

STRATEGY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

30 October 2014

7.00 pm – 8.02 pm

Council Chamber, Ebley Mill, Stroud

3

Minutes

Membership:

Councillor Geoff Wheeler (Chair)	P	Councillor Keith Pearson	P
Councillor Steve Lydon (Vice-Chair)	P	Councillor Simon Pickering	P
Councillor Chris Brine	P	Councillor Mattie Ross	P
Councillor Paul Carter	A	Councillor Tom Williams	P
Councillor Nigel Cooper	P	Councillor Martin Whiteside	A
Councillor Paul Hemming	P	Councillor Rhiannon Wigzell	P
Councillor Nick Hurst	A		

P = Present

A = Absent

Officers Present:

Chief Executive	Head of Asset Management (Joint)
Strategic Head (Finance & Business Services)	Recovery Manager
Strategic Head (Customer Services)	Property Manager
Public Space Manager	Interim Multi Service Contract Manager
Property Consultant (Asset Management)	Democratic Services & Elections Officer

SRC.031

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Paul Carter, Nick Hurst and Martin Whiteside.

SRC.032

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

SRC.033

MINUTES

Members agreed the following amendments to the minutes:-

Minute SRC.025 before the resolution, the following paragraph should be added. "The Chair asked the Committee to vote first for option (a). There were 6 votes for and 7 votes against option (a). The Chair then put option (b) to the vote and there were 7 votes for, 5 against with 1 abstention."

After Minute SRC.026 the following paragraph should be added. "On the recommendation of the Chair, the Committee agreed to extend the duration of the meeting beyond the 3 hour limit."

Minute SRC.027 the following words should be added for clarification to the last sentence "on the Merrywalks Car Park."

RESOLVED **To approve as a correct record, the Minutes of the meeting held on 2 October 2014, subject to the above amendments.**

SRC.034 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

None received.

SRC.035 **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Chair confirmed that Briefing Papers had been sent to Members on the Merrywalks Car Park and the Farmers Market. A Special Meeting would be arranged in January 2015 to discuss Jobs and Growth within the District with invitations being sent to our Local Enterprise Partners and Neil Carmichael MP.

RESOLVED **To agree the work programme.**

SRC.036 **RECOMMENDATION FROM HOUSING COMMITTEE – 28 OCTOBER 2014**

TO CONSIDER METHODS WHICH COULD DELIVER INCREASED NUMBERS OF COUNCIL OWNED HOUSING STOCK

The Chief Executive outlined the above report that gave Members the opportunity to look at various options of increasing the housing stock within the District and bring recommendations back to Committee in March 2015.

The Chair suggested that a cross party Task and Finish Group comprising of six elected members (2 Labour, 2 Conservative, 1 Green and 1 Liberal Democrat) could meet for two days. Other local authorities were also considering similar options and one of these could be contacted for further information or invited to attend at Committee.

RESOLVED **1. That a cross party Task and Finish Group (comprising up to six elected members from the Strategy and Resources and Housing Committees, the Strategic Head (Tenant Services) and the Strategic Head (Finance & Business Services) be established to investigate all options to deliver more housing, including the possible**

creation of a special purpose vehicle as outlined in the report in conjunction with the review of the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan.

2. That the Group aims to submit a report of its findings and recommendation(s) to Strategy and Resources Committee by March 2015.

SRC.037

COUNCIL TAX DISCOUNT FROM APRIL 2015

The Recovery Manager outlined the above report to amend the level of discount applied under Class C for empty properties and clarified various points within the report.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL **The level of discount for Class C empty properties be set at 25% for the 6 months' period from April 2015.**

SRC.038

LOCAL COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME

The Recovery Manager outlined the above report to set a Council Tax Support Scheme for the period 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL **That it adopts the current Local Scheme as the scheme for Stroud District Council for the period 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016.**

SRC.039

MULTI SERVICES CONTACT – DEPOT ACQUISITION

The Head of Asset Management (Joint) outlined the above report for Committee to consider the recommendations on the acquisition of a depot to facilitate delivery of the multi service contract made by the Task and Finish Group and the Environment Committee.

In reply to Members' questions it was confirmed that:-

- Six possible sites had been shortlisted from 30 sites.
- Vehicle maintenance would be carried out by Ubico.
- A final decision on depot acquisition would be made by the Strategy and Resources Committee.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL **Authority be delegated to the Head of Asset Management (in conjunction with the Strategic Heads of Finance and Business Services and Customer Services, and the Chairmen of Strategy and Resources and Environment Committee), to acquire a depot site to support the multi-service contract on the most favourable terms available.**

SRC.040**PROPERTY ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN – ACTION PLAN
UPDATE**

The Property Manager informed Members of the proposed procedure for the rolling programme of property reviews outlined within her report. The full version of Appendix A would be sent to all Members for their information. There had been discussions with Gloucestershire County Council to put property information onto a shared portal which was something Officers would be pursuing. Parking ticket machines were currently on the asset register and would be added to the list to trigger a future review.

RESOLVED **That the process for property reviews and property updates is approved.**

SRC.041**CORPORATE DELIVERY PLAN 2014-18**

Members acknowledged the progress being made in delivering the Corporate Delivery Plan 2014-18.

RESOLVED **To note the report.**

SRC.042**MEMBERS QUESTIONS**

None Received.

Meeting closed at 8.02 pm.

Chair