

# **FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**13 JULY 2017**

Present: Councillor P D Simpson, Chair

Councillors: T P Brindley  
M Brown (substitute)  
E Cubley  
D A Elliott  
G Marshall  
P J Owen  
J M Owen (substitute)  
K E Rigby (substitute)  
A W G A Stockwell

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S A Bagshaw, S C Carr, S Easom, R I Jackson and M Radulovic MBE.

1. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

2. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 March 2017 were confirmed and signed.

3. **REFERENCES**

Community Safety Committee  
20 April 2017  
FOOD HYGIENE STAFFING

The Committee had considered the request to increase the resources available to the Food Hygiene Inspection Team to deal with outstanding food hygiene inspections. It was agreed that the inspections were an important function of the Council.

**RESOLVED that the expenditure for the appointment of contractors to complete the backlog of outstanding food hygiene inspections be approved.**

Leisure and Environment Committee

14 June 2017

MEMORIAL TESTING IN CEMETARIES

The Committee had received an update on the safety checks and repairs undertaken to the memorials in the Borough's cemeteries.

**RESOLVED that an additional £15,000 be allocated to the 2017/18 budget for the memorial safety testing programme with funding from 2017/18 revenue contingencies.**

Policy and Performance

4 July 2017

INTERIM HOUSING MANAGER

The Committee had considered that since being appointed on 22 March 2017, the Interim Housing Manager had provided the necessary resource to progress a number of projects. To complete these projects an extension to the current contract was required. An extension for three months was proposed with the number of hours reduced from 37 to 33 hours per week.

**RESOLVED that the extension of the contract for the Interim Housing Manager for a further three months be approved.**

Policy and Performance

4 July 2017

ESTABLISHMENT REVIEW – CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS

**RESOLVED that the changes to the establishment of the Corporate Communications Team as set out in the report be approved.**

Policy and Performance

4 July 2017

ESTABLISHMENT REVIEW – FINANCE SERVICES

**RESOLVED that, with effect from 1 October 2017, the establishment changes to the Accountancy section within the Finance Services Team as set out in the report be approved.**

Policy and Performance

4 July 2017

BEESTON SQUARE UPDATE

**RESOLVED that:**

- 1. A supplementary capital estimate of £15,000 in 2017/18 for works to enable interim uses of the former Beeston bus station funded from 2017/18 capital contingencies be approved.**

2. **A supplementary revenue estimate of £50,000 in 2017/18 for additional project management support costs for Beeston Square funded from General Fund reserves be approved.**

Policy and Performance

4 July 2017

COMPLAINTS FUNCTION

**RESOLVED that the changes to the establishment of the Democratic Services team as set out in the report be approved.**

Policy and Performance

4 July 2017

REBALANCING OF ENVIRONMENT BUDGETS

**RESOLVED that the rebalancing of the salary and agency budgets within the frontline refuse, street cleansing and grounds maintenance services be approved.**

Jobs and Economy

6 July 2017

TOUR OF BRITAIN: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE LEG

The Jobs and Economy Committee had recommended that up to £5,000 be allocated from revenue contingencies to fund the part of the Tour of Britain cycle race that was to come through Broxtowe.

There was a debate between members who were concerned about the disruption this would cause to traffic in the north of the Borough and those who considered it an important cultural event that would put Broxtowe on the map. Whether the Council was obligated to make a contribution to the event was discussed. A motion was put to the meeting that the Committee refuse the £5,000 to fund the Tour of Britain, Nottinghamshire Leg. On being put to the vote the motion was carried.

**RESOLVED that the recommendation to allocate up to £5,000 towards the Tour of Britain Nottinghamshire Leg, funded from 2017/18 Revenue Contingencies not be approved.**

4. STATEMENT OF OUTTURN ACCOUNTS UPDATE AND OUTTURN POSITION 2016/17

The Committee noted the revenue and capital outturn position for 2016/17 and the update on progress with the preparation of the draft annual statement of accounts for 2016/17.

There was a discussion about the use of agency staff in the Environment Division. It was noted that six permanent posts had been added to the

establishment to ensure the services were not overly reliant on agency staff. Six agency posts had been retained.

The Committee considered the underspend on employee costs from the Housing Revenue Account. It was noted that four Retirement Living Officer posts and a number of skilled trades posts had remained unfilled. The restructure had removed these posts from the establishment.

Debate progressed on to the increase in income from vacated properties and how this had been achieved. It was noted that the temporary accommodation that had been used to prevent homelessness was now being used to accommodate those who had been discharged from hospital, but required assistive technology. There was a charge for providing this service.

**RESOLVED that:**

- 1. The accounts summary for the financial year ended 31 March 2017 subject to audit, be approved.**
- 2. The revenue carry forward requests outlined in section 2 of appendix 1 be approved and included as supplementary revenue estimates in the 2017/18 budget.**
- 3. The capital carry forward requests outlined in appendix 2b be approved and included as supplementary capital estimates in the 2017/18 budget.**

5. TREASURY MANAGEMENT AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS – ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017

The Committee noted the treasury management activity and the actual prudential indicators for 2016/17, in particular that where loans had matured, they had been changed to short term loans and that the Council's investments in loans had been reduced. The Council had taken out five new loans totalling £6million in May 2016 to finance part of the purchase of the lease for Beeston Square. It was noted that the funds gained from investments had reduced significantly since the financial crash in 2008. There was discussion about the importance of investing in institutions with high credit ratings to avoid risk.

6. GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS, CHARITABLE BODIES AND INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED IN SPORTS, THE ARTS AND DISABILITY MATTERS 2017/18

The Committee considered requests for grant aid in accordance with the provisions of the Council's Grant Aid Policy and noted the grants awarded under delegated authority.

It was noted that the grants for 2<sup>nd</sup> Kimberley Scout Group, Toton Coronation Hall Community Association and New Stapleford Community Association were notional, as they gave an estimate of rents that could be charged should buildings owned by Broxtowe Borough Council be hired out commercially.

Representations were made to the Committee by Councillor Richard McRae concerning the New Stapleford Community Association. The Chief Executive was asked to look into the issues raised by Councillor McRae.

There followed a discussion regarding the grant aid request from Voluntary Action Broxtowe. It was proposed by Councillor P J Owen and seconded by Councillor A G W A Stockwell that no grant be given to Voluntary Action Broxtowe. An amendment to the proposal was put by Councillor D A Elliott and seconded by Councillor G Marshall that a decision on the request for grant aid be deferred until a Service Level Agreement was in place for inspection by the Committee. On being put to the meeting the amendment was lost. On being put to the meeting the motion was carried.

There was a discussion concerning the request for funds from the Beeston Community Resource Centre. A proposal was made and seconded that there should be no award made because the Centre had benefitted from £22,500 from Nottinghamshire County Council and had £36,000 in reserves. There was concern that refusing the grant would impact on essential services for people in recovery from significant mental health problems.

Following the discussion a recorded vote was requested. The voting was as follows:

<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>	<u>Abstention</u>
T P Brindley	D A Elliott	AWGA Stockwell
M Brown	G Marshall	
E Cubley	K E Rigby	
P J Owen		
J M Owen		

It was noted that the application from Hope Nottingham had increased because they were proposing to offer more services and widen the scope of their work. It was proposed by Councillor D A Elliot and seconded by Councillor G Marshall that the full award of £10,000 be made to Hope Nottingham. An amendment to this proposal was put by Councillor P J Owen and seconded by Councillor M Brown that an award of £4,000 be made, in line with the grant given to Hope Nottingham historically. On being put to the meeting the proposal was lost and the amendment was carried.

Councillor J Gould made representations to the Committee to support the application from Hall Park Academy to fund the Prison, Me, No Way Scheme. It was proposed by Councillor A W G A Stockwell and seconded by Councillor M Brown that the full grant be awarded. On being put to the meeting the motion was lost.

**RESOLVED that the applications be dealt with as follows:**

	<b>Grant Request 2017/18</b>	<b>Grant Awarded</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Kimberley Scout Group</b>	<b>6,500</b>	<b>6,500</b>
<b>Toton Coronation Hall Community Association</b>	<b>7,000</b>	<b>7,000</b>
<b>Voluntary Action Broxtowe</b>	<b>7,000</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Nuthall Age Concern Day Centre</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>500</b>
<b>Beeston Community Resource</b>	<b>4,000</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Hope Nottingham</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>4,000</b>
<b>New Stapleford Community Association</b>	<b>4,000</b>	<b>4,000</b>
<b>RCAN</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Beauvale Horticultural Show</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>500</b>
<b>Hall Park Academy</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>22,500</b>	<b>22,500</b>

7. CITIZENS ADVICE BROXTOWE – GRANT AID 2017/18

The Committee considered a grant aid request put forward by Citizens Advice Broxtowe for £73,750 including £10,000 towards the annual rental of accommodation in the Council Offices.

**RESOLVED that £73,750 be awarded to Citizens Advice Broxtowe.**

8. DURBAN HOUSE, EASTWOOD – MINOR WORKS

The Committee noted that the Council remained responsible for the maintenance of Durban House. A number of works were required to the exterior of the building and approval was sought to finance these from capital contingencies.

**RESOLVED that a supplementary capital estimate for £28,750 in 2017/18 to undertake work at Durban House with funding from capital contingencies be approved.**

9. KIMBERLEY LEISURE CENTRE – REPLACEMENT SWIMMING POOL COVER

The exercise of Standing Order 32 powers by the Chief Executive in respect of the replacement of the swimming pool cover at Kimberley Leisure Centre at a cost of £5,000 was noted.

10. ASSET DISPOSAL

The Committee noted that there were six garage sites being put forward for redevelopment, namely Oakfield Road, Stapleford; Felton Close, Chilwell; Lawrence Avenue, Eastwood; Ghost House Lane, Chilwell and south of Whitely Close, Stapleford. There was a discussion about whether the sites could be stipulated for dementia friendly bungalows and it was clarified that this would not be possible. It was noted that any development would be brought before the Planning Committee for determination at the appropriate time.

An amendment to the recommendation was proposed by Councillor G Marshall and seconded by Councillor D A Elliot that the principle of redeveloping the assets has an order of viability prioritising dementia friendly bungalows, then social housing, then private development. On being put to the meeting the motion was lost.

**RESOLVED that:**

- 1. Sites for disposal as listed in the appendix be approved.**
- 2. Final terms for disposal to be delegated to the Director of Housing, Leisure and Property Services in consultation with the Director of Legal and Planning Services.**

11. WOLLATON ROAD ALLOTMENTS IRRIGATION SUPPLY

The Committee considered measures to improve the water supplies at Wollaton Road Allotments in Beeston. A recharge would be made to the Beeston Special Expenses Area to reflect the cost of the capital project, which would include installing a new supply pipe to improve the water supply.

**RESOLVED that:**

- 1. A supplementary capital estimate of £16,000 for a new irrigation supply at Wollaton Road Allotments with funding of £13,000 from capital contingencies and £3,000 from the Allotment Holders Association be approved.**
- 2. An appropriate recharge be made to the Beeston Special Expenses Area to reflect the cost of capital in future revenue budgets.**

12. WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee considered items for inclusion in its future Work Programme.

**RESOLVED that the Work Programme be approved.**

13. 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 item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

14. SALE OF FISHPOND COTTAGE, BRAMCOTE AND RETENTION/USE OF SURROUNDING LAND FOR REDEVELOPMENT

**RESOLVED** that:

1. The sale of Fishpond Cottage be approved.
2. The principle of redeveloping the former garden and adjacent land for dementia-friendly bungalows (subject to planning approval and the availability of appropriate finance) be approved.
3. Terms of the sale be delegated to the Director of Housing, Leisure and Property Services and the Director of Legal and Planning Services, subject to the sale price being no less than 90% of the independent valuation.