

**Minutes of the Economic Development Committee
25 January 2022**

Present:

Councillor C.F. Barnard (Chairman)
Councillor V.J. Leighton (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors:

S. Buttar	T. Fidler	L. E. Nichols
J.T.F. Doran	H. Harvey	

Apologies: Councillors A. Brar and A.C. Harman

In Attendance: Councillors C. Bateson and M. Beecher

1/22 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 November 2021 were agreed.

2/22 Disclosures of interests

There were none.

3/22 Questions from members of the Public

There were none.

4/22 Ward Issues

There were none.

5/22 Budget - 2022/23: Revenue and Capital

The process for considering the budget for 2022/23 was explained to the committee. As part of this process, the committee was invited to consider its recommendations to the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee on 7 February 2022, where all service committee recommendations would be available for consideration as part of the detailed budget report. A

subsequent recommendation would then be made to Council on 24 February 2022.

There was currently a projected revenue budget deficit of approximately £1.35m which the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee needed to address, in order to deliver a legally required balanced budget.

a Capital Bids 2022/23 (part of annual budget process)

There were none.

b Revenue Growth and Savings Bids 2022/23 (part of annual budget process)

There were no proposed savings bids.

The committee sought clarification on where the National Non-Domestic Rates were accounted for. Questions were also asked about whether the proposed new posts would represent value for money.

The proposed revenue growth bids were recommended for approval by the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee and Council.

c Committee Review of Fees and Charges for Service Areas 2022/23 (part of annual budget process)

The proposed fees and charges were reviewed. It was noted that there was no proposed increase in the charges for plots at Staines Market due to them being broadly in line with other similar markets. It was also felt that an increase would risk harming the vitality of the market.

The proposed fees and charges were recommended for approval by the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee.

6/22 Draft Economic Prosperity Strategy 2022 - 2027

The draft strategy had been informed by the recent Local Economic Assessment. Environmental elements would be added to a later draft, with the final version to be considered by the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee in May 2022. The Additional Restrictions Task Group would be considering the red/amber/green ratings of each proposal.

A particular focus on STEM had been incorporated, as had providing opportunities for local business operators to develop skills, particularly for generating an online presence.

The draft Economic Prosperity Strategy was noted.

7/22 Additional Restrictions Grant Monitoring

The committee received information on the use of the latest round of grant funding. It had been specifically used to support local businesses in the hospitality sector and had provided funding to purchase IT and associated services, training, refreshed shopfronts, etc. Officers were working hard to ensure that as many businesses as possible were able to benefit from grants before the scheme ended.

It was noted that various measures had been employed to ensure that businesses used grants for permissible purposes.

The update on the use of the Additional Restrictions Grant was noted.

8/22 Appointment to the Additional Restrictions Grants Task Group

It was agreed that as the Additional Restrictions Grant was coming to an end, no appointment would be made to the task group.

9/22 Monitoring of Economic Development of Corporate Recovery Plan

The Corporate Recovery Plan would be updated to include a section on Heathrow because of its impact on employment in the local area.

The update on the Economic Development Committee's section of the Corporate Recovery Plan was noted.

10/22 Forward Plan

The Heathrow and Airspace Modernisation item had been delayed pending Heathrow Airport being advised by the Civil Aviation Authority about their capital funding settlement (period H7) which would determine and impact the future work programme. This was not expected until Spring 2022.

The forward plan was agreed.

11/22 Urgent business

There was none.