

HIGHWAYS AND COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE POLICY AND SERVICE COMMITTEE: MINUTES

Date: Tuesday 15th January 2019

Time: 10:00-11:20

Present: Councillors, I Gardener, M Goldsack, L Harford, B Hunt (Vice-Chairman), S King, D Jenkins, T Sanderson, J Scutt, M Shuter (Chairman) and A Taylor.

Apologies: None received

96. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no apologies or declarations of interest.

Councillor Sanderson declared a non-statutory disclosable interest under the Code of Conduct in relation to agenda item no.4, 'Transfer of Cromwell Museum Collection to Cromwell Museum Trust', as a member of Huntingdon Town Council.

97. MINUTES AND ACTION LOG

The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd December 2018 were confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

In regard to the recommendations on Proposed Revised Key Performance Indicators for Highways and Community Infrastructure Committee a Member wanted reassurance from officers regarding the Revised KPIs' Implementation date. Officers confirmed that the revised KPIs would be implemented from the 2019-20 financial year.

The Action Log was reviewed and the following updates were noted

- i. Minute 86: A Member stated that they had discussed this item with officers and confirmed that it was in progress.
- ii. Minute 89 (In reference to minute 76): The Executive Director, Place and Economy stated that this item had previously slipped but had now been completed.

98. PETITIONS AND PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no petitions received.

99. TRANSFER OF CROMWELL MUSEUM COLLECTION TO CROMWELL MUSEUM TRUST

The Committee considered a report outlining the proposed transfer of the

Cromwell Museum Collection to the Cromwell Museum Trust. The Archives Manager informed the Committee that since 1974, the Cromwell Museum was a Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) service, before this it was run by Huntingdonshire County Council (HCC). In April 2016 the independent Cromwell Museum Trust (CMT) took over the running of the museum. Between 1962 and 2014, CCC purchased about 500 items of Cromwelliana and loaned them to back to the CMT. The Archives Manager suggested that the museum was in a precarious situation as all the pieces on display were owned by third parties. Furthermore, because of this vulnerability the CMT would not be awarded Accredited Museum status by Arts Council England (ACE). This would mean that the CMT could not attract grants or professional museum staff. The CMT had spoken to officers at ACE and had come to the consensus that if the ownership of the CCC-owned items in the collection were transferred from CCC to the CMT, then this barrier to accreditation would be removed. The Officer stated that they had drafted a legal agreement with the assistance of LGSS Lawyers in order to ensure a number of safeguards if the Cromwelliana was transferred to the CMT.

In discussion:

- A Member raised their concern that a percentage of the loans were privately owned. The Officer stated that they had contacted the owners of some of the museum pieces and they had given their consent for the loans to continue, however they were still waiting on responses from other owners.
- The Chairman wanted reassurance that all the Cromwelliana would be insured by the CMT if the transferal was successful. The Chairman stated that he wanted full transparency with the insurance in order for the private owners to feel comfortable with the process. The Officer suggested that he would have to collect this information outside of the meeting. The Officer suggested they would speak to their insurance colleagues to gain more information and relay this back to the Member. **Action required Alan Akeroyd**
- A Member wanted information regarding the membership of the CMT. The Officer stated that it was an Independent Charitable Trust made up of 7-8 trustees including the Member of Parliament for Huntingdon, Jonathan Djanogly. The Museum's patron was Sir John Major and they employ one member of staff, who is the museum curator.

It was resolved unanimously to:

- To agree the transfer of the ownership of those items of Cromwelliana owned by the County Council to the Cromwell Museum Trust, whilst safeguarding these assets from any potential sale or disposal
- To delegate authority to the Executive Director, Place and Economy in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee to finalise the agreement with the Trust.

100. FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE REPORT- NOVEMBER 2018

The Committee considered the November 2018 Finance and Performance Report for Place & Economy Services. The Strategic Finance Manager reminded the Committee that the service started the financial year with two significant pressures of Coroners Services and Waste. These pressures were stable and had not changed since the last report. Place and Economy services now had forecast an underspend of £59k. There were no changes to report regarding Capital. Of the nine performance indicators, three were currently red, two amber and four green. At year-end, the current forecast is that The Classified Road Condition performance indicator was to remain red, three were amber and 5 green.

In Discussion:

- A Member thanked Officers for organising a Member's Seminar that discussed 'Designing Libraries of the Future' in partnership with Civic. They noted that the number of visitors to libraries/community hubs performance indicator was still red and inquired to whether the seminar had an impact on officer's approach to the internet charges in libraries. The Chairman stated that the Library Service Transformation Update was coming to the Committee in March. If Civic were the appropriate partners, they were looking for ways that would provide new sources of income for the library service in order to try and remove or mitigate the internet charge.
- A Member wanted more information regarding the Civic presentation at the Members' Seminar and requested that it be circulated to committee Members. The Chairman agreed that this information would be circulated to Members, however the meeting was not the appropriate forum to discuss the content of the presentation. **Action required – Democratic Services.**
- A Member enquired as to whether officers were being pressured with unrealistic savings targets. The Executive Director, Place and Economy clarified that every proposal in the business plan was financially achievable, however not every proposal progressed as forecasted.
- A Member asked officers why the Waste Private Finance Initiative (PFI) Contract had not managed to make savings and suggested that the £900k shortfall was a significant sum of money. The Executive Director, Place and Economy stated that they started the financial year with a forecast of £1.3m savings. So far this year, £400k savings had been achieved. He noted that this was due to a number of issues, including AMEY having undergone a change in personnel and a company restructure and therefore, it had taken time re-form working relations. The proposed changes to the contract which should allow the achievement of the savings was due to go to GPC later this month for agreement. The current

forecast reflected this and the full savings should be achievable in the 2019-20 financial year.

- A Member asked officers whether they could have a report outlining the number of vacancies in the Highways Service, as this would help Members understand the pressures on officer. The Executive Director, Place and Economy, said that this report was in the process of being prepared, however, they had to liaise with Human Resources in order to understand how the data would be collected and presented and so it was not yet ready for presentation.
- A Member asked officers that an adequate investment be made into the maintenance budget used on footpaths. They noted that more investment provided greater health benefits for users. The Executive Director, Place and Economy stated that they absolutely recognised the benefits of well-maintained footpaths. Whilst the Council would like to put significant amounts of money into this fund, the budget is under increasing pressure. He noted that the team had been looking at opportunities to acquire more funding from central government to be used on footpaths.
- A Member thanked officers for the report containing a revised format and wished that it would continue. The Member asked officers whether they could include anticipated time scales on Local Highway Improvement (LHI) schemes. The Executive Director, Place and Economy stated that the report correctly reflected the November 2018 position, and therefore many had moved on from that report.
- Members expressed their concerns regarding the number of Local Highway Improvement (LHI) Schemes being located in the Cambridge City Area. They also noted that it would be useful if substantial financial schemes such as Kings Dyke could include where the funding is coming from.
- A number of Members stated that many LHI schemes in their division were significantly behind schedule. The Assistant Director, Highways clarified that the information in the LHI schemes detailed in the report was correct at the end of November, however some of the schemes had progressed further since that date. He followed on by stating that he was confident that they would see an improvement in LHI scheme processing in the future.
- The Chairman reiterated Members concerns regarding delayed LHI scheme implementation and suggested that he also had some delayed schemes in his division. However, he clarified that it was an issue, and officers had been looking at ways to make the LHI scheme process more efficiently. The Executive Director, Place and Economy stated that in future the team would make sure they provided a clearer explanation in the reports regarding the overall process of the LHI projects. By doing this, Members would see why specific LHIs were carried over or delayed.

- A Member suggested that officers changed the expected LHI completion dates to two financial years rather than one to provide more flexibility. The Chairman expressed his concerns and stated that this could lead to the schemes losing direction.
- A Member asked officers when the LHI scores from the panels would be made available. Officers advised that they would be made available at the end of that month.
- A Member suggested to officers that it would be useful if a set of draft LHI scheme guidelines came to a future committee meeting before the LHI scoring panels in July. They suggested this would improve transparency and give Members a greater understanding into the function of the LHI panel.
- Councillor Taylor enquired to whether members of the public would be allowed to attend the LHI scoring panel meetings. She noted that officers from her division had informed her that only two members of the public could attend these meetings. The Chairman suggested that the LHI scheme process could be a complicated one and that members of the public being there may not be practical. The Executive Director, Place and Economy stated that he was not aware of officers stopping members of the public attending the meeting, furthermore he did not oppose the public viewing the panel. He would send an email to officers outside of the meeting to confirm. **Action required. Richard Lumley**
- A Member shared their experiences regarding a LHI panel. They suggested that by only allowing smaller numbers of the public to attend, the panel meetings benefited as the scheme could be communicated more clearly to Members. They suggested that the overall presentation and process of the meeting would be improved if a Chair were appointed.
- A Member expressed their disappointment regarding the increasing amount of municipal waste being put into landfill. They wanted more information to how Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) monitored recycling rates. The Executive Director, Place and Economy clarified that we do watch recycling rate closely with district colleagues and once the Waste PFI Contract renegotiation has been completed and agreed, this could help negate the quantity of waste going into landfill. The officer stated that this was something they needed to explore and they would liaise with the Councillor outside of the meeting.
- A Member suggested that the Council could learn from other district councils regarding the quantity of waste going to landfill. The Chairman stated that all must find better methods of recycling waste and the Council would work closely with districts partners, through RECAP and other forums, to find a solution.
- A Member wanted more information regarding the process of planting, replacing and maintaining trees. The Assistant Director, Highways

reassured the committee that they were replacing all the trees that had been removed. He stated that the format of the Tree Data table located in the report was going to change in order to provide a more comprehensive and transparent analysis of the tree planting process.

- The Vice-Chairman stated that clarifications of the council's policies on trees was under way and all districts had been written to regarding these new policies.
- Following on from this, a Member asked officers where they could obtain the Tree Strategy document on CCC's website. Officers stated that they could circulate the link to Members **Action required – Richard Lumley.**

It was resolved to:

- Review, note and comment on the report.

101. HIGHWAYS AND COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE AGENDA PLAN AND APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

A Member noted that the Action Log referred to the update on the impact of the Ely Southern Bypass, requested at the September Committee, which officers had subsequently suggested would be more appropriate to be considered at the Economy & Environment (E&E) Committee. Officers and most Members agreed that it was more appropriate that this matter was considered at the E&E Committee, but it was agreed to discuss this matter further outside of the meeting.

It was resolved to:

- i) note the agenda plan;
- ii) note the training plan.

Chairman