



Strategy and Resources Meeting

Tuesday 23rd April 2024

The Trinity Centre

7:00pm

Present:

Cllrs S Ward (Chairman), Cooper, Mackey, Parkin, Pears and Puri.

In Attendance:

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

There were no members of the press or public present.

83 Apologies for Absence

The CEO reported apologies from Cllrs Cairns and Raut.

Resolved to accept the apologies received.

84 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Pears and S Ward reported a possible nonpecuniary interest in item 98 as trustees of Sutton Coldfield Charitable Trust.

85 Exclusion of the Press and Public

Resolved that due to the confidential nature of the business, item 98 under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 s3, members of the public and press will be excluded during discussion of this item.

86 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Resolved to confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting of the Strategy and Resources Committee held on 20th February 2024.

87 Matters Arising

No matters arising reported.

88 Questions from Members

No questions had been received.

89 Update from the Human Resources Sub-Committee

The CEO provided a verbal update on the challenges around recruitment and that Sub-Committee had asked her to explore engaging a recruitment agency to advertise three of the vacant posts. The CEO would also look to engage some additional consultancy support in the meantime and some general admin support.



Resolved to note the update from the Human Resources Sub-Committee meeting held on 23rd April 2024.

90 Minutes from the Town Centre Regeneration Partnership

The CEO confirmed that the Head of Project Delivery would be leaving the Council at the end of the month and consultants working with the Town Council would continue to provide technical and strategic advice on behalf of the Town Council.

Resolved to note the minutes of the meeting from the Town Centre Regeneration Partnership held on 12th April 2024.

91 Update on the Implications for the Town Council on Birmingham City Council's Financial Challenges and Devolution Deal

The CEO reported that details had been slow to emerge from Birmingham City Council (BCC) on the proposed cuts and potential implications for the Town Council arising from the City Council's section 114 notices and the Devolution Deal proposal. The library consultation is now live and will run to the end of July.

Cllr S Ward said that Max Caller, Commissioner, had made it clear that this year the focus would be on raising funds from selling assets and that engagement with the Town Council and asset transfers would likely be considered in another phase. A response had been received from BCC on the thirteen sites that the Town Council had included in the Devolution Deal ask, this detailed the challenges around each site and operational considerations.

92 Annual Return and Financial Year 2023/24

Resolved to note the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) and unaudited statement of accounts for financial year 2023/24.

93 Internal Auditors Report 2023/24

Resolved to note the Internal Auditors report for financial year 2023/24.

94 Assets of Community Value

In response to a question from Cllr Mackey, the CEO confirmed that if the owner of a property that's registered as an Asset of Community Value (ACV) wishes to sell or grant a lease of 25 years or more, they must inform the local authority (BCC). The group that registered the asset is then notified and has 6 weeks to register its intention to make a bid on the ACV. If the group makes a bid during this 6-week period, the owner cannot sell the property to anyone else within a six-month period. This is to enable the group to put together a business plan and raise the necessary finance etc. to purchase the asset. The owner of an ACV doesn't have to sell it to the community group.

Resolved to note that nominations have been submitted to Birmingham City Council from Our Place Support CIC for 1 & 2 South Cottages, Farthing Lane, and Minworth Action Projects for Land at the junction of Cottage Lane & Hurst Green Road, known locally as the Skiddy, for them to be considered as Assets of Community Value.



95 Policy Review

The CEO reported that the Business Continuity Policy had been tested during Covid and when the Council email was disrupted resulting in loss of service.

In response to a question from Cllr Parkin, the CEO said the Council could look to get signs designed, made, and installed that could be placed by Town Council funded florals, wildflower displays etc.

Resolved to approve the Communications and social media Policy, Business Continuity and Community Engagement Policy.

96 Bank Reconciliations

Resolved to note the bank reconciliations for January – March 2024.

97 Date of the Next Meeting

Tuesday 9th July 2024 at the Trinity Centre.

The public session of the meeting closed at 7:50pm.

98 Exclusion of the Press and Public

The following agenda items, subject to agenda item 85, were heard with the Press and Public excluded.

a) Compass Grant to support revenue costs at Falcon Lodge Community Centre.

Resolved that the scheduled payments of the £110,000 grant approved by Council in March 2023 be restructured to secure the continued short-term operation of Falcon Lodge Community Centre.

b) Office Accommodation

Committee received an update on the lease for Town Council office accommodation that is due for renewal.

The meeting closed at 8:15pm.

Signed as a true record.

9th July 2024.