
MINUTES

Meeting: **Audit Resources & Performance Committee**

Date: Friday 19 September 2014 at 10.00 am

Venue: The Board Room, Aldern House, Baslow Road, Bakewell

Chair: Cllr Mr A McCloy

Present: Cllr C Furness, Cllr A Alexander, Mrs F Beatty, Cllr D Birkinshaw, Cllr G Claff, Cllr A R Favell, Mr Z Hamid, Cllr P Harrison, Cllr Mrs G Heath, Mr R Helliwell, Ms S Leckie, Cllr S Marshall-Clarke, Mr G Nickolds, Cllr Mrs L C Roberts and Cllr Mrs N Turner

Apologies for absence: Mr P Ancell, Cllr D Greenhalgh, Mrs E Sayer and Cllr D Williams

The Chair welcomed Cllr A Alexander to his first meeting of the Committee following his recent appointment by Oldham Metropolitan District Council.

41/14 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting of the Audit, Resources and Performance Committee held on 18 July 2014 were approved as a correct record.

42/14 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Two members of the public were present to make representations to the Committee.

43/14 MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Items 12 & 14

It was noted that although Cllr Mrs N Turner had attended a meeting of the Peak District Local Access Forum where issues relating to Stanage and North Lees had been considered she had not participated in the discussion.

44/14 2013/14 EXTERNAL AUDIT ANNUAL GOVERNANCE REPORT AND LETTER OF REPRESENTATION

Cathie Clarke, Assistant Manager from KPMG (UK) the Authority's external auditors was present at the meeting and introduced the 2013/14 annual governance report and summarised the main points for the Committee.

The Chair thanked Ms Clarke for the report and the recommendations were moved, seconded, voted on and carried.

RESOLVED:

1. To note the adjustments to the financial statements included in the report by the Chief Finance Officer in response to the External Auditor's findings.
2. To agree the management response to the recommendations at Appendix 1 of Annex A
3. To approve the letter of representation at Annex B.
4. To note that the External Auditor expects to give an unqualified audit opinion on the 2013/14 financial statements and has no matters to report on the 2013/14 Annual Governance Statement.

45/14 2013/14 AUDITED ANNUAL STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Members considered a report on the audited Statement of Accounts for 2013-14.

The Chair thanked the Chief Finance Officer and all other officers involved in a good Outturn and accounts.

The recommendation was moved, seconded, voted on and carried.

RESOLVED:

To approve the audited Statement of Accounts for 2013-14 as attached at Appendix 1 and note the amendments made to the draft accounts itemised in Appendix 2.

46/14 2013/14 GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

Members considered a report asking them to review and approve the audited Annual Governance Statement for 2013/14.

The recommendation was moved, seconded, voted on and carried.

RESOLVED:

To approve the audited Annual Governance Statement for 2013/14.

47/14 2014/15 QUARTER 1 CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RISK MANAGEMENT REPORT

Members considered a report setting out monitoring information at the end of Quarter 1, April-June 2014, to review performance against our 2012-15 Corporate Objectives; monitoring of the corporate risk register; monitoring of Freedom of Information Requests, monitoring of complaints; and to highlight any other significant issues of which Members should be aware.

The Director of Corporate Resources reported that the diagram under objective 8 in appendix 1 should be amended so that the centre be coloured to reflect the amber status specified in the text and success factor (c) should be coloured red as referred to in the covering report.

The recommendations in the report were moved, seconded, put to the vote and carried.

RESOLVED:

1. **To note the Quarter 1 Corporate Performance Return as set out in Appendix 1.**
2. **To note the risk register and the status of risks accepted, including the escalation of, and mitigating action proposed for, risk 9a/b.**
3. **To note the status of complaints and Freedom of Information Requests.**

48/14 ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

Members considered a report setting out details the environmental performance data for the 2013/14 financial year and progress against performance in previous and baseline years. The data related to the environmental impacts arising from the Authority's operations and reflected the scope and methodology of reports as established in the Authority's Carbon Management Plan.

It was noted that the data demonstrated a 16% reduction in carbon emissions since the 2009/10 baseline period. Members welcomed the report and noted the initiatives and improvements it highlighted.

The recommendation was moved, seconded, voted on and carried.

RESOLVED:

To adopt the environmental performance data detailed in Appendix 1 as a measure of the Authority's operational environmental performance over the 2013/14 reporting period.

49/14 BROSTERFIELD CARAVAN SITE FOOLOW

Members considered a report setting out the process, timetable and key milestones over the next 6 months for Brosterfield Caravan Site. Stage 1 involved engagement with the community prior to submission of the proposed discontinuance order for consideration by Planning Committee and application to the Secretary of State for confirmation of the discontinuance order. It was confirmed that stage 1 would take the Authority to completion of the planning process and stage 2 would consider market viability of the property with a future report to the Audit, Resources and Performance Committee in May 2015. It was noted that opportunities for the 2015/16 season would be considered while a detailed market analysis was carried out.

In introducing the report the Chief Executive provided background information on the reasons for acquiring the site for the benefit of those Members appointed to the Authority since it had been purchased.

Cllr D Birkinshaw and Cllr A Favell advised the Committee that although they would be taking part in the discussion and voting on this item, as Members of the Planning Committee they would keep an open mind and only take planning issues into account when deciding how to vote on any future planning application relating to this site.

During consideration of this item Members discussed how the Authority would allocate any additional funds should a surplus be made following a potential future disposal. It was suggested that in light of the reasons for the purchase of the site any surplus should be used specifically for the benefit of the local community. The Chief Executive gave

assurances that the project team would consider this issue and include suggestions in the report back in May 2015, subject to the statutory limitations which existed in terms of the Authority's responsibilities that revenue funds should be used to meet National Park purposes, and that there were additional constraints over how capital receipts could be used.

The recommendation was moved, seconded, voted on and carried.

RESOLVED:

- 1. To approve the actions in the planned timetable at Appendix 1 as the next steps as part of development and disposal options.**
- 2. To request that officers keep the Chair and Deputy of the Authority and Chair and Vice Chair of Audit, Resource and Performance Committee and the Member representative for Asset Management advised on progress.**

Following consideration of this item it was reported that the two members of the public registered to speak on item 12 had been advised to arrive after lunch and therefore both were not present. Therefore the Committee agreed to vary the order of business so that item numbers 16, 17 and 18 be considered before the Committee adjourned for lunch.

50/14 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED:

That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of Agenda Item No. 15 to avoid the disclosure of Exempt Information under S100 (A)(4) Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A, Paragraph 3 "information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)".

PART B

51/14 LOSEHILL HALL BUNGALOW AND PADDOCK

It was noted that Members of the Committee had been invited to visit the site before the meeting.

Members considered a report proposing that Losehill Hall Bungalow and part of the adjoining Paddock be disposed of in accordance with the management response to the strategic review of property agreed by the Authority in May 2014.

RESOLVED:

- 1. To retain a proportion of Losehill Hall Paddock for possible future use for affordable housing, the exact proportion to be agreed by the Property Support Team Manager in consultation with the Director of Planning**
- 2. To dispose of Losehill Hall Bungalow and the remaining Paddock with delegation to the Property Support Team Manager to decide on the appropriate method and sequence/packaging of the sale – this to include the possibility of leasing the Paddock in the interim, for a term of less than 7 years, whilst options are considered to ensure best value is achieved**

PART A

52/14 APPROVAL FOR ALLOCATION OF CAPITAL RECEIPTS TO FINANCE WORKS ASSOCIATED WITH THE ALDERN HOUSE ACCOMMODATION PROJECT

Members considered a report seeking approval for the use of capital receipts from the sale of Losehill Hall Bungalow to finance the re-structuring of the office space within Aldern House. The proposed works would optimise the use of office accommodation at Aldern House and allow for subsequent realisation of efficiency savings and additional income for the Authority.

RESOLVED:

To allocate £147,000 capital funds from the sale of Losehill Hall Bungalow towards the Aldern House Accommodation Project.

53/14 ANNUAL REPORT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT OMBUDSMAN COMPLAINTS

Members considered a report providing details of the Local Government Ombudsman Annual Review of complaints for the period 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014.

RESOLVED:

To note the Local Government Ombudsman annual review letter in Appendix 1 of the report.

The meeting adjourned at 12.00 noon for lunch and reconvened at 12.35pm

Chair: Cllr A McCloy

Present: Cllr C Furness, Cllr D Birkinshaw, Cllr G Claff, Cllr A R Favell, Mr Z Hamid, Cllr P Harrison, Cllr Mrs G Heath, Mr R Helliwell, Ms S Leckie, Cllr S Marshall-Clarke, Mr G Nickolds, Cllr Mrs L C Roberts and Cllr Mrs N Turner

In accordance with Standing Orders, Members agreed to continue the Committee meeting beyond 3 hours.

54/14 STANAGE/NORTHLEES ESTATE- PROGRESS REPORT

It was noted that Members of the Committee had been invited to visit the site before the meeting.

The following spoke under the public participation at meetings scheme:

- Mr Henry Folkard, British Mountaineering Council.
- Mr John Horscroft, representing Ride Sheffield and the Peak Adventure Sports Alliance.

Members considered a report providing an update on the leadership and management of Stanage/North Lees Estate including details of progress made towards achieving a full cost recovery position and developing a vision for the Estate in consultation with local organisations.

The recommendations were moved, seconded, voted on and carried.

RESOLVED

1. To endorse the vision framework as the basis for developing the management plan for the estate.
2. To note the internal property review and timescales for the appointment of the new North Lees Property Manager.
3. To note that a report on the “giving” opportunities on the North Lees Estate will be prepared for consideration in March 2015.
4. To note that an annual report will be prepared for September 2015 setting out progress on the North Lees vision, management plan and business plan.

55/14 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED:

That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of Agenda Item No. 14 to avoid the disclosure of Exempt Information under S100 (A)(4) Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A, Paragraph 3 "information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)".

PART B

56/14 STANAGE/NORTH LEES ESTATE UPDATE ON THE BUSINESS PLAN FOR FULL COST RECOVERY

Members considered a part B report showing how the Business Plan for Stanage/North Lees had been progressed over the past 12 months, and how through an internal property review, the property would be led and managed going forward in liaison with the Stanage Forum and Members of this committee.

The recommendations set out in the report were moved, seconded, put to the vote and carried. In response to the concerns of some Members the Chair gave assurances that if the market testing for operating the campsite was unsuccessful a further report would be brought back to the Committee setting out the options available.

RESOLVED

1. To note the current position with regard to the progress on the business plan for the estate and future opportunities for making further progress and particularly the recruitment of the new North Lees Property Manager.
2. To support the initiatives outlined in the part B report on the progress towards achieving a Full Cost Recovery position.
3. To agree that as part of the apportionment exercise set out in paragraph 5.2 of the report, all income and expenditure relating to Surprise View Car Park be included in the allocation to North Lees Estate.

Cllr G Claff left the meeting at 1.30pm during consideration of this item.

57/14 EASTERN MOORS ESTATE - WARREN LODGE - FUTURE OPTIONS

It was noted that Members of the Committee had been invited to visit the site before the meeting.

Members considered a business case exploring the future options for Warren Lodge located on the Eastern Moors Estate. It was noted that as the estate had been purchased with the help of a grant from the National Heritage Memorial Fund, 52.63% of the proceeds of sale would have to be repaid to the Fund. As a consequence the Chief Executive declared a personal interest in this item as, although he had not yet taken up the position, he had recently been appointed as a trustee of the National Heritage Memorial Fund.

During the discussion it was noted that the officer recommendation to carry out a modest upgrade and then rent the property on a short term residential tenancy before selling was presented as a finely balanced judgement. Therefore a motion to sell the property as soon as possible without a short term rental was moved, seconded, put to vote and carried.

It was noted that as a consequence of the decision the rental income estimates for the property would be removed from the 2014/15 budget.

RESOLVED:

To sell the property as soon as possible having maximised its planning gain.

Cllr Mrs G Heath and Cllr S Marshall-Clark left the meeting at 1.55pm during consideration of this item.