

NORTH DEVON COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held at the Brynsworthy Environment Centre, Barnstaple on Thursday 21st September 2017 at 2.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Members

Councillor Mathews (in the Chair)

Councillors Chesters, Patrinos, and White.

Officers:

Head of Corporate and Community Services (KM),
Head of Resources (JT), Procurement and Service Delivery
Manager (MW), Town Centre, Pannier Market and CCTV
Manager (HH) and Corporate and Community Services Officer
(KJ).

45 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Greenslade, Bonds, Ley, Meadlarkin, Roome, Webber and Worden.

46 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

RESOLVED that owing to a quorum of Members not being present in accordance with the Council Procedure Rules Part 4 of the Constitution, that the meeting be adjourned for 15 minutes.

Councillor Patrinos arrived at 2:08pm.

RESOLVED that it being 2:08pm and the meeting now being quorate, that the meeting be reconvened.

47 MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meetings held on 17th August 2017 (circulated previously) be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

48 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declaration of interest was announced:

Councillor White Item 9: Personal interest as a Pannier Market Stall-Holder .

49 **PERFORMANCE AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**
QUARTER 1 of 2017/18

The Head of Resources presented the Performance and Financial Management Report for Quarter 1 of 2017-2018 and the minute extract of the Executive held on 4th September 2017 to the Committee (circulated previously).

The Head of Resources highlighted the following:

- The report had been considered by the Executive on 4th September 2017.
- £14,000 overall net budget surplus for the Authority was expected.
- It was anticipated that budgeted savings of £200,000 from salary vacancies would be achieved.
- The Recycle More garden service had yielded more income than expected, although some was being used across the service to offset additional spending.
- The report for Quarter 2 of 2017-18 would be presented to the Committee in November 2017.
- Business Rates retention was expected to result in a £1.2m additional growth for 2017-18. A proportion of this would be due to the inclusion of a full year of business rates from the new Asda store.
- A total of £2m external borrowing had been taken on (£1.5m in November 2014 and £0.5m in August 2016).
- The recommended level of general fund balance was 5-10% of the Council's net revenue budget. The Council's forecast balance for 31st March 2018 was £1.161m which was 9.7%
- The figures for the Key Performance Indicators for Quarter 4 2016/17 and 2017/18 (page 39) were now available. The figure for quarter 4 on Performance Indicator LPI 82b(ii) was 1583.20 tonnes. This made the year end result 10,249 tonnes, a 5% increase on the prior year.

In response to questions from the Committee, the Head of Resources confirmed:

- Objectives in relation to joint working/joint HR and payroll would continue to be included in the service plan objectives for 2017-18. The objective had not been progressed since work with Mid Devon Council had ended.
- Works to 15 and 16 Castle Street, Barnstaple, were nearing completion. Number 15 would provide three units of accommodation and number 16 would provide one larger unit for use by a family. Potential tenants were currently being identified by the Housing team.
- The results of the Recycle More trial would be analysed after December. If the trial was successful any roll-out of the programme would be phased and any budget implications would need to be reflected in the 2018/19 budget. A decision would be required on the potential roll-out of the scheme by January 2018 prior to the budget-

setting process for 2018-19. The portfolio holder would be invited to attend the Committee once the trial had been in place for 6 months.

In response to questions from the Committee, the Procurement and Service Delivery Manager confirmed:

- OS Crem 02: the washroom facilities had now been installed. This had been due to health and safety rather than hygiene concerns.

RESOLVED that the decisions and recommendations of the Executive be endorsed.

50 CCTV ANNUAL REPORT

The Pannier Market and CCTV Manager presented the CCTV Annual Report to the Committee (circulated previously). She confirmed that the report had been produced as a requirement of the (Surveillance Camera) Code of Practice.

The Pannier Market and CCTV Manager advised the Committee that:

- There had been an increase of 11% in recorded incidents this year.
- There had been an increase in requests to the CCTV service from the Police due to welfare concerns, suicides and enquiries regarding missing persons. It was considered there had been more incidences of vulnerable people, and elderly people with dementia being reported as missing.

In response to questions from the Committee the Pannier Market and CCTV Manager confirmed that:

- There had been no change to the number of cameras during the period covered by the report (in comparison to the prior year).
- A saving of £15,000 had been achieved due to a reduction in maintenance on the existing cameras and equipment had not been upgraded.

The Head of Resources advised that the £15,000 had been set aside in a reserve for future spending on the system once the CCTV review had been completed.

The Chairman added that he had been advised that the Police and Crime Commissioner had monies set aside to contribute to CCTV projects.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

51 CCTV REVIEW

The Pannier Market and CCTV Manager addressed the Committee in relation to the CCTV review.

She advised that the CCTV systems were currently being reviewed across Devon and Cornwall. The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) had put aside a budget towards updating the systems. A report would be presented to the Executive on 2nd October 2017 presenting the possible options. These included the creation of a CCTV 'hub' in Barnstaple which could then provide services to other towns in Devon or using the services of a hub created elsewhere. She noted that the options were yet to be fully costed and a bid would need to be made to the PCC for the funding required. The PCC had £200,000 available for the whole of Devon. It was noted that the system had already been set up in Cornwall and that Plymouth and Torbay would be using their own joint hub.

RESOLVED that the update be noted.

52 **BARNSTAPLE PANNIER MARKET BUSINESS PLAN UPDATE**

The Pannier Market and CCTV Manager presented the Committee with a verbal update in relation to the Barnstaple Pannier Market Business Plan Update.

The Pannier Market and CCTV Manager confirmed that:

- The biggest issue had been the proposal to close the market overnight. It had been resolved by Full Council in July that this would be undertaken subject to the assessment of the fire escape routes.
- Improving the environment in the public realm was an ongoing project.
- The marker traders were looking into a business model which could enable them to take over the responsibility for the public toilets.
- The Royal visit had provided the market with much publicity.
- The level of required savings had not been achieved this year, however there had been an increase of income due to additional hiring of the market for Sunday events.

In response to a question from the Chair the Head of Resources confirmed that the amount of financial savings from the overnight closure were not yet known. However, there would be a reduction in staffing costs due to less hours required for setting up and removing the stalls each morning and night as the closure would enable them to remain in place overnight.

The Head of Corporate and Community Services confirmed that the Public Service Protection Order (PSPO) had been obtained on the grounds of reducing anti social behaviour, and not for financial savings.

RESOLVED that the update be noted.

53 **DISABLED ACCESS TO CAR PARKS**

The Procurement and Service Delivery Manager presented a report on Disabled Access to Car Parks to the Committee (circulated previously).

The Procurement and Service Delivery Manager advised the Committee that the report was a broad report on the Local Authority's car parks and not a specific response to a petition presented to the Council from Mrs Adnams-Hatch.

The Procurement and Service Delivery Manager advised that the provision of spaces for the disabled had been previously assessed. Whenever any works or maintenance was carried out on a car park the provision of disabled spaces was reviewed based on the Government legislation current at that time. The Council considered the disabled spaces/access at every opportunity. He confirmed that provision was greater in the Queen Street and Castle Street car parks as these car parks were used more frequently due to their locations. He also confirmed that the Council was accommodating as possible within the financial constraints. Recent changes at the car park at Ilfracombe swimming pool had created disabled parking spaces in an area which was previously used for 'free parking'. It was noted that complaints had been received from able bodied members of the public.

In response to a question from the Committee regarding the policies of some Local Authorities who allow blue-badge holders to park free of charge in Council-owned car parks, the Procurement and Service Delivery Manager advised that such policies were at the discretion of each Council but that his research previously had found that disabled users were finding it difficult to access suitable spaces as car parks were then full with badge holders who may not have such severe mobility issues. A previous survey (before charing) of the users of the Cattle Market car park found that approximately 20% of all users held blue badges.

In response to a question from the Committee, the Procurement and Service Delivery Manager advised that there was a charge for Sunday parking in some short-stay car parks in town centre locations. He also confirmed that the issue regarding blue badge holders parking on double yellow lines came under Devon County Council jurisdiction and emphasised the need for individuals to read the signage in each area before parking.

The Chairman invited a member of the public, Mrs Adnams-Hatch, to address the Committee.

Mrs Adnams-Hatch explained some of the problems she faced as a wheel-chair user when parking in the local area. She explained that some designated parking spaces were not fit for purpose often due to their locations and accessibility. She also explained problems presented by poorly-placed dropped kerbs. She offered her assistance to the Committee if they wished her to demonstrate problems faced by wheel-chair users.

The Procurement and Service Delivery Manager addressed the issues raised by Mrs Adnams-Hatch and confirmed that the accessibility of the car parks

was of importance to the Council. He also advised that her input would be of assistance in resolving some of the issues faced.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

54 POLICE AND CRIME PANEL UPDATE

The Chair updated the Committee in relation to the outcomes from the last Police and Crime Panel meeting.

He advised that a Chief Executive Officer and Treasurer had been appointed: Frances Hughes and Nicky Allen respectively.

55 TORRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL EXTERNAL OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MEETING.

The Chairman addressed the Committee, advising that he, and Councillor Patrinos, had attended a meeting of the External Overview and Scrutiny Committee at Torridge District Council (TDC).

Councillor Patrinos had advised the Committee of the variety and quantity of items on the agenda. It was noted that TDC separate their Overview and Scrutiny issues into internal and external and cover this with two separate committees.

Councillor Patrinos confirmed that he had thought it was a good exercise to hold some joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings with TDC as and when applicable. This could promote closer working and also provide savings where both Councils need to tackle the same issues and invite external bodies to attend.

RESOLVED that members of the TDC Overview and Scrutiny Committee be invited to a future meeting of the Committee.

56 NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE SUCCESS REGIME

The Chairman presented an update to the Committee as per an email from Councillor Greenslade in relation to the National Health Service Success Regime.

Councillor Greenslade's email stated that Full Council had agreed to support by notice of motion, asking the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to attend the next Full Council meeting so that the Council could put forward their concerns over the continuation of the provision of acute services for maternity, stroke services and accident and emergency wards.

57 RMB CHIVENOR

The Chairman presented an update to the Committee as per the email from Councillor Greenslade in relation to RMB Chivenor.

Councillor Greenslade's email stated that he had been in contact with a recently retired Sea Lord to see if he would attend a future meeting to give his views about the Marines and RMB Chivenor.

58 WORK PROGRAMME/FORWARD PLAN

The Committee considered the Work Programme / Forward Plan (circulated previously).

RESOLVED that:

- (a) the following items be removed as completed, duplicated, or no longer required:
- Corporate Plan
 - Customer Service Centre Performance Indicators
 - Public Space Protection Orders
 - Reduce Affordable Housing and Section 106 Threshold for Designated Rural Areas
 - 21:21 Public and Internal Communications
 - Barnstaple Riverfront Economic Plan
 - 21:21 Transformation Project (Phase 2)
 - GP Surgeries
 - Review of Car Parks
 - Car Park Equality
 - Annual Performance Report – North Devon Homes
 - Future of Community Hospital Services in Northern Devon
 - CCG representative to attend meeting
 - Delivery of water quality objectives (EA and SWW)
 - Right to Buy for Social Housing
 - NHS Success Regime
- (b) the following items be moved:
- Homelessness Reduction Bill – Secondary Legislation – to move to Internal items.
 - Police and Crime Commissioner Update – to move to Standing items.
- (c) the work programme be noted.

Chairman

The meeting ended at 3:45 p.m.

NOTE: These minutes will be confirmed as a correct record at the next meeting of the Committee.