

MINUTES OF THE **MEETING** OF THE **POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE** HELD ON **WEDNESDAY 20th JUNE 2018** AT 7.00 P.M. AT THE TOWN HALL, GREAT WESTERN HOUSE, 9 DEVON SQUARE, NEWTON ABBOT

PRESENT: Councillor M Ryan (Chairman)
Mrs A Jones (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors Mrs C Bunday R D Jenks (Dep Mayor)
Mrs J Cleave M Joyce
C Coyle-Moore C N Parker
R Hayes K Purchase (Mayor)
M Hocking Ms L Roberts
D Howe T Ward

By Invitation: Mr Tom Winters, Economy Projects Officer,
Teignbridge District Council

In attendance: Philip Rowe – Town Clerk
Sam Scott – Deputy Town Clerk
Sally Henley – Town Development Manager
Alex Robinson – Committee Administrator

77. APOLOGIES

No apologies were received as all Councillors were present.

78. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 21st February 2018 and the Special Meeting of 2nd May 2018 were received and signed as correct records.

79. INTERESTS

None declared.

80. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

81. TEIGNBRIDGE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2018-2023

The Chairman introduced Mr Tom Winters, Economy Projects Officer from Teignbridge District Council and invited him to update Members on the draft Economic Development Plan 2018-2023, previously circulated.

Mr Winters explained that the draft plan was the successor to the Economic Development Plan and aimed to build upon the established partnerships such as town and parish councils, colleges and the town development managers. The plan focused on the powers and resources within the district authority control covering five key aims:

- ❖ Supporting and Networking – acting as an advisory body for commercial space, specialist advice would be referred to the ‘growth hub’. An innovative scheme provided by TDC, offered leaflets advice to new commercial tenants and business rate payers.
- ❖ Driving Productivity – the development of publicly available Wi-Fi, improved broadband, working with South Devon College as a key education provider to encourage employment and training.
- ❖ Building Partnerships – working with Chamber of Trade, local Federation of Small Businesses to maintain and develop relationships across the wider region to encourage employment and growth in the district.
- ❖ Catalysing Growth – in acknowledging that demand for commercial space continued to be far higher than supply; to utilise all available space, maintain the town’s markets and regenerate town centres to boost footfall and local spending.
- ❖ Cooperative Services – to be proactive and optimistic in delivering services within the parameters of the powers of the district authority. To stand by the business charter and be transparent and accountable.

In summary Mr Winters requested that the Council offer their feedback as part of the consultation process whether as individual Members or as the Council. He invited responses on line or in writing by the deadline of 29th June 2018. The Chairman thanked Mr Winters and invited questions from Members who raised the following key points:

- Concern at lower educational attainment and overall lower salaries for the region compared with national attainment; whilst it was noted that education is not a responsibility of the district authority, skills are, and were therefore being addressed through education partners such as South Devon College,
- Despite consent for numerous planning applications little include additional provision for employment opportunities,
- Importance of maintaining markets and retail employment in the town,
- Difficulties in installing services such as electricity and gas into new development sites, lengthy waiting times and considerable expense,
- Encouraged by the positive support and recommendations from visitors to the town (coach parties),
- The town needs to appeal to all types of users within the wider community,
- Learn Devon are offering support, leading to academic courses, alongside vocational courses to increase skills for young parents,
- Concern at congestion and limited access and parking for industrial and business parks which are already at capacity,
- Support for the railway bridge to the Brunel Estate would ease vehicle congestion,
- Acknowledged the limited powers for the district authority but emphasised the need to build on areas within remit and make areas such as Milber and Stover a priority for employment opportunities,
- Concern that Peamore on the edge of the district boundary provides more employment for residents of Newton Abbot outside the area rather than provision for residents of the Teignbridge area thus reducing the need for even more commuting,
- Cost of business rates and local authority commercial rents deter businesses from starting up in the town,
- Request to find out how funds from the pilot Business Rate Retention Pilot Scheme will be allocated and be reinvested in the town,

Members requested more details on the Action Plan that accompanies the draft Economic Plan and detail on the specific support for Newton Abbot.

The Chairman thanked Mr Winters on behalf of Members for taking questions and for his informative summary of the draft plan. Following which Mr Winters was invited to leave the meeting.

Following further discussion among Members, accordingly it was;

RESOLVED that a) Members would individually respond to the consultation on the plan directly and b) the Clerk be delegated to prepare a response on behalf of the Council in consultation with the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee and submit prior to the deadline of 29th June 2018.

82. **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Committee gave due consideration to the Terms of Reference for the Policy and Resources Committee. Accordingly, it was;

RESOLVED that the Terms of Reference for the Policy and Resources Committee be hereby, approved and adopted.

83. **REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

None reported.

84. **NOTICE OF MOTION**

The Chairman introduced the Notice of Motion as raised under Minute 18/03(394) as submitted by Councillor David Howe in accordance with Standing Order number 8:

‘That this Council moves to a situation whereby single use plastic is removed from Council use and replaced with reusable plastic or glass containers.’

Members fully supported the Motion and discussed the best practical means for the Council to endorse the proposal. Members were keen to proactively encourage local businesses, particularly cafes and food vendors, to adopt similar practices. Councillors expressed their concern that the main business provider for waste collection services in the town did not offer recycling facilities but suggested alternative providers that may be able to assist. The Chairman invited the Town Development Manger to update Members on what was being achieved among local businesses with regards to reusable plastics and alternatives to single use consumables. Mrs Henley was pleased to report that many of the local independent businesses and also the national chains were doing a great deal albeit they had adopted a variety of methods from bamboo straws, to tin cups and reusable plastic coffee cups available for purchase. She commended their efforts to date. Members suggested that the Town Council include an additional requirement within the Pavement Café Licence that would ensure a commitment from local businesses to reducing single use plastic products.

Whilst it was noted that the County Council had followed the example of the Town Council, Members were pleased that this important issue was being addressed further afield and Councillors would be proactive in publicising good practice within the town. Following a considered discussion, it was;

RESOLVED that a) the original motion as submitted under Minute 18/03(394) be amended as submitted above, b) for existing Council stock to be used and replaced with reusable plastic or glass containers, c) the conditions of the Town Council Pavement Café Licence be amended to include a requirement to encourage the reduction of their use of single use consumables and replace where possible with reusable products d) the Clerk to investigate alternative waste collection services who would offer recycling services and e) the Policy to reduce single use consumables and replace with reusable plastic or glass containers, be hereby, approved and recommended to Full Council for adoption.

85. **SUB COMMITTEES/WORKING PARTIES/FORUMS**

(i). NEWTON'S PLACE PROJECT BOARD – 22nd FEBRUARY 2018

Arising from the consideration of the report of the meeting it was,

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Newton's Place Project Board – held on 22nd February 2018 be hereby approved and adopted.

(ii). NEWTON'S PLACE PROJECT BOARD – 26th APRIL 2018

Arising from the consideration of the report of the meeting it was,

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Newton's Place Project Board - held on 26th April 2018 be hereby approved and adopted.

(iii). NEWTON'S PLACE PROJECT BOARD – 24th MAY 2018

Arising from the consideration of the report of the meeting it was,

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Newton's Place Project Board - held on 24th May 2018 be hereby approved and adopted.

86. **POLICIES**

The Chairman introduced the policy documents, previously circulated and reminded Members that the first, the General Data Protection Regulation – Privacy Policy had been reported to Council under Minute 18/06(73) and noted that the second was a new document, the Depreciation Policy as recommended as good practice within the Council's Internal Audit process. Following a discussion among Members and their review of the policy documents it was;

RESOLVED that the:

- a) General Data Protection Regulation - Privacy Policy be hereby approved and adopted; and
- b) Depreciation Policy, be hereby, approved and recommended to Full Council for adoption.

87. **ACCOUNTS INCOME & EXPENDITURE**

The Committee received and noted the overview of Income and Expenditure statement for Policy and Resources Committee for the Period 1st April 2017 – 31st March 2018 and for the period 1st – 30th April 2018. Following consideration, it was;

RESOLVED that the Income and Expenditure Statement for the Policy and Resources Committee for the period 1st April 2017 – 31st March 2018 and 1st – 30th April 2018, be hereby, approved and signed by the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee.

88. **LATE CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

89. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would be Wednesday 12th September 2018.

CHAIRMAN