



Strategy and Resources Meeting
Wednesday 13th April 2022
The Trinity Centre
7:00pm

Present:

Cllrs S Ward (Chairman), Cairns, Cooper, Pocock, Raut and Wood.

In Attendance:

Olive O'Sullivan – Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Mary Watkins – Finance Manager

There were no members of the press or public present.

87 Apologies for Absence

The CEO had received apologies from Cllrs Mackey, Parmar and apologies for lateness from Cllr Raut.

Resolved to accept the apologies.

88 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Wood declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 100 as an allotment holder at Boulevard Allotments.

89 Exclusion of the Press and Public

Resolved to exclude members of the public and press during discussion of item 100 under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 s3.

90 Minutes of the Previous Meetings

In response to a request for an update on the Hill Hook asset transfer and Land Use Consultants (LUC) Sutton Park report, the CEO confirmed that these would be provided during the next agenda item.

Resolved to confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting of the Strategy and Resources Committee held on 8th February 2022.

91 Matters Arising

The CEO reported that:

- The formal request for the asset transfer of Hill Hook Nature Reserve had been submitted to Birmingham City Council (BCC) and a response had not yet been received.
- The LUC report on potential governance models for the management of Sutton Park had been provided to BCC prior to its publication and a response had not yet been received.
- Queries are still outstanding regarding the transfer of Allotments, mainly around easement matters.
- BCC had been chased for an update on the Vesey Gardens asset transfer but a response had not yet been received. The Town Council is awaiting a Statement of Truth in relation to a



small area of land at the northern boundary of Vesey Gardens, that will be included in the legal transfer, which BCC cannot prove title to. In response to a question from Cllr Pocock regarding repair work needed to the wall of the closed churchyard, the CEO confirmed that responsibility for this would remain with BCC.

Cllr Cairns asked if the lack of response related to one department at BCC or several. The CEO reported that there were periodic meetings with the Leaders of RSCTC and BCC and that a request had been made for the assistant director responsible for progressing these matters to attend the next meeting.

In response to a question from Cllr Ward, Cllr Pocock stated that BCC is passionately committed to coming to an agreement with the Town Council on the future governance of Sutton Park and that the LUC report was a good basis for constructive discussions. Cllr Pocock also noted that the pre-election period made it difficult for elected officials to respond but if there was no change of administration, there was a positive willingness to engage in discussions after May.

The CEO reported use of delegated powers, in consultation with the Leader, to support the Sutton Fun Run, allocating funding of £10,000 towards infrastructure costs.

7:12pm – Cllr Raut entered during discussion of this item.

92 Questions from Members

No questions received.

93 Minutes of Town Centre Regeneration Partnership

Cllr Pocock asked if the indicative timeline for the Sutton Coldfield Gateway was realistic, following the announcement of the Government's decision on the CRSTS funding. He asked if next steps for completion prior to commencement of the works would be; business case for second stage of design; planning stage; and decision on the planning application.

Cllr Ward responded that there would also be some further consultation and that the involvement of Transport for West Midlands (TfWM) is integral. TfWM had already carried out some preliminary modeling and implications would need to be factored into the timeline set out.

Cllr Ward stated that it was positive that the £20m had now been allocated and there were a number of complexities to be worked through but that all the right people were around the table and pulling in the same direction for delivery as soon as possible.

Resolved to note the minutes from the Town Centre Regeneration Partnership held 4th March 2022.

94 Queen's Platinum Jubilee Dressing

Cllr Wood commented that he was pleased that the Town Council was dressing the town for such a special event and that it was important for the town to show allegiance to the Queen.

In response to a question from Cllr Pocock the CEO confirmed that the dressing would be removed in some locations after the Jubilee, to be replaced with Commonwealth Games banners and the remaining dressing would be removed at the end of August.

Resolved to approve funding for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee dressing at locations throughout the town at a total cost of £14,850 from the Something for Everyone Events budget.



Resolved to approve that House of Flags is commissioned to design and produce the bespoke lamppost banners.

Resolved to approve that Wyrley M&E Limited is commissioned to install, maintain and de-rig the banners.

95 Annual Return and Financial Year 2021/22

Cllr Ward informed Committee that the Annual Accounts would be presented to the next Full Council meeting.

Resolved to note the Annual Governance Statement, Accounting Statements and unaudited Statement of Accounts.

96 Internal Audit 2021/22

Cllr Ward thanked the CEO and Mary Watkins for their hard work and noted that the internal audit had raised no issues.

Resolved to note the internal audit report for financial year 2021/22.

97 Town Council Investments and Deposits

The CEO updated Committee on the Town Council investments that totalled £4.2m at the end of March 2022. The CEO reported that a positive review meeting had taken place with the Town Council's treasury management advisors who noted there was sufficient diversity of investment. They had also advised that the DMADF is offering good rates relative to bank deposits but with much higher credit quality and no bail in risk.

The CEO recommended that:

- Lloyds Bank 32-day notice account is reduced by £800,000;
- Public Sector deposit fund (CCLA) is reduced by £500,000;
- Blackrock (new MMF) has £1m invested.
- DMADF has a further 6 month investment of £900,000

Cllr Wood asked for some clarification around Blackrock's portfolio of investments to ensure there was limited risk of reputation damage to the Town Council and Cllr Ward recommended that the Town Council's treasury advisors be asked for some further details to be reported back to the Committee.

Resolved to approve the investments, as detailed above by the CEO, subject to the acceptance of further clarification on Blackrock's money market fund investment portfolio.

98 Bank Reconciliations

Resolved to note the bank reconciliations for January, February and March 2022.

99 Date of the Next Meeting

21st June 2022 at the Trinity Centre.

100 Exclusion of the Press and Public

Resolved that Felton Consult Limited are commissioned to produce a detailed cost estimate for the capital improvements identified in the surveys of the Sutton Coldfield allotments sites for a fixed fee of £5,725 from the Devolution Deal budget.



The meeting ended as 7:45pm

DRAFT