

**Minutes of the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee
14 March 2022**

Present:

Councillor L. E. Nichols (Chairman)

Councillors:

I.J. Beardsmore	N.J. Gething	O. Rybinski
M. Beecher	N. Islam	V. Siva
J.R. Boughtflower	V.J. Leighton	
S.M. Doran	S.C. Mooney	

36/22 Apologies and Substitutes

Councillor Sexton, Councillor Barnard and Councillor Dunn (substituted by Councillor Bateson).

37/22 Disclosures of Interest

There were none.

38/22 Questions from members of the Public

There were none.

39/22 Ward Issues

There were none.

40/22 Expectations on Developer Consultations for Significant Pre-Application Planning Proposals

The proposals aimed to encourage better quality consultation with residents and businesses on larger or more sensitive planning applications. Whilst developers were not obliged to undertake any of the processes set out within the document, the Committee welcomed the introduction of a framework through which consultation could take place. It was noted that the proposed processes were the responsibility of developers and not Council officers.

The proposals, as set out in the report, were agreed.

41/22 Corporate Health and Safety Policy

The committee heard that health and safety policies tended to conform to a relatively standard template, with inclusions relevant to the organisation made where appropriate. More detailed procedures supplemented this policy. The hierarchy of responsibilities within the document was highlighted and typical activities carried out under the "active monitoring" heading were described.

The proposed policy, which was to be shared with Knowle Green Estates and Spelthorne Direct Services, was due to be discussed by their boards in the coming days.

The Committee:

- Agreed that the corporate Health and Safety Policy be adopted.
- Authorised the Chief Executive to agree minor variations to the adopted health and safety policy, and requested that reference be made to links with partner organisations when events were held in public open spaces.

42/22 2022/23 to 2024/25 Funding support for Knowle Green Estates (KGE)

It was proposed by Councillor Boughtflower, Seconded by Councillor Bateson, and resolved that the public and press be excluded during consideration of this item, in accordance with paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) for the reasons set out in the report.

See separate exempt minutes.

The Committee agreed the proposals, as set out in the report, subject to the funding support arrangement being reviewed by 31 March 2023 to consider support for a further year in 2023/24.

43/22 Revenue Monitoring Report Q3 (Oct-Dec 2021)

The Chief Accountant amended the report to note that, due to a coding error, the sinking fund for the Charter Building was incorrectly noted. This did not affect the overall outturn.

The current underspend and full-time equivalent staffing numbers were reviewed by the Committee. The Committee requested a breakdown of the figure set aside for resourcing management of investment assets.

The Committee noted the forecast outturn for 2021/22 as at 31 December 2021.

44/22 Capital Monitoring Report Q3 (Oct-Dec 2021)

The main changes to this quarter's report were due to a small number of significant projects (Oast House, the Leisure Centre and Victory Place- although given that the report was based on the position as at 31 March 2021 it did not reflect in the estimated outturn the recent inflationary uplifts for the Leisure Centre and Victory Place). There were significant pressures arising from inflation, particularly in the construction sector. The funding market was frequently reviewed in an attempt to mitigate increasing project costs as much as possible.

The Committee requested that current project budgets be compared to their original budget as well as the last quarter.

The Committee noted the current level of overspend on capital expenditure against its Capital Programme provision as at 30 September 2021.

45/22 Calendar of Meetings 2022-2023

The draft calendar of meetings for the 2022/23 municipal year had been considered by the Committee System Working Group, and was largely based on the previous year's calendar, with various adjustments brought about by learning points from the first few service committees. The calendar had also been extended to the end of July 2023 to assist with forward planning towards the end of the upcoming municipal year.

The Committee:

- Recommended that Council approve the calendar of meetings for 2022-2023 as set out in Appendix 1.
- Noted that alterations may be made to the calendar of meetings prior to it being agreed by Council, where such amendments became necessary.

46/22 Forward Plan

There was discussion over whether the Community Lettings Policy item fulfilled the definition of a key decision.

The forward plan was agreed.

47/22 Urgent business

Ukrainian refugees

Support for Ukrainian refugees would be raised at an upcoming Home Office meeting where support provided to Afghan refugees was to be discussed.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations

A portion of the underspend on the Revenue Budget would be used to provide a one-off uplift to the Better Neighbourhood Grant for each ward, to support communities in celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Further information would follow in due course.