

STRATEGY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

12 April 2018

7.00 pm – 9.45 pm

Council Chamber, Ebley Mill, Stroud

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Minutes

Membership:

Councillor Doina Cornell (Chair)	P	Councillor Steve Robinson (V-Chair)	P
Councillor Nigel Cooper	P	Councillor Mattie Ross	P
Councillor Stephen Davies	A	Councillor Tom Skinner	P
Councillor Nick Hurst	P	Councillor Ken Tucker	P
Councillor Steve Lydon	P	Councillor Martin Whiteside	P
Councillor Keith Pearson	P	Councillor Debbie Young	A
Councillor Simon Pickering	P		

P = Present A = Absent

Officers Present:

Chief Executive	Property Manager
Head of Legal Services	Head of Property Services
Director of Development Services	Revenue and Benefits Manager
Director of Tenant and Corporate Services	Accountancy Manager
Director of Customer Services	ICT Infrastructure and Security Manager
Head of Community Services	Democratic Services Officer

Members also Present:

Councillors McAsey, Braun, Kay, Rathor, Studdert-Kennedy

SRC.059

APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Davies.

SRC.060

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

SRC.061

MINUTES

RESOLVED

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 18 January 2018.

SRC.062

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were none.

SRC.063 **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Chair highlighted the following items which will be discussed at future meetings

- 24 May 2018 – The Acting Section 151 Officer will present outturn reports on the General Fund and HRA, in readiness for signing off the Statement of Accounts by the end of May 2018.
- There will be an extra meeting of Committee on 14 June 2018 to discuss the introduction of car parking charges. An information evening for Members will take place on 8 May 2018. Following consultation a report will be presented to Committee on 4 October 2018.
- Member Task and Finish Groups
 - Constitutional working group
 - A cross party group to look at the ICT action plan.
 - A small group looking at ways Members can contribute to the savings being made throughout the Council.

SRC.064 **MEMBER REPORTS**

- a) Performance Monitoring
Members discussed the report which had been circulated prior to the meeting.
- b) Investment and Development Panel
A brief update was given. Items would be discussed during the meeting.

SRC.065 **CAPITAL PROJECT MONITORING**

An update was given on the various capital projects. The Society of IT Managers (SOCITM) had been carrying out a review of the future of the Council's IT services, Members will receive a presentation on 19 April 2018 with recommendations to be taken forward to Committee.

Councillor Robinson reported that building was starting on land in Nailsworth. The Nailsworth Community Land Trust is providing affordable housing, 4 houses and 6 flats for local people. These will not be eligible to be sold under the Right to Buy scheme.

RESOLVED **To note the reports.**

SRC.066 **FINANCIAL REPORTS**

- a) Housing Revenue Account Budget Monitoring Report 2017/18 (Month 10)

Councillor Ross confirmed that Housing Committee had discussed the report and were pleased to see that the capital budget outturn of the HRA was £48k underspent. Members were encouraged to attend information evenings, such as the HRA Finance evening, as these were very informative.

RESOLVED **To note the outturn forecast for the HRA Revenue budgets and Capital programme.**

b) General Fund Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring Report 2017/18 (28 Feb 2018)

The Accountancy Manager presented this report and explained it is the overall picture of the budget for this year. Discussion took place on budget items surrounding the Subscription Rooms, Homelessness, Waste and Recycling Contract and ICT.

RESOLVED **To note the outturn forecast for the General Fund Revenue budget and Capital Programme.**

SRC.067 **COUNCIL TAX, HOUSING BENEFIT AND COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT PENALTY AND PROSECUTION POLICY**

The Revenue and Benefits Manager introduced this report and explained this was a county wide policy and ensures a consistent approach with fraud across the county.

RESOLVED **1. To adopt the Council Tax, Housing Benefit and Council Tax Support Penalty and Prosecution Policy.**
2. To delegate to the Director of Customer Services to make minor alterations to the policy for the purposes of reflecting changes in legislation, changes to the Council's constitution or to address anomalies which may arise.

SRC.068 **SUBSCRIPTION ROOMS, STROUD TASK & FINISH GROUP: FINAL REPORT**

Councillor Cornell explained the background to the work of the Task and Finish Group, following a previous Committee in December, as well as the need to reduce costs and maintain the venue for arts and community use, it was clear that there was a strong message that the building should be kept in public ownership. One proposal had been received from Stroud Town Council and this had been made available on the Council's website. The forecourt would be included in this proposal. The transfer would need to be in compliance with Section 123 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Following discussion, Councillor Hurst proposed a motion to modify the decision point (c), which was seconded by Councillor Cooper. This should read: to delegate authority to the Head of Property Services in consultation with the Director of Customer Services and Group Leaders to agree terms for a transfer either by leasehold or freehold of the Subscriptions Rooms and forecourt to Stroud Town Council subject to a report back to Strategy and Resources Committee with a recommendation to Full Council.

Members debated the motion and Councillors Hurst and Cooper agreed to amend the motion to remove the reference to Full Council, in order for Strategy and Resources Committee to discuss and decide whether to put a recommendation to Full Council.

When being put to the vote the amended motion was carried unanimously.

Discussion and debate took place on the recommendation in the report. A motion was proposed by Councillor Whiteside and seconded by Councillor Robinson to accept the recommendation with the amendment previously carried. On being put to the vote this was carried unanimously.

RESOLVED

1. To note that no offers were received for a circa 30 year lease of the Subscription Rooms as marketed.
2. To note that a proposal, for a process leading to a 39 year lease, was received from Stroud Town Council.
3. To delegate authority to the Head of Property Services in consultation with the Director of Customer Services and Group Leaders to agree terms for a transfer of the Subscription Rooms and forecourt to Stroud Town Council (*leasehold or freehold*) subject to a report back to Strategy and Resources Committee for approval.

SRC.069**REDEVELOPMENT OF BRIMSCOMBE PORT, THRUPP**

The Head of Property Services presented this report explaining that there had been some funding from Homes England and the Council to progress the project so far but recent bids for the additional funding required had been unsuccessful. A decision to commit a further £1.6m in principle, towards the abnormal infrastructure costs would give developers confidence in bidding to redevelop the site.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL That £1.6m of capital funding be allocated to delivering infrastructure at, and the redevelopment of, Brimscombe Port, Thrupp.

SRC.070**PROPOSED RELOCATION OF RUSH SKATEPARK**

The Head of Property Services presented this report and explained that the company is looking to relocate. They want to stay in the district and have been in discussion with the Council regarding developing a state of the art facility on grounds within Stratford Park, which would entail the Council entering into a 99 year ground lease, with Rush Skatepark.

Members considered that the development could bring unique opportunities for the district in terms of the facility that would be provided and would complement other uses on the site.

RESOLVED

- To delegate authority to the Head of Property Services, in consultation with the Chairs of Strategy and Resources and Community Services and Licensing Committee, to agree terms for a ground lease with RUSH Skatepark for land at Stratford Park, Stroud subject to;**
1. the grant of planning permission and
 2. RUSH's ability to fund the build costs of a new facility.

SRC.071**LITTLECOMBE SECTION 106 UNILATERAL UNDERTAKING COMMUNITY FACILITIES CONTRIBUTION**

The Director of Development Services presented this report and explained that with the introduction of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) regulations, schemes under Section 106 agreements have to be specific. Discussion and consultation has taken place with Cam Parish Council and Dursley Town Council in relation to the projects required in the community and following this meeting discussions will take place with St. Modwen's in relation to the payment of monies.

RESOLVED

- 1. To allocate the £355,000 Community Facilities Contribution to which the report refers, as follows:**
 - a) £200,000 to The Chantry Centre**
 - b) £35,000 to Dursley Tabernacle**
 - c) £25,000 GL11 Community Hub**
 - d) £95,000 Dursley Community Centre**
- 2. To delegate authority to the Director of Development Services in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair to agree amendments to the allocations if the relevant recipient scheme(s) are unable to proceed.**

SRC.071

CORPORATE DELIVERY PLAN: END OF YEAR REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION

The Chief Executive gave an update on the plan and summarised the key actions.

SRC.072

MERRYWALKS, STROUD

The Chief Executive gave an update on the work taking place to enable Dransfield to acquire Merrywalks, Stroud, which is on track to be completed by the end of May.

SRC.073

LEADERSHIP GLOUCESTERSHIRE UPDATE

The Chief Executive gave an update.

SRC.074

MEMBER QUESTIONS

There were none.

The meeting closed at 9.45 pm.

Chair