

**BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL**  
**POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**4.00pm 30 APRIL 2020**

**VIRTUAL MEETING - SKYPE**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Councillor Platts (Chair) Yates (Deputy Chair), Mac Cafferty (Opposition Spokesperson), Bell (Group Spokesperson), Allcock, Clare, Gibson, Moonan, Miller and Shanks.

**PART ONE**

**158 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS**

**(a) Declarations of Substitutes**

158.1 There were no declarations of Substitutes.

**(b) Declarations of Interest**

158.2 There were no declarations of interests in matters listed on the agenda.

**(c) Exclusion of Press and Public**

158.3 The Committee considered whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of any of the items listed on the agenda.

158.4 **RESOLVED:** That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the items contained in part two of the agenda.

**159 MINUTES**

159.1 The minutes of the last meeting held on the 19 March were approved as a correct record of the proceedings.

159.2 The minutes of the Urgency Sub-Committee meeting held on the 31 March were noted.

**160 CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS**

160.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the first virtual Policy & Resources Committee meeting.

We are meeting in uncertain times. Councillors are having to make difficult decisions at a time of great uncertainty about the future, and I understand the strain everybody is under.

My heart goes out to people who are anxious and worried about their health and that of their loved ones, those who are worried about their businesses that they put their hearts and souls into, and to the key workers who are going the extra mile to keep us all safe.

I want to repeat our thanks all council staff across the departments who are working flat out and around the clock to deliver vital services to our residents in difficult circumstances. We are working hard to keep fundamental and critical services running; protecting our most vulnerable residents.

As a council we are doing everything we can to keep democracy running as smoothly as possible, to keep key services across the city up and running, and to work with partner organisations and residents across the Brighton & Hove to contain the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

The impact of Coronavirus is outside of our normal experience. That's why it has been hard for everyone to quickly come to terms with the concepts of social distancing and self-isolation.

It is only by staying at home, we can keep ourselves and one another safe and give our NHS a fighting chance of saving people's lives.

Thank you to the army of volunteers who are delivering food and medicines to vulnerable people and to all the essential workers who have to keep going through such difficult times.

The Council already provides critical services to local businesses many of whom are now feeling economically fragile. The council is working hard to ensure small businesses benefit as soon as possible from a package of measures announced by the government to support small businesses through the period of disruption caused by COVID-19.

To-date, we have paid out £42.4m of the £73m government funding allocated, to 2882 of our eligible city businesses.

Some applications are taking longer to process because they are not straightforward, for example where there are discrepancies in the records we hold, and the information provided. In these cases, we are writing to businesses to request any additional information needed so we can take these claims forward as quickly as possible.

We believe there are over 1000 eligible businesses that still haven't applied for the grant despite us writing to and e-mailing them. We are now contacting them again because we are determined that every eligible local business should benefit from the support the government is providing. We urge anyone who fits the government's criteria, to please get in touch via our website.

Local authorities have been on the front line acting as the conduit for government in distributing grants to small businesses. In that role it has become clear that more businesses need access to funds, in the form of non-repayable grants to address their immediate cashflow needs.

Local Authorities have not been given any discretion in the allocation of the small business fund. That is why we are lobbying government to give us greater local flexibility in allocating any unclaimed funds from the small business grants programme so that we can target support to where it is needed.

Though limited, the unallocated sums could be used to help avoid the closure of the independent businesses who are the essential life-blood of our city. We will be working with MP's to raise awareness of the challenges that our businesses are facing and the lack of funds that local authorities have to provide the support needed due to loss of income and rising costs due to the pandemic.

We have also been lobbying government for more council funding. These are uncertain times and the council finances have taken a significant hit. We know that in the short term, the financial impact on the council could be around £30m. We don't yet know the full extent of the longer-term financial implications of this period. That is why we need to pause some projects for now and review the state of our finances once we come out the other side of this crisis, to ensure the funding is there to continue with those projects. We have a responsibility to manage public finances efficiently and effectively, so pausing some projects whilst we are in the midst of the public health crisis is necessary. We will continue to make the case to government that local authorities need more financial support to deliver for our residents in the future.

Looking to the future, I have proposed that our city leads on an Economic Recovery Plan for the region, both at the Local Economic Partnership, and at the Greater Brighton Economic Board – where it received unanimous backing from all organisations attending, including local authorities like Lewes District Council and Crawley Borough Council, as well as businesses, universities and Greater Brighton Metropolitan College.

We have a plan coming forward today for a City Recovery Programme that will have cross-party oversight, as well as ensuring Brighton & Hove Connected partners from the public and private sectors, which includes stakeholders from across the city will be engaged and contribute.

As part of our planning for the recovery phase, and how we want our city to look when we come out of lockdown we are also reviewing transport infrastructure and networks. We have a report on the Local Transport Plan coming forward which will help encourage the use of more sustainable transport and active travel. We will be re-doubling our efforts to meet our goal of a carbon neutral city by 2030 and are already working on how our transport infrastructure must adapt as new patterns of transport and daily life emerge. We were one of the first councils in the UK to create additional space for people walking and cycling during the COVID-19 pandemic by restricting vehicles on Madeira Drive – and officers will of course be reviewing transport plans as we try and help shape the 'new normal'.

Also looking forward, I am really pleased to see the report coming from Housing Committee on Moulsecoomb Neighbourhood Hub and Housing Schemes, where we will be delivering approximately 232 new council homes – progressing our pledge to residents to build more council homes and tackle the housing crisis.

We also have a report that is looking to protect Adult & Community learning across the city, by bringing the service in-house.

I look forward to hearing everybody's contributions today and hope we can move forward constructively for our residents.

## **161 CALL OVER**

161.1 The following items on the agenda were reserved for discussion:

- Item 164 - Covid-19 Financial Position Statement
- Item 165 - Covid-19 City Recovery Programme, Proposed Programme Governance Arrangements
- Item 166 - Moulsecoomb Neighbourhood Hub & Housing Schemes
- Item 167 - Adult & Community Learning
- Item 169 - 2020/21 Local Transport Plan Capital Programme

161.2 The Head of Democratic Services confirmed that Items 164 to 167 and 169 had been reserved for discussion; and that the following report, Item 168 on the agenda with the recommendations therein had been approved and adopted:

Item 168- Review of the Constitution.

## **162 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

162.1 The Chair noted that no petitions or public questions had been submitted for the meeting. However, there was one deputation concerning Bevendean Gymnastics Club and she invited Andrea Smart to join the meeting and speak to her deputation which had been circulated with the addendum papers.

162.2 Ms. Smart thanked the Chair and outlined the reasons for the deputation and asked that the request be given consideration by the committee.

162.3 The Chair thanked Ms. Smart and the Bevendean Gymnastics Club for the deputation and stated that the information provided complemented the findings of the Planning For Real sessions, which were detailed in the report on the agenda at Item 166.

The community engagement that has taken place so far has clearly shown that local support for a new gymnastics' facility is strong. As a result, officers are currently exploring how a new gymnastics facility can be incorporated into the wider scheme, which will need to consider funding and location options. The extra detail provided today will help to inform and develop these designs further. I suggest that officers continue to engage with the club to take matters forward.

162.4 The Chair then proposed that the deputation should be noted.

162.5 **RESOLVED:** That the deputation be noted.

### 163 MEMBER INVOLVEMENT

163.1 The Chair noted that there was a letter from Councillor Hugh-Jones and invited her to speak to the letter.

163.2 Councillor Hugh-Jones thanked the Chair and stated that she hoped the council could support the proposal to support the Local Electricity Bill and noted that the Bill had been delayed and therefore the local MPs could be encouraged to support it.

163.3 The Chair thanked Councillor Hugh-Jones and noted that the letter was asking the council to support the Bill and make its support known in the media and suggested that it would be beneficial to call for a report to a future meeting on community energy and supplies.

163.4 **RESOLVED:**

- (1) That the Council expresses its support for the Local Electricity Bill and encourages its local MPs to do so as well as making this support known to the local media; and
- (2) That officers be requested to bring a report to a future meeting concerning the principles of 'right to supply' in local decision-making regarding community energy and the council's position in this regard.

### 164 COVID-19: FINANCIAL POSITION STATEMENT

164.1 The Acting Chief Finance Officer introduced the report which provide an interim financial position statement for the Council. He noted that the council received approximately £35m in Government funding and that the majority of revenue came from council tax, parking income and other revenue streams. In the current climate a key concern was for small businesses and officers were working to ensure all businesses were contacted to ensure they were applying for support. He also noted that the March Committee had agreed to review of Capital Schemes with a report coming to committee in July. It was intended to bring the report to the meeting and detail those schemes that could be paused and others that had been delayed and to propose a way forward. A number of schemes were reliant on other income streams and/or supplies being available which in the current situation was not clear.

164.2 Councillor Gibson proposed an amendment to the recommendations listed in the report on behalf of the Green Group. He stated that there was a concern that a number of schemes had been agreed with an identified budget and may be at risk if they were paused.

164.3 Councillor Shanks formally seconded the amendment and stated that there was a need to show an intent to take matters forward.

- 164.4 Councillor Miller welcomed the report and stated that there was a need to support the cultural sector and local businesses. He was also concerned about the impact that the loss in fees and charges would have on the capital programme and what provision was being made for the procurement of PPE supplies.
- 164.5 The Acting Chief Finance Officer stated that there were a number of officer groups looking at areas which included the Cultural Cell that would consider what support could be provided. However, given the Council's financial position it was difficult to determine what support could be given to businesses etc. In regard to PPE this was being monitored closely. He also noted that small business were being contacted to ensure that they were applying to the Government for support.
- 164.6 The Executive Director for Economy, Environment & Culture stated that he had met with representatives from the cultural sector and the Arts Council for England were offering funding opportunities to support the sector.
- 164.7 Councillor Gibson queried whether council staff would be furloughed, and costs then recovered and how the cost of accommodation that had been provided was being monitored.
- 164.8 The Acting Chief Finance Officer stated that benefit recovery in regard to emergency accommodation costs was being monitored and would be reported as part of the TBM process and regularly to Leaders.
- 164.9 The Head of Human Resources stated that the first approach had been to deploy staff to areas that needed additional support and that the use of furloughing staff would be the last resort. However, it would be looked at if redeployment of staff across the council was not possible, but this process had yet to be completed.
- 164.10 Councillor Yates stated that he wished to commend the staff for the work undertaken over the last six weeks. He also felt that the financial challenge faced could not be under-estimated and would form part of the recovery process. In regard to the amendment, he felt it would be difficult to support it given the decision taken previously to review matters affect the capital programme in July.
- 164.11 Councillor Bell welcomed the report and asked if any consideration had been given to deferring commercial rents and how would any decision be made.
- 164.12 The Acting Chief Finance Officer stated that the situation was being considered and monitored and would be reported as part of the TMB process.
- 164.13 Councillor Clare referred to the appendix the report and queried how the council's commitment to its carbon neutral target would be seen if capital projects were being delayed.
- 164.14 The Chair stated that the intention was to review the situation in July and projects were only being paused until then to enable the council's position to be reviewed and reported to committee. Councillor Platts then stated that she would move to the vote and put the Green Group's amendment to the vote which was lost by 6 votes to 4.

164.15 The Chair then put the recommendations as listed in the report to vote which was carried by 9 votes to 1.

164.16 **RESOLVED:**

- (1) That the contents of the report be noted,
- (2) That the use of officer Urgency Powers as detailed in Section 4 of the report and the records of urgency decisions at Appendix 2 to the report be noted;
- (3) That the principles to be applied to Supplier Relief set out in paragraph 3.28 of the report be noted;
- (4) That delegated authority be granted to the Executive Director of Economy, Environment & Culture, in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer, to negotiate and conclude appropriate terms with concession contractors at risk, on a case-by-case basis, including appropriate emergency financial support.
- (5) That delegated authority be granted to the Executive Director of Economy, Environment & Culture, in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer, to negotiate and conclude alternative payment arrangements, deferral or reduction, on a case-by-case basis, in relation to its commercial tenants.

**165 COVID-19: CITY RECOVERY PROGRAMME. PROPOSED PROGRAMME GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS.**

- 165.1 The Executive Director for Economy, Environment & Culture introduced the report which outlined the proposed programme governance and management arrangements to help prepare for the Covid-19 recovery phase. He drew the committee's attention to the proposed establishment of a Recovery sub-Committee to take matters forward.
- 165.2 Councillor Mac Cafferty thanked the officers for the report and stated that it was important to consider how the city would recover from the lockdown phase. He believed that a number of things had changed as a result of lockdown that had been positive and should be retained as part of the recovery process and therefore formally moved the Green Group's amendment to the recommendations.
- 165.3 Councillor Clare formally seconded the amendment and sought clarification that the sub-committee would operate on the same lines as a full committee i.e. it would be open to the public and allow for public involvement.
- 165.4 Councillor Miller queried whether the sub-committee could be established and meet prior to the Annual Council meeting and how the work of the various Cells would be taken into consideration to avoid any silo activity, given that the cells were working independently.
- 165.5 The Executive Lead Officer for Strategy, Governance & Law stated that the Committee could establish a sub-committee and as such it would operate under the Local Government Act 1972. Its meetings would be time-tabled, and it would need to determine its business at its first meeting.

- 165.6 The Executive Director for Economy, Environment & Culture stated that the sub-committee would look at all the opportunities to assist with the recovery process. He noted that there were two cross-over groups, the Greater Brighton Economic Board and Local Enterprise Partnership who would be important partners to work with.
- 165.7 Members of the Committee welcomed the report and thanked officers for the work to date. It was noted that there was a need to take matters forward and it was hoped that the sub-committee could ensure a co-ordinated approach to the recovery process.
- 165.8 The Chair noted the comments and put the Green Group's amendment to the vote which was lost by 6 votes to 4.
- 165.9 The Chair then put the recommendations as listed in the report to the voted which was carried unanimously.
- 165.10 **RESOLVED:**
- (1) That the Covid-19 City Recovery Programme and approves the Programme Initiation Document in appendix 1.
  - (2) That a Policy & Resources (Recovery) Sub-Committee be established with the terms of reference as set out in Appendix 2 to the report for the purpose of decision-making and overseeing the delivery of the Covid-19 City Recovery Programme.
- 165.11 The Chair then adjourned the meeting for a short-break from 18.15 to 18.30pm.

## **166 MOULSECOOMB NEIGHBOURHOOD HUB & HOUSING SCHEMES**

- 166.1 The Executive Director for Economy, Environment & Culture introduced the report which set out proposals to release council owned land for development and provision of new council homes. He noted that following the publication of the agenda, new legal advice had been received and a revised report circulated with the addendum.
- 166.2 Councillor Clare formally moved an amendment on behalf of the Green Group which sought to improve on the recommendations and provide assurance for the young people that they would be consulted on the options for them at the new centre.
- 166.3 Councillor Gibson formally seconded the amendment and noted that the Housing Committee had expressed positivity in regard to the proposed new homes. However, had concerns about the level of office space given the likely changes in working patterns as a result of the pandemic and lockdown.
- 166.4 Councillor Miller formally moved an amendment on behalf of the Conservative Group and stated that he fully supported the initiative but wanted to add safeguards for the process going forward. He was concerned about the level of rents and the overall capital programme which needed to be reviewed in July.
- 166.5 Councillor Bell formally seconded the amendment.



- 166.6 The Executive Director for Economy, Environment & Culture stated that the rentable income would be kept under review and any material change reported to committee. He stated that the developers would need to submit a reliable business case before the project could go forward.
- 166.7 Councillor Miller queried whether best consideration for the site could be achieved and whether the option for the school to share the playing field with the leisure centre had been considered. He also noted that the school had an additional playing field that had not appeared to have been taken in to account as an option to be included in the proposals.
- 166.8 The Executive Director for Economy, Environment & Culture stated that Housing Infrastructure Funding would be explored as well as other potential sources. He stated that the any changes to use for the playing field would require Secretary of State approval and it was felt that this would be unlikely to be forthcoming. He also noted that the market value for the land was not being recommended on this occasion as the objective was to free up land for housing and to maintain rent levels; hence the intention to have an external validation for the project.
- 166.9 Councillor Bell sated that he felt there were a number of questions in relation to the financial modelling and whether the project could be taken forward on a phased basis. However, he was happy to speak to officers outside of the meeting and to support the recommendations with the Conservative amendment.
- 166.10 The Executive Director for Economy, Environment & Culture stated that the individual elements would come to committee as the project progressed and applications for funding from Homes for England would need validation for any bids that were made.
- 166.11 Councillor Gibson noted that it was a significant project and if the valuation increased it made the housing provision more difficult to achieve, as costs per unit would go up although over time there could be a net benefit.
- 166.12 Councillor Yates stated that it was an important project for Moulsecoomb and would help to rebuild the sense of community.
- 166.13 The Chair then put the Green Group's amendment to the vote which was carried unanimously.
- 166.14 The Chair then put the Conservative Group's amendment to the vote which was carried by 9 votes with 1 abstention.
- 166.15 The Chair then put the recommendations as amended to the vote which were carried unanimously.
- 166.16 **RESOLVED:**
- (1) That the appropriation of the following sites from existing purposes to Housing Act purposes be approved:
    - Hillview Contact Centre, Hodshrove Lane

- Moulsecoomb Hub North, Hodshrove Lane
  - Moulsecoomb Hub South, Hodshrove Lane
  - 67 Centre Youth Centre, Hodshrove Lane
  - Multi Use Games Areas, Hodshrove Lane
- (2) That it be agreed that the General Fund should receive the value of external valuation in consideration for land appropriated as defined at recommendation (1) above from the Housing Revenue Account;
  - (3) That the retention of the net capital receipt to be used for reinvestment to support the development of a new Neighbourhood Hub and Sports Facilities on land adjacent to Moulsecoomb Community Leisure Centre as well as the refurbishment of the Former Portslade Sixth Form site be authorised;
  - (4) That the development of a new Neighbourhood Hub and Sports Facilities on land adjacent to Moulsecoomb Community Leisure Centre, subject to planning permission be agreed, and in conjunction with previous consultation efforts, that the design of the new youth-space will be discussed with young people and incorporate a discrete entrance to the planned new youth centre, to add to the sense of place;
  - (5) That the refurbishment of the former Portslade Sixth Form site into council offices, subject to planning permission and Secretary of State consent for change of use be agreed;
  - (6) That the development of housing on the appropriated sites listed in recommendation (1) above be agreed in principle, subject to planning permission and notes that the Housing Committee will be asked to approve schemes and give authority to procure capital works contracts at a later date and that these capital works also come to P&R;
  - (7) That the appropriation of the Hillview Youth Centre and Multi Use Games Areas referred to at (1) above be agreed; and that it be noted that the appropriation will take place when the Committee makes the decision to appropriate (assuming that the Committee approves the recommendation) and that the funds referred to at (2) above will be transferred following that decision;
  - (8) That the Executive Director for Housing, Neighbourhoods & Communities and the Executive Director for Economy, Environment & Culture be granted delegated authority to appropriate the Moulsecoomb Hub North and Moulsecoomb Hub South sites referred to (1) above following the refurbishment of the Former Portslade Sixth Form site and transfer a proportion of the funds referred to at (2) above;
  - (9) That the Executive Director Housing and Executive Director Economy, Environment and Culture be granted delegated authority to appropriate the 67 Youth Centre site referred to at (1) above following the completion of the new Neighbourhood Hub and that transfer a proportion of the funds referred to at (2) above;

- (10) That a budget for borrowing within the HRA Capital Investment Programme to finance the cost of the appropriation of the sites listed in recommendation (1) above be approved;
- (11) That the Executive Director of Environment, Economy & Culture be granted delegated authority to take steps to procure the required capital works and move to enter into contracts in respect of the new Neighbourhood Hub and Sports Facilities and the refurbishment of the former Portslade Sixth Form College site subject to a subsequent P&R committee approval and the consideration of the following:
- That the impact of the COVID 19 crisis on the future likelihood of increased homeworking amongst council office staff be assessed through consultation, and the additional office space needed for social work staff be considered, in light of this and in the light of any predicated spare capacity in existing buildings (including unlet areas of the commercial portfolio such as Phoenix House);
- (12) That a budget for inclusion into the Council's Capital Investment Programme for the Moulsecoomb Neighbourhood Hub works as detailed in paragraph 3.4.8 in the report in July 2020 when other council capital projects are reviewed in light of COVID-19.

## **167 ADULT & COMMUNITY LEARNING**

- 167.1 The Interim Executive Director for Families, Children & Learning introduced the report concerning the future delivery model of the Council's Adult & Community Learning offer funded by the Education & Skills Funding Agency. She noted that the Housing Committee had agreed to the use of HRA funding for Year 1.
- 167.2 Councillor Shanks welcomed the report and formally moved an amendment on behalf of the Green Group which sought to enable alternative options to be looked at.
- 167.3 Councillor Clare formally seconded the amendment.
- 167.4 Councillor Bell stated that he fully supported the scheme although was concerned about the call on HRA funding and questioned whether it would be more appropriate to use the General Fund.
- 167.5 The Acting Chief Finance Officer stated that the HRA was to be used for then benefit of tenants and this had been demonstrated in the report. However, the decision was for Members although the current pressures on the General Fund should be taken into consideration as outlined in the options listed in the report.
- 167.6 Councillor Allcock noted that the Housing Committee had agreed to the funding from the HRA for the first year and welcomed the Green Group's amendment. He believed there was a need for the service in the city and noted the support of the Trustees from the Friend's Centre.

- 167.7 Councillor Gibson stated that any future funding needed to be proportionate to the tenants' benefits and future consultation on how the service would be provided needed to be improved. He hoped that the service could be turned around and could then continue to provide the important support to adults in the city.
- 167.8 Councillor Miller expressed some reservations about the use of HRA and noted that some people would effectively be paying twice for the service. He was also concerned about funding elements and welcomed the Green amendment.
- 167.9 Councillor Moonan acknowledged the need to look at the funding elements and stated that the service provided an important second opportunity to develop skills and knowledge and hoped that it could be supported.
- 167.10 The Chair noted the comments and put the Green Group's amendment to the vote which was carried unanimously.
- 167.11 The Chair then put the recommendations to the vote, noting that the recommendation to use the £40k funding from the HRA in Year 1 was being put forward as the preferred option.
- 167.12 **RESOLVED:**

- (1) That a contribution of £40,000 from the HRA be set aside in the 2020/21 financial year only to support the funding requirements detailed in Option 1 in the report and subject to recommendation 3 below, and that any future HRA contributions be conditional on tenants support evidenced by consultation and that should this consultation be favourable, the HRA contribution be proportionate to the established benefits derived by tenants from these services, as also described in paragraph 3.41 of the report;
- (2) That the Adult and Community Learning be brought in-house following the expiry of the current arrangements on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2020;
- (3) That additional funding to be allocated to the Families, Children and Learning Directorate to cover the associated costs of bringing delivery in-house based on the option below be approved:
  - (i) Funding anticipated being in the region of £61,030 in year 1, based on funding of £20,000 each for Neighbourhood Learning in Deprived Communities (Hangleton and Knoll and Whitehawk Inn) is provided by the Housing Revenue Account; and
  - (ii) If necessary, to explore other options to mitigate any loss of NLDC funding to the Hangleton and Knoll and Whitehawk Inn project resulting from the in-house proposal moving beyond year one, should no further funding be obtained from the HRA in future years .

Note: the costs for year two onwards for both options is dependent on securing suitable accommodation within the council.

- (4) That delegated authority be granted to the Executive Director for Economy, Environment & Culture to:
  - (i) Secure a 1year lease or license as appropriate on Isetta Square from the Friends Centre; and
  - (ii) Take any other steps necessary to implement the recommendations in this report.
- (5) That delegated authority be granted to the Executive Director for Families, Children & Learning to:
  - (i) Take forward TUPE arrangements to facilitate the in-house provision of community learning currently delivered by the Friends Centre.
  - (ii) Take forward the option to bring in-house two externally funded projects, Step by Step and Get Socially Active projects and manage TUPE arrangements and subsequent liaison with funders.
  - (iii) Take any other steps necessary to implement the recommendations in this report including a comprehensive review of the service after one and three years of operation to assess value for money, opportunities for efficiencies, investment and growth opportunities, performance, satisfaction, and impact on equalities data.
- (6) That delegated authority be granted to the Executive Director for Housing, Neighbourhoods & Communities to take forward the recommendation to fund Neighbourhood Learning in Deprived Communities from the Housing Revenue Account of £40,000; and
- (7) That the Audit & Standards Committee receive a report, to ensure good financial governance for the city council.

167.13 The Chair then adjourned the meeting for a short-break from 19.55 to 20.05pm to allow Members to join the national clapping supporting the NHS.

## **168 REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION**

### **168.1 RESOLVED:**

- (1) That the proposal to make changes to the Scheme of Delegations to Officers in Part 6 of the Council's Constitution relating to the Council's planning functions as indicated in paragraphs 4.1 - 4.3 and Appendix 1, and the proposals regarding Traffic Orders as indicated in paragraphs 4.5 -4.6 of the report, be agreed;
- (2) That the proposal to make changes to the Scheme of Delegations to Officers in Part 6 of the Council's in respect of overseas trips (paragraph 4.9 of the report) be agreed.

### **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:**

- (3) That Full Council be recommended to approve the changes recommended in resolutions (4) to (8) below;

- (4) That the proposed changes to delegations in respect of the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee indicated in paragraphs 4.5 – 4.6 of the report be agreed;
- (5) That the proposal at para 4.11 and Appendix 2 to the report to amend the Council Procedure Rules at Part 3.2 of the Council's Constitution in respect of arrangements for member amendments be agreed;
- (6) That the proposal at para 4.12 and Appendix 3 to the report for amendments to Part 8.4 –Guidance for Members and Officers serving on Outside Bodies be agreed;
- (7) That the Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer be authorised to take all steps necessary or incidental to the implementation of the changes agreed by the Policy & Resources Committee and by Full Council, and that the Monitoring Officer be authorised to amend and re-publish the Council's constitutional documents to incorporate the changes;
- (8) That the proposed changes come into force immediately following their approval by Policy & Resources Committee or adoption by Full Council, as appropriate.

## **169 2020/21 LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN CAPITAL PROGRAMME**

- 169.1 The Executive Director for Economy, Environment & Culture introduced the report which detailed the Council's Local Transport Plan Capital Funding and noted that an extract from the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Urgency Sub-Committee meeting held on the 24 March had been included with the papers.
- 169.2 Councillor Mac Cafferty formally moved an amendment on behalf of the Green Group and stated that the report was welcome but there was a need to ensure matters were taken forward e.g. becoming a car free city and reducing air pollution.
- 169.3 Councillor Gibson formally seconded the amendment and reserved his right to speak.
- 169.4 Councillor Bell stated that he supported the amendment and referred to recommendation 2.3 and queried whether the decision taken at Budget Council could be deferred and whether it would need to come back to Budget Council in 2021.
- 169.5 The Acting Chief Finance Officer stated that the Policy & Resources Committee was the appropriate committee to review the budget decisions and it was not removing the scheme but reviewing the funding issues. It would still go ahead when the funds were available, and the council was able to borrow as a grant funding resource. He also noted that there would be regular reports to the TECC Committee.
- 169.6 Councillor Gibson stated that he felt there was a need to review the terms of reference of the SCRIF MOG and to consider the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic going forward.

169.7 The Chair noted the comments and put the Green Group amendment to the vote which was carried unanimously.

169.8 The Chair then put the recommendations as amended to the vote which were carried unanimously.

169.9 **RESOLVED:**

- (1) That the 2020/21 Local Transport Plan capital programme budget allocation of £8.658 million, as set out in Appendix 1 of this report be agreed; as an interim measure, further to (4) below;
- (2) That it be noted that a final decision on the allocation of £3.900m of the capital programme to projects and programmes outlined in paragraph 3.8 of this report, will be made at a future Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee meeting;
- (3) That the availability of the £3.900m element of the 2020/21 capital programme in 2.2. above, is likely to be deferred until the 2021/22 financial year be noted as it was expected to be achieved through borrowing against forecast surplus parking income and will therefore need to be reviewed in light of the financial implications arising from the Covid-19 outbreak;
- (4) That committee agree to instruct officers to urgently explore:
  - how the work of the LTP and associated council transport plans can be rendered more flexible, in order to respond to the impact of the covid19 pandemic and future needs, (such as the council's previously stated commitment to explore a car-free city centre) e.g. through:
    - options to bring forward plans to improve footpaths, widen pavements;
    - options to improve the city's cycle network, through provision of temporary cycle tracks where feasible and practicable; and particularly where they may not require a formal TRO, as evidenced by the 'keyworker corridor' set up in other councils e.g. Leicester;
    - further consideration of options for road closures, to support social distancing measures and provision of safe daily exercise with any costings and impact on the current LTP to be detailed. Committee members note this may require an urgency meeting of P&R or ETS and agree to this in principle should it be necessary;
- (5) That a review of the Terms of Reference of the SCRIF MOG group be undertaken in time to inform the prioritisation of the delayed £3.9m SCRIF budget.

## 170 ITEMS REFERRED FOR COUNCIL

170.1 No items were referred to the Council meeting scheduled for the 23 July 2020.

The meeting concluded at 8.23pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of