

POLICY AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

8 MARCH 2017

Present: Councillor R I Jackson, Chair

Councillors: S J Carr
M J Crow
E Cubley (substitute)
J C Goold
D A Elliott
A Harper
E Kerry
G Marshall
J W McGrath
P D Simpson
M Radulovic MBE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor S Easom.

54. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

55. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 January 2017 were confirmed and signed.

56. REFERENCE

Finance and Resources Committee

9 January 2017

GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS,
CHARITABLE BODIES AND INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED IN SPORTS,
THE ARTS AND DISABILITY MATTERS 2016/17

The Committee had considered a further amendment to the Council's Grant Aid Policy. It was suggested that an amendment would allow for groups submitting requests under £250 to also be assessed under delegated authority with the limit currently at £100. Subsequently, this would slightly reduce the amount of requests that need to be submitted as the frequency of grant aid reporting to Finance and Resources Committee was to be reduced.

RESOLVED that an amendment to the Grants to Voluntary and Community Organisations, Charitable Bodies and Individuals Involved in Sports, the Arts and Disability Matters 2016/17 Policy be approved to

increase the limit for grants awarded under delegated powers, including individuals, to £250 subject to consultation with the Chair of the Finance and Resources Committee.

57. REVIEW OF THE CORPORATE PLAN PROGRESS AND FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

The Committee noted a report which outlined progress against outcome targets linked to Corporate Plan priorities and received an update as to the latest financial performance as measured against the budget. The following comments and responses were amongst those included:

- Figures for reporting cases of anti-social behaviour may be misrepresented due to the fear of reporting.
- The Council was making every effort to return empty private sector dwellings into occupation.
- The cost of agency expenditure was significantly over budget. The garden waste section had required extra cover, in addition to refuse collection, and monitoring of expenditure was now in place.
- Approval had not been received for co-location from the Department of Work and Pensions. Work had not been undertaken on refurbishment and alternative options were to be considered.
- A small overspend at Bexhill Court was expected due to increases in building cost caused by a slight delay to the project.

58. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ANNUAL REPORT 2016/17

The annual review of activities and outcomes in respect of the Council's equality and diversity work was noted.

Clarification was requested over the steps taken should a negative impact be identified when compiling an Equality Impact Assessment. Officers replied that it was necessary to be realistic in the current financial situation, but an Action Plan would detail the customer journey in order to capture information on the Council's interaction with those with a learning disability. Ideas and suggestions would then be submitted to the Equalities Working Group.

RESOLVED that the Equalities Objectives and Action Plan for 2017-19, contained in appendix 2 of the report, be approved.

59. INCREASE IN PLANNING FEES

Members were informed that local authorities would be able to increase planning application fees by 20% from July 2017 if they committed to invest the additional fee income in their planning department to make agreed improvements.

RESOLVED to accept the opportunity to increase planning application fees by 20% from July 2017 and to delegate to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council detailed plans for the investment of the additional resources.

60. WORK PROGRAMME

RESOLVED that the Work Programme be approved.

61. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED that, under Section 100A of the Local Government Act, 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

62. ASSET DISPOSAL

RESOLVED that the sale of 15 Nottingham Road be approved with final terms for disposal being delegated to the Director of Housing, Leisure and Property Services in consultation with the Deputy Chief Executive.

63. EXTENSION OF AGENCY SUPPORT

RESOLVED that the extension of temporary additional HR support if required, to 30 June 2017 be approved.

64. HONORARIA FOR COUNCIL OFFICERS

RESOLVED that the honoraria payments as set out in table 5 of the appendix to the report be approved.