



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

Present:

Cllrs Parkin (Deputy Chairman), 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 public present.

The CEO read out a question submitted by Liz Parry that asked if Committee would consider widening the road at Beeches Walk as part of the proposal to be considered under agenda item 54, to enable parking on both sides of the road without blocking traffic, and if the proposal had been discussed with businesses on Beeches Walk.

The CEO responded that a major public realm improvements proposal, that had included widening the road and introducing parking bays, had been drawn up in 2019 and considered by the Planning and Highways Committee. This scheme was later rejected by businesses and residents, following informal consultation carried out by Birmingham City Council (BCC) highways engineers. The scheme that will be considered by Committee under agenda item 54, has been developed by BCC for delivery under the minor improvements ward budget to protect the verges.

47 Apologies for Absence

The CEO reported apologies received from Cllrs Cairns and Ward. Cllr Raut had sent apologies for lateness.

Resolved to accept the apologies received.

48 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Pears declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 54 as the Birmingham City Councillor for Trinity Ward.

49 Minutes of the Previous Meetings

A typographical error was corrected in the minutes ([attached](#)).

Resolved to confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting of the Strategy and Resources Committee held on 15th November 2022

50 Matters Arising

The CEO confirmed that the cost of the Town Ranger contract and additional works at Vesey Gardens, could be covered in the proposed 2023/24 budget with scope for additional works above the Bill of Quantities, which had previously been estimated at an additional 20%.



51 Questions from Members

Cllr Cooper asked how much of the Town Council's annual budget was for replacing services that are withheld/withdrawn by Birmingham City Council (BCC)? i.e. Library, festive lights, florals etc. The CEO agreed to provide a breakdown to Cllr Cooper.

Cllr Mackey noted that the Town Council added value to Sutton Coldfield, funding enhancements that make a difference to the area and local residents.

Cllr Pears commented that the Town Council's funding towards the Town Centre library service ensured that the service was not lost and that the Town Council had a responsibility to do something about the green spaces that were suffering from neglect.

7:15pm Cllr Raut entered during discussion of this item.

52 Minutes of Human Resources Sub Committee

In response to a question from Cllr Pocock, the CEO responded that there was potential to create an apprenticeship role for the work on Greenspaces and that this would be considered as part of the staffing structure review.

Resolved to note the minutes of the Human Resources Sub-Committee held on 15th November 2022.

53 Minutes of Town Centre Regeneration Partnership (TCRP)

Cllr Pocock asked who was represented on the Economy and Enterprise Task Group that would be meeting in January and if Councillors would have an opportunity to get involved. The CEO responded that businesses within the Town Centre sector would be identified and approached for representation. The CEO noted that the Task Group would be looking at the potential for an enterprise hub to encourage entrepreneurs and innovation. In response to a question from Cllr Pocock, the CEO confirmed that Sutton College could also be approached.

Resolved to note the minutes of the Town Centre Regeneration Partnership held 18th November 2022.

54 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) – Trinity Ward

The CEO reported that the proposed scheme would help to prevent further damage to the grass verges and that there would be no changes to the waiting times or current parking restrictions. There had been some resident representation about the use of cast iron bollards and in particular if timber bollards would be more sustainable. The CEO explained that the proposed scheme was in keeping with the character of the area and that cast iron bollards were more cost effective in the long term.

Cllr Pears commented that the footway detailed on the drawings was for people to step on to when exiting cars, for further grass protection.

Cllr Pocock asked what other options were considered. The CEO confirmed that Clarity NS had worked with the BCC Highways Dept to develop the scheme, with the aim of improving the public realm and while various options had been explored, the proposed scheme was the most favorable.



Resolved to approve the proposed verge protection measures and public realm improvements at Beeches Walk in principle subject to approval of the final scheme design and layout at the Planning and Highways Committee meeting in January 2023.

55 Performance to Date

Resolved to note the performance to date.

56 Budget Proposals 2023/24

The CEO outlined the budget recommendations from the Planning and Highways and Amenities, Leisure and Community services Committees. The CEO advised Committee that any amendments to the earmarked reserves would be reviewed and approved at the February Strategy and Resources Committee meeting.

Committee reviewed their budget requirement for the 2023/24 financial year and discussed:

- Increasing the Subscriptions/Memberships budget from £7,500 to £10,000
- Increasing the PR and Marketing budget from £20,000 to £25,000
- Creating an income budget for the Town Hall Loan at £15,000 for the next three years and £26,250 in the final year
- Increasing the Interest Received income budget from £2,000 to £22,000
- Increasing the Members Allowance budget from £22,300 to £26,600
- Increasing the Meeting Room Hire budget from £8,000 to £10,000
- That the Budget Contingency line be amended to take account of all these adjustments and is also adjusted after the Precept recommendation in order to maintain a balanced budget.

Cllr Pears asked if provision had been made over the next four years for any additional assets that may be transferred as part of a Devolution Deal from Birmingham City Council. The CEO confirmed that the Devolution Deal budget line could be used for assets transferred.

The CEO confirmed that the Salaries budget was sufficient to fund the existing current structure.

Resolved to approve the amendments to the draft budget 2023/24 and indicative budgets as outlined above ([attached](#)).

Resolved to recommend to Full Council that the draft budget for 2023/24 be approved.

Resolved to recommend to Full Council that the indicative budgets for 2024/25, 2025/26, 2026/27 be approved.

57 Precept 2023/24

The CEO confirmed that the non-collection rate is set by Birmingham City Council in January 2023 and is not re-adjusted or backdated when the actual non-collection figures is known.

The CEO agreed to contact BCC and obtain a list of the actual number of houses, per band, within Sutton Coldfield.

Resolved to note the draft Council Tax Database and formula for calculation of the 2023/24 Precept.

Resolved to recommend the Precept levy of £1,859,411 for 2023/24 to Full Council for approval.



58 Date of the Next Meeting

21st February 2023 at the Trinity Centre.

The meeting ended at 8:15pm.

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