the vote this was carried with 6 votes in favour and 6 abstentions.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL

1. **The amended Variation Order (appended to this report) be approved for implementation**
2. **That car parking charges are not introduced in Dursley, Nailsworth, Stratford Park and Wotton-under-Edge**
3. **To remove car parking charges from Stonehouse until the review of the health of the market towns has been completed.**

SRC.039 **DELIVERY STRATEGY FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT OF BRIMSCOMBE PORT**

The New Homes and Regeneration Manager presented this report which provided Committee with details of the proposed delivery strategy for Brimscombe Port. A progress report would be presented to Committee in March 2019.

RESOLVED

1. **Approve the proposed delivery strategy for the redevelopment of Brimscombe Port by means of seeking a development partner/s subject to a further report to Committee by March 2019 to approve the Heads of Terms for the development agreement, the procurement process and associated documents.**

2. Authorise the Head of Property Services to submit a detailed planning application for the infrastructure for phase 1 and 2 of the redevelopment of the Port and an outline application for the redevelopment of phase 1.
3. To provide £50k per annum grant funding to Stroud Valleys Canals Company (SVCC) from 2020/2021 until the Port is redeveloped and is providing income at this sum or above (such sum to be index-linked to the consumer prices index). Any grant money will be reduced by the sum generated from the redeveloped port and reviewed in March 2024 if the redevelopment has not completed by that date.
4. To delegate authority to the Head of Property Services in consultation with the Head of Finance and Chair and Vice Chair of this committee to agree amended terms for the £2m loan from Homes England to reflect the up to date project and programme and support the redevelopment of the site.

SRC.040 FINANCIAL REPORTS

(a) Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget Monitoring Report 2018/19 P1

The Accountancy Manager and Principal Accountant presented this report which gave a forecast of the outturn position against the revenue budget and capital programme for the HRA for 2018/19.

RESOLVED To note the outturn forecast for the HRA Revenue budgets and Capital programmes.

(b) Budget Monitoring Report 2018/19 – 31 Aug 2018

The Accountancy Manager presented this report which set out the outturn forecast for the general fund revenue budget and capital programme. Members asked questions relating to the variations in Table 1 of the report, cost of food waste, rental income relating to the Littlecombe units, multi-service contract overspends and re-negotiation.

RESOLVED 1. To note the outturn forecast for the General Fund Revenue budget and Capital Programme.
2. To approve the re-profiled capital budgets for Stratford Park Lido and Community Buildings, as recommended by Community Services and Licensing Committee set out in paragraphs 37 and 38.

At this point in the meeting a unanimous vote was taken to continue the meeting as detailed in the Council's constitution.

Budget Strategy 2019/20 to 2022/23

The Head of Finance presented this report which set the framework for the detailed budgets which will be presented to Committees in December.

RESOLVED Approve the Budget Strategy 2019/20 to 2022/23 as set out in this report, including the decision to bid for Business Rates Pilot status.

SRC.041 **LEADERSHIP GLOUCESTERSHIRE UPDATE**

The Chief Executive gave a brief update on the meeting which took place on 26 July 2018. Members agreed that it was useful to have these updates.

SRC.042 **APPOINTMENT OF THE ACTING HEAD OF PAID SERVICE**

The Chief Executive presented this report, explaining that the Director of Customer Services and Director of Development Services would share the responsibility of Acting Head of Paid Service between 5 October and 25 November 2018, until the new Chief Executive joins the Council on 26 November 2018.

RESOLVED **To approve the arrangements as set out in paragraph 4 of the report.**

SRC.043 **MEMBERS QUESTIONS**

Questions were submitted by Councillor Young. They were answered by the Leader, Councillor Cornell. Supplementary questions and answers were also answered. (Refer to the [Council's webcast](#) and [Item 16](#)).

The meeting closed at 10.20 pm.

Chair