

## **WEYMOUTH & PORTLAND BOROUGH COUNCIL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 7 FEBRUARY 2017**

**Present:** Cllrs J Cant (Chair), K Brookes (Vice-Chair), A Blackwood, F Drake, J Farquharson, C Huckle, C James, R Nowak and G Taylor

**Apologies:** Cllrs J Osborne

**Also present:**

**Officers present (for all or part of the meeting):**

Kate Critchel (Democratic Services Officer), Jacqui Andrews (Corporate Manager Democratic Services and Elections), Stuart Caundle (Assistant Chief Executive), Graham Duggan (Head of Community Protection), Martin Hamilton (Strategic Director), Stephen Hill (Strategic Director) and Jason Vaughan (Strategic Director)

**102. Apologies**

An apology was received from Councillor J Osborne.

**103. Minutes**

The minutes of the meetings held on 13 December 2016 and 17 January 2017 were received as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**104. Code of Conduct**

Councillor J Cant declared an interest in respect of item 6 Management Committee Action Plan as a resident of the Melcombe Regis area.

**105. Public Participation**

Mrs Underwood addressed the committee regarding her concerns about the homeless in Weymouth town centre and asked what action was the council was taking in respect of this problem.

As the Brief holder for Housing, Councillor Taylor advised that a lot of work was taking place within the town and a number of agencies were co-ordinating on various projects. Multi-agency meetings took place on a regular basis, with Dorset Police, the NHS and the EDP to address these complex issues of mental health, drunken behaviour, drug addiction and housing issues. The council's role was to try to house individuals and encourage them to engage with services to gain employment/benefits, homes and other support.

She continued that, unfortunately not all people wanted to engage with agencies. The Melcombe Regis Board had recently been established to

address issues in this area and a strategic plan would be brought forward to a future meeting of the committee.

Mr Underwood spoke about what he considered to be the decay of the esplanade area, poor signs and boarded up properties, buildings in poor condition which was a cause for concern. What action was taking place to address this situation? He also indicated there continued to be problems with sand on the esplanade. He also shared photograph indicating the problems.

In response, the Leader of the Council advised that living in the Melcombe Regis area he shared Mr Underwood's frustration. As the council did not own all the properties in the area, it was difficult to achieve improvements.

The Strategic Director, M Hamilton confirmed that with the new appointment of a Town Centre Manager, identification and addressing issues would be carried out quickly; dealt with promptly to create change and improvement.

In respect of the sand on the esplanade, the Brief holder for Environment and Sustainability confirmed that he would take up this matter with Dorset Waste Partnership as it was causing a number of issues for local businesses. Members also asked that the damaged flower beds be repaired prior to the Easter season.

Mr Farn referred to the fragmentation of services across the borough and county. He also expressed concern regarding litterbins not being emptied on the Rodwell trail and advised that the litterbins had recently been changed to a less efficient model, resulting in more rubbish escaping.

The Leader of the Council advised the enforcement officers were about to be appointed to address issues. Members also asked if the frequency of the litterbins being emptied could be reviewed.

**106. Questions by Councillors**

There were no questions from Councillors.

**107. Management Committee Action Plan**

The Leader of the Council introduced the item and advised that the Management Action Plan continued to evolve. The committee received the Action Plan and the Briefholders provided the following updates:

**Community Facilities**

A report on Greenhill Chalets and future management would be presented to the next meeting of the committee.

**Community Safety**

A report on the Pan-Dorset CCTV proposals would be brought to committee in March. In respect of environmental enforcement, the contactors planned to start next week. He also advised that following a recent conversation with the Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner, he asked members to note that the way burglary's were recorded would change. In the future this was likely to impact on the borough crime statistics

#### Corporate Affairs and Continuous Improvement

The alignment of constitutions across the Dorset Councils Partnership was now complete. The protocol for members to communicate with the press would be referred to the Joint Scrutiny Committee.

#### Economic Development

In response to questions, Strategic Director, S Hill confirmed that the development of the car park was linked with the main building. A section 106 agreement was in place that required the development of the whole site.

Members were advised that in respect of the Weymouth Football Club relocation, officers were waiting for the club to confirm a meeting as there were a number of options to be considered, including land in the ownership of the council.

The Brief holder also advised of regular meeting with Weymouth Bid.  
Environment and Sustainability

The consultation process for the Local Plan was now live. In respect of the Dorset Waste Partnership, matter relating to the financial concerns were now under control. However pressure needed to be put onto the partnership to ensure quality of service provision, including addressing the issue of the sand on the esplanade which was damaging to local businesses, and gum removal within the town centre. The photographs from the public speaker, Mr Underwood would be passed onto the conservation officer.

#### Finance and Assets

The Brief holder updated members on the sale of North Quay and indicated that a report would be presented to the committee on the town centre regeneration in March 2017. A further report would be presented to members at a future meeting on the temporary toilets for the esplanade.

#### Housing

In respect of the Melcombe Regis Board, an action plan was being developed and this plan would be shared with the committee in April. The Dorset Homelessness Strategy would be presented to committee in June.

#### Social Inclusion

In respect of the Making the Council dementia friendly a briefing for all members would be arranged. The Brief holder also advised that she had attended a number of community lunches, which brought together various groups for networking purposes. She also updated members of the Armed Forces Covenant.

#### Tourism and Culture

In the absence of the Brief holder, the Leader of the Council advised that the action for 'Reviewing signage within the Borough' should be merged with the signage action relating to car parking. This was agreed. 'Seagull Removal' to be renamed 'Seagull Management'.

#### Transport and Infrastructure

A number of car parking reports were being considered by Policy Development Committee and Scrutiny and Performance Committee. These would come to Management Committee in March and April.

### 108. **Budget Update**

The committee considered a report that set out the revenue and capital budget proposals for the 2017/18 financial year including the level of council tax and reserves.

Members were advised that in respect of community-led housing developments, funding had been allocated as £430,315 and the council had received 50% of the allocation. The council was required to produce an action plan in order to receive the final 50%. Therefore it was proposed to ring-fence this funding by putting it into an earmarked reserve and an action plan for its use would be produced.

The Strategic Director (Finance) also set out the impact of the change to the New Homes Bonus scheme upon the funding that the council received from central government.

Members were advised that a further report would be presented to the committee in April on the level of once-off funding available and potential bid proposals should be co-ordinated through Group Leaders. In response to comments, the Leader of the Council confirmed that it was important the members looked beyond the town centre when considering potential funding bids and projects.

It was proposed by Councillor J Cant and seconded by K Brookes

#### **Decision**

That the committee receive a report on the level of once-off funding available and potential bids at its meeting in April.

## **Recommendation to Full Council**

- (a) That the funding for community-led housing developments is put into an earmarked reserve and that an action plan on its use is produced.
- (b) That the proposals for balancing the 2017/18 revenue budget set out in Appendix 3 be approved
- (c) That the 2017/18 Capital programme in Appendix 4 be approved
- (d) That the formal resolutions in respect of the 2017/18 Budget and Council tax including details of the council tax levels for Dorset County Council, Dorset Police & Crime Commissioner and Fire & Rescue Authority and Town Council be included in the Budget report to the 23 February Council meeting.

### **109. NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group - Clinical Services Review**

The committee considered a report on the Clinical Services Review (CSR) which was being led by the NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) which was responsible for planning and securing healthcare in Dorset. A public consultation on the review proposals was opened for a 12 week period up to 28 February 2017. Mr A Betts from the CCG attended the meeting to respond to members questions. He advised that the CCG state that the review was being undertaken because:-

- There were unacceptable variations in the quality of care across Dorset
- Staff with the right skills were not always where patients most need them
- The cost of providing healthcare in Dorset was more than the funding available.

Members considered the implications for the residents of Weymouth and Portland and made the following comments:-

- What would be impact to Portland residents if Westhaven was not used as a community hospital;
- Concern about older residents being able to access services
- Transportation issues
- Concern that the issues around the Special Baby Care Unit, Maternity and children services had yet to be resolved;
- Unease that the major emergency hospital being located in the east of the County;
- There was an understanding that a review of services was overdue and required, but some members questioned if it was far reaching enough as the plan was only for 5 year period.

- Concern about centralising of services which was not always the most efficient way to operate.
- Concern for the future on GP Practices.
- Minors unit on Portland was needed

It was agreed that the comments made would be collated and a detailed response be submitted to the CCG on behalf of the Council.

### **Decision**

That the Briefholder for Social Inclusion takes into account the comments made by the committee and submits a response on behalf of the Council to the CCG Clinical Services review consultation.

### **110. Business Review - Quarter 3 2016/17**

The committee considered a report providing the strategic overview of the Council's performance, risk, revenue and capital expenditure and income as at the end of December 2016, and the projected outturn for the 2016/17 financial year.

It was proposed by Councillor J Cant and seconded by Councillor K Brookes

### **Decision**

- (a) That the latest position and the projected outturn for the year in respect of the 2016/17 revenue and capital budgets be noted;
- (b) That the use of £20,000 from the projected Democratic Services underspend to provide legal requests as detailed in paragraph 5.3 of the report be approved;
- (c) That the carry forward requests as detailed in appendix 3 of the report be approved.

### **CONTINUATION OF MEETING**

In accordance with Rule 1, paragraph 16 of the council's procedure rules a vote was taken to continue the meeting beyond 2.5 hours, which was approved.

### **111. Community Governance Review for the creation of a Town Council for Weymouth**

The committee considered a report setting of the process required to create a Town Council for Weymouth. Following the decision of six councils to support the proposal to create two new unitary councils. A submission would now be sent to the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) to make an order to create two Unitary Councils in Dorset; this would result in the abolition of the Weymouth & Portland Borough Council.

The committee were asked to recommend to Full Council that a Community Governance Review (CGR) be undertaken to consider the creation of a town council covering the whole or part of the borough of Weymouth & Portland.

Members noted that the publication of the terms of reference would formally begin the Review and the indicative timetable was set out in the appendix of the report. The terms of reference would be considered by Full Council at a special meeting at the end of March.

It was proposed by Councillor J Cant and seconded by Councillor K Brookes

### **Recommendation to Full Council**

- (a) That a Community Governance review (CGR) be undertaken to consider the creation of a new Parish Council(s) covering the Weymouth & Portland Borough Council area with a view to a new Parish Council(s) being established at the same time as any new Unitary Council for Dorset.
- (b) That the Steering Group for Democratic Improvement oversees the CRG process, and reports to Management Committee with regard to proposals for terms of reference for the review, consultation and the implementation of the final review recommendations.

### **112. Accelerating Housing Development Programme**

The Housing Brief holder set a report on the proposed Accelerating Home Building programme for Weymouth and Portland Borough Council and asked the committee to consider establishing the programme.

The Brief holder advised that Housing supply was seen as a national priority and the Housing White paper was planned to be published in February 2017. The aim of the programme would be to facilitate and influence on strategic matters that require multi-agency input and promote a range of housing development options.

In response to questions, the Brief holder confirmed that regular meetings were held with local housing associations and a meeting had also been planned with local developers.

Members supported the report recommendations and welcomed the establishment of a working group. It was agreed that the group should consist of the following Brief holders:- Finance and Assets, Housing and Environment and Sustainability.

It was proposed by Councillor Taylor and seconded by Councillor Cant

### **Decision**

- (a) That an Accelerating Home Buildings programme in Weymouth and Portland be established.
- (b) That the committee support the programme through to 31 March 2019 and considers the draft and finalises the Action Plan, with or without additional financial resources available to the programme.
- (c) That a member Working Group be established to lead on the Accelerating Home Building programme, and in turn for the working group to report progress to the Western Dorset Growth Strategy Member Board.
- (d) That the Working Group consist of:- Brief holders for Finance and Assets, Housing and Environment and Sustainability
- (e) That the Accelerating Home Building programme be referred to Scrutiny & Performance Committee including scrutinising the proposed Council actions arising from the Housing Finance Institute Business Ready Review.

**113. 2017/18 Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy**

The Brief holder the Finance and Assets asked the committee to consider the Treasury Management Strategy Statement (TMSS) and Annual Investment Statement for the coming year.

**Recommendation to Full Council**

**That the Management Committee recommend to Council**

- (a) That the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Investment Strategy 2017/18 be approved;
- (b) The Minimum revenue Provision Policy as set out in appendix C of the Treasury Management Strategy Statement.
- (c) The Prudential Indicators as set out in Appendix C of the Treasury Management Strategy Statement
- (d) The 2017/18 Authorised borrowing limit.

**114. Appointment of External Auditors**

The committee considered a report on the process for the appointment of external auditors following the closure of the Audit commission and the end of the transitional arrangements at the conclusion of the 2017/18 audits.

It was proposed by Councillor Cant and seconded by Councillor Taylor



### **Recommendation to Full Council**

- (a) That Weymouth and Portland Council opts into the appointing person arrangements made by Public Sector Appointments (PSAA) for the appointment of external auditors
- (b) That authority be delegated to the Strategic Director for Finance, responsibility to ensure that the Borough Council is active in supporting delivery of best value for money arrangements in light of LGR arrangements yet to be confirmed.

### **115. Calendar of Meetings 2017/18**

The committee considered the 2017/18 Calendar of Meetings for recommendation to Full Council for adoption.

It was proposed by Councillor K Brookes and seconded by Councillor Cant

### **Recommendation to Full Council**

- (a) That the calendar of meetings for the period May 2017 to May 2018 as set out at appendix 1 to be report be approved;
- (b) That authority be delegated to the Corporate Services Manager – Democratic and Electoral Services to make any necessary changes, in consultation with the relevant chairmen and vice-chairman, to ensure effective political management across the Dorset Councils Partnership

### **116. Urgent Business**

There was no urgent business to report.

### **117. 4 Month Forward Plan**

#### **Decision**

That the 4 monthly Forward Plan be received and noted.

### **118. Exempt Business**

There was no exempt business to report.

**Duration of meeting:** 9.30 am - 12.25 pm

**Chairman**

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