

RESOURCE ALLOCATION SUB (POLICY AND RESOURCES) COMMITTEE

Thursday, 22 October 2020

Minutes of the meeting of the Resource Allocation Sub (Policy and Resources)
Committee held at Virtual Meeting on Thursday, 22 October 2020 at 12.00 pm

Present

Members:

Deputy Catherine McGuinness (Chairman)	Alderman Vincent Keaveny
Jeremy Mayhew (Deputy Chairman)	Deputy Edward Lord
Deputy Keith Bottomley	Alderman Ian Luder
Tijs Broeke	Deputy Tom Sleigh
Deputy Jamie Ingham Clark	Sir Michael Snyder
Anne Fairweather	Deputy James Thomson
Sheriff Christopher Hayward	Alderman Sir David Wootton
Shravan Joshi	

In Attendance

Helen Fentimen
Marianne Fredericks
Graeme Harrower
Barbara Newman

Officers:

Caroline Al-Beyerty	-	Deputy Chamberlain
John Barradell	-	Town Clerk & Chief Executive
Michael Cogher	-	Comptroller & City Solicitor
Peter Kane	-	Chamberlain
Dianne Merrifield	-	Chamberlains
Greg Moore	-	Town Clerks
Chrissie Morgan	-	HR
Sanjay Odedra	-	Communications
Angela Roach	-	Assistant Town Clerk
Paul Wilkinson	-	City Surveyor
Aqib Hussain	-	IT
Joseph Anstee	-	Town Clerks
Emma Cunningham	-	Town Clerks

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Karina Dostalova.

The Policy Chair took the opportunity to ask the Sub-Committee whether they would be content to reduce the frequency of these meetings, whilst making

sure they were still in line with the governance review timetable. Members were in agreement of this approach.

2. MEMBERS DECLARATIONS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Sub-Committee meeting held on 19 September 2020 were agreed as a correct record.

4. CAPITAL FUNDING UPDATE

The Sub-Committee considered a paper of the Chamberlain proposing the release of £5.42m for five schemes, which had previously received 'in principle' approval via the 2020/21 annual capital bids or was agreed for progression outside of the fundamental review.

RESOLVED, that:-

- The five schemes listed in Table 1 of the report be reviewed in the context of the current crisis and confirmed that they should receive continued essential priority for release of funding at this time.
- An increase of £250k in the central funding be agreed and allocated to the Frobisher Crescent fire safety works to be offset by a compensating reduction in the car park fire safety funding allocation.
- The release of up to £5.42m be agreed for the five schemes from the reserves of City Fund and City's Cash as set out in Table 1, subject to the approval of the relevant gateway reports.

5. CAPITAL FUNDING - PRIORITISATION OF 2021/22 ANNUAL CAPITAL BIDS - INITIAL REVIEW

The Sub-Committee considered a report of the Chamberlain concerning the prioritisation of 2021/22 Annual Capital Bids.

The Deputy Chamberlain outlined the extent of the submissions in the report, which totalled £105m, which was an increase since last year. Members heard how affordability, in the present context, was more challenging and how there had been some concerns about how the ranking of schemes had been undertaken at officer level.

A Member observed that, despite the recent approval of the Climate Action Strategy, there were some environmentally friendly bids which did not have a green RAG rating. The Deputy Chamberlain explained that these projects would be assessed by the Climate Action Strategy team.

The Policy Chair then conveyed the concerns that the Chair of Audit and Risk Committee had emailed about concerning the health and safety risks of the glass canopy at Smithfield Market and to request emergency provision of funding to support this work. Members felt strongly that this needed to be progressed urgently to allow the panels to be replaced. The City Surveyor explained the extent of the works required included removing the concrete

canopies and gutters (funded through existing budgets) and the need to install new glass panels at a cost in the region of £150k + VAT. Members then discussed the interim health and safety measures while waiting for the glass panels to be replaced and whether that section of the market should be closed to prevent any further threat of injury or death to the general public. The Chair and Deputy Chairman indicated they would be very willing to consider a request under urgency provisions if emergency funding was required.

RESOLVED, that:-

- It be noted that the total value of bids amounting to £146m of which £27.5m were to be funded from existing local resources and £13.5m which did not meet the capital criteria and would need to be funded from revenue resources.
- It be agreed that the remaining £105m of capital bids was currently unsustainable and therefore Chief Officers, in consultation with Service Committee Chairs, be requested to further consider ranking of schemes to identify the most critical bids, with innovation and reputational impact uppermost.
- Subject to the outcome of Chief Officer rankings, it be agreed 'in principle' that bids with a final RAG rating of amber and red be deferred.
- It be noted that the Climate Action Strategy bids would be subject to further review to confirm the priority of proposals.
- It be noted that options for revenue funding of the Climate Action revenue bids that do not meet the capital criteria (currently £13.5m) will be brought forward in December.

6. QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE

A question was asked as follows:-

2021/22 budget process

A question was raised requesting confirmation that, as part of the 2020/21 budget process, the City Corporation would look at the level and value for money of all the grants the City Corporation provided, including those which might not directly or nominally fall under departmental budgets. In particular there was reference to the grants given within the educational model. The Policy Chair confirmed that this was being looked into.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

There was no other urgent business.

8. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED, that under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of the Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

Item No.

9, 10, 12
15

Paragraph No.

3
3, 4

9. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

The non-public minutes of the meeting held on 18 September 2020 were approved as a correct record.

10. **NOTE OF THE INFORMAL MEETING**

The note of the informal meeting on 7 October 2020 was received.

11. **DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES
COMMERCIAL TENANTS AND COVID 19 - PROPOSAL FOR ADDITIONAL
SUPPORT IN THE SEPTEMBER QUARTER**

This item was withdrawn.

12. **REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN**

The Sub-Committee received a report of the Town Clerk advising of decisions taken under delegated authority or urgency powers since the last meeting.

RESOLVED, that:-

- The actions taken since the last meeting of the Sub-Committee be noted.

13. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE**

There were no questions.

14. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT
AND WHICH THE SUB-COMMITTEE AGREE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED
WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED**

There was no other urgent business.

15. **CONFIDENTIAL NOTE OF THE INFORMAL MEETING**

The confidential note of the informal meeting held on 7 October 2020 be received.

The meeting ended at 1.00 pm

Chairman

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