



Strategy and Resources Meeting
Tuesday 15th November 2022
The Trinity Centre
7:00pm

Present:

Cllrs Parkin (Deputy Chairman), Cairns, Cooper, Mackey, Pears, Pocock and Raut.

In Attendance:

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

There were no members of the press or present.

35 Election of Deputy Chairman

The CEO asked for nominations for Deputy Chairman of the Strategy and Resources Committee.

Resolved that Cllr Parkin be elected as Deputy Chairman of the Strategy and Resources Committee.

36 Apologies for Absence

The CEO reported apologies received from Cllr S Ward.

Resolved to accept the apologies received.

37 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest reported.

38 Exclusion of the Press and Public

Resolved to exclude members of the public and press during discussion of item 46 under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 s3.

39 Minutes of the Previous Meetings

Resolved to confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting of the Strategy and Resources Committee held on 20th September 2022.

40 Matters Arising

The CEO gave a report on the Multi Modal Travel Support proposal that was considered by Committee at their last meeting. Formal discussions had taken place with Travel for West Midlands (TfWM) regarding cycle hire and public transport. TfWM are rolling out the full functionality of the Swift card and had suggested that the Town Council could upload credit to Swift cards or provide day ticket scratch cards that would give the bearer free bus travel, a method of distribution of these cards would need to be decided and the success of the scheme would be difficult to monitor. TfWM are keen to support the initiative, it was agreed that due to the tight timescales this could not be progressed at this time and discussions would be ongoing to see how a tailored and targeted offer could be developed and implemented for the festive season 2023. Free cycle rides could be offered via the Cycle Hire scheme but it would not be suitable to offer this as a stand alone offer, as



Cycle Hire use is primarily used for leisure cycling. TfWM are also looking to see how a subsidised festive travel support scheme for 2023 could be incorporated into train journeys.

Informal discussions around free parking in the town centre had taken place at the Town Centre Regeneration Partnership's (TCRP) Transport Task Group. Birmingham City Council (BCC) officers in this group had stated that it would be difficult to agree free parking and had suggested potentially offering a free hour of parking in addition to a parking fee paid, eg buy two hours parking, get one free, but this would need to be part of a whole package of multi modal support.

The CEO confirmed that discussions would be ongoing to take forward to the festive season 2023.

Cllr Mackey spoke about his disappointment that BCC would not support free car parking and that the BCC owned south parade car park is massively underused. He suggested that publicising a free parking scheme would actually increase the use of this car park, having a long term positive impact on future income for BCC.

Cllr Pocock spoke in support of a continuing discussion to reach a combined agreement to support a multi model campaign for next year.

In response to a question, the CEO confirmed that private car park companies for Gracechurch and Newhall Walk had also been approached but were not receptive to proposals for free car parking.

Cllr Cairns noted that free car parking had been offered by BCC at the Anchorage Road car park, for a short time, during the pandemic and asked if discussions would help to reach a different outcome for 2023. The CEO responded that it would give more time to look at the full package, including bus and train travel.

Cllr Pocock asked if further details of the Town Ranger operating model, containing information of jobs undertaken etc for the existing contract, would be circulated to members.

The CEO responded that there is a schedule of locations of jobs completed but recording practises had changed over the course of the contract, leading to some inconsistencies in the data. This list had been used to inform the Bill of Quantities that had been used as part of the procurement exercise for the new contract. The CEO confirmed that some work would need to take place to get it into a format that could be shared with members.

The CEO gave an update on suggested locations for the Cycle Hire Scheme docking stations at Newhall Valley Park and Rectory Park. It was confirmed that a suitable location had been identified at Rectory Park and TfWM were looking at the minor works that would need to take place to progress this. Discussions with TfWM were ongoing regarding Newhall Valley Park locations as it may not be cost effective and there was a suggestions that Newhall Valley Park may be too far away from the other docking stations.

41 Questions from Members

There had been no questions submitted.

42 Update from the Human Resources Sub Committee

The CEO reported that the Human Resources Sub Committee had noted the National Salary Pay Award and had agreed that the Town Council office opening hours over the Christmas period. The Town Council will close on Friday 23rd December 2022 and reopen on Tuesday 3rd January 2023.

The Sub Committee has asked the CEO to undertake a review of the Staff Structure to be presented to a future meeting of the Sub Committee.



Resolved to note the update from the Human Resources Sub Committee.

43 Minutes of Town Centre Regeneration Partnership (TCRP)

Cllr Pocock asked for more detail on the consultation that will be carried out by the consultants appointed for the Sutton Gateway project. The CEO confirmed that it was likely that the first results would be available in Spring 2023 but this was yet to be agreed and she should have more information to report to Full Council next week.

Resolved to note the minutes from the Town Centre Regeneration Partnership held 23rd September 2022.

44 Internal Audit

Cllr Pears noted that there were no comments on the internal audit report and thanked officers for their hard work.

Resolved to note the report.

45 Date of the Next Meeting

7th December 2022 at the Trinity Centre.

The public session ended at 7:27pm.

34 Exclusion of the Press and Public

a) Town Ranger Service Tender

Resolved to recommend to Full Council that Idverde be appointed to deliver the Town Ranger Service for the next two years at an annual cost of £245,758.95, with a proposed start date of 3rd February 2023.

Resolved to recommended to Full Council that Idverde be appointed to deliver remedial work to the perimeter planting and provision and planting of spring and summer bedding at Vesey Gardens at an annual cost of £22,680, on completion of the transfer of Vesey Gardens from Birmingham City Council.

The meeting ended at 8:15pm.