MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, MARKET PLACE, NEWBURY ON MONDAY 17 OCTOBER 2016 AT 7.30PM.

PRESENT

Councillors Howard Bairstow; Adrian Edwards; David Fenn; John Gardner (named substitute); Dave Goff (Chairperson); Sarah Greenall; Anthony Pick; Tony Stretton; Julian Swift-Hook; Martha Vickers.

IN ATTENDANCE

Hugh Peacocke, CEO
Gillian Durrant, RFO

17. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors Elizabeth O'Keeffe, and Margo Payne

ABSENT: Councillor Jeff Beck

18. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

The Chief Executive Officer declared that Councillors Howard Bairstow, Adrian Edwards, Dave Goff and Anthony Pick are also Members of West Berkshire Council, which is declared as a general interest on their behalf and a dispensation is in place to allow them to partake in discussions relating to West Berkshire Council business.

19. MINUTES

PROPOSED: Councillor Tony Stretton
SECONDED: Councillor Adrian Edwards

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee held on Monday 18 July 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairperson.

20. QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were none.

21. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

There were none.

22. HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

The information was received by the Committee. It was noted that a lot of actions for Community Services items fell due on the same date, 31 October, and the CEO agreed to discuss this matter with the Community Services Manager.

23. LIST OF PAYMENTS

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PROPOSED: Councillor Tony Stretton
SECONDED: Councillor Julian Swift-Hook

RESOLVED: That the lists of payments for the periods 1 July 2016 to 30 September 2016 is authorised.

24. IN YEAR BUDGET MONITORING QUARTER 2, 2016/17

The income and expenditure account to September 2016 was received and noted by the Committee.

PROPOSED: Councillor David Goff
SECONDED: Councillor Anthony Pick

The Committee noted overspends on water supply in Victoria Park and on the Mayor-making event and agreed that these items be reviewed in next year's budget provision.

RESOLVED: That the overspends shown against the account code on Agenda Appendix 4 & 4a be approved and that the overspend in the Twin Town budget of £202 be allocated against earmarked reserves for the Twin Town Reunion.

25. DEBTS OVER £500 AND MORE THAN 3 MONTHS OLD

PROPOSED: Councillor Anthony Pick
SECONDED: Councillor David Fenn

Councillor Tony Stretton voted against the motion

RESOLVED: That the council advises the tenant that failure to comply with the repayment schedule above will result in the Council following procedures to commence court action to recover the rent due.

26. INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT

That the first interim internal audit report for the financial year 201/17 from Auditing Solutions Ltd, as attached at Appendix 6 to the agenda, was received and noted by the Committee.

27. EXTERNAL AUDIT REPORT

That the external audit report for the financial year 201/17 from Mazars as attached at Appendix 7 to the agenda, was received and noted by the Committee.

28. STRATEGIC RISK REGISTER

PROPOSED: Councillor David Goff
SECONDED: Councillor David Fenn

The Committee considered the review of the Strategic Risk Register, as recommended by the Audit working group. It was agreed that the methodology be reviewed at the next annual review, to also consider how mitigations might reduce the impact of trigger events.

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RESOLVED: That the Strategic Risk Register as attached at appendix 8 of the agenda be approved.

29. PREPARATION FOR THE 2017/18 BUDGET ROUND

29.1 The information regarding the Budget production plan was received and noted by the Committee.

29.2 The information regarding Committee / Sub-Committees budget needs was received and noted by the Committee.

29.3 It was noted that information regarding particular projects or capital acquisitions be forwarded to both the Leader and the RFO before the end of November 2016.

30. TOWN HALL COUNCIL CHAMBER & SUITE CHARGES

PROPOSED: Councillor Anthony Pick
SECONDED: Councillor Sarah Greenall

RESOLVED: That charges for the council chamber and suite 2 for 2017/18 as per the officers recommendations in appendix 9 of the agenda.

31. SECTION 106 MONIES

The Section 106 balances and planned future expenditure as set out in appendix 10 of the agenda were reviewed by the committee.

32. CONSULTATION ON PROPOSAL THAT SOME TOWN AND PARISH COUNCILS WOULD BE REQUIRED TO HOLD A REFERENDUM IN ORDER TO INCREASE THEIR PRECEPT BEYOND 2%

PROPOSED: Councillor David Goff
SECONDED: Councillor Adrian Edwards

RESOLVED: That Newbury Town Council's response to the consultation is as follows:

Question 4: We do not agree

Question 5: We do not agree, but in the event that it this proposal is enacted then we are broadly in agreement with the proposal re taking account of the transfer of responsibilities to town and parish councils

Question 6: In principle No

Question 7: The proposal would be disproportionate, unpractical and costly. For example the cost of a referendum for Newbury Town Council would be in excess of 2% of our precept. Furthermore councillors believe that putting limits on council tax increases is a reduction in local democracy.

PROPOSED: Anthony Stretton
SECONDED: Julian Swift-Hook

RESOLVED:
That the CEO circulate the response to all of the Councillors for comment. The final decision on the wording is to be decided by the CEO and Leader, and submitted before the deadline, 5.00 pm on 28 October, 2016.

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33. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

PROPOSED: Councillor Julian Swift-Hook
SECONDED: Councillor Adrian Edwards

RESOLVED: That under Section 1, Paragraph 2 of The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business because publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

34. CONSTRUCTION OF A SPORTS CHANGING ROOM FACILITY IN VICTORIA PARK

PROPOSED: Councillor Julian Swift-Hook
SECONDED: Councillor Anthony Pick

RESOLVED: That the proposed new Victoria Park Sports Changing Room Feasibility Study is noted by members, and that members agree to apply to Sport England for £80,000, grant aid, as in Option A of the Officers recommendation in appendix 12 of the agenda, subject to obtaining planning consent if necessary.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE CHAIRPERSON DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.09PM.

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