



Sleaford Town Council  
Finance & Strategy Panel  
Notes and Report of Meeting – 18<sup>th</sup> October 2018  
10am – 11.55am

Panel Members present:

Councillor Anthony Brand (Lead)  
Councillor Mark Graves  
Councillor David Suiter  
Councillor Stephen Shanahan-Kluth  
Councillor Heather Lorimer  
Councillor Ken Fernandes  
Councillor Grenville Jackson

Meeting supported by the Clerk, Finance Officer and attended by 3 other STC Councillors.

**1. Election of Panel Lead**

Cllr H Lorimer nominated Cllr Anthony Brand seconded by Cllr M Graves. Cllr Brand was happy to take the lead role and all panel members were in favour.

Cllr Brand explained that this was the 1<sup>st</sup> panel meeting of the administrative year and there was an element of catching up to be done.

**2. Terms of Reference**

Council approved terms of reference were reviewed and the Panel Lead highlighted the requirement at TOR no. 3 that recommendations to Council will need concise supporting documents. The Panel Lead also explained the need for mesh together the various strategies of the Council hence the work of this Panel was very important.

**3. Draft Budget and precept 2019/20**

The Clerk explained the background to his initial budget report and the steer he was seeking in relation to a possible increase for 2019/20. Budget heads for both income and expenditure were discussed with the Clerk responding to questions on Car Park Income, Street Cleaning, Staffing, Room Hire, loss of grant income from NKDC and the redistribution of business rates.

The Panel asked that the Clerk arrange a meeting for him and the Panel Lead with NKDC to discuss Street Cleaning.

**Recommendation – To give in principle agreement to an increase of 2.3% for next year and to take this with a report to Council on November 7<sup>th</sup> 2018.**

**4. Reserves and Balances 2018/19**

Panel considered a draft of the Reserves and Balances position for 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 based on the Clerk's best estimates.

**Recommendation – That the report is taken to the next Council meeting with a proposal that the Council should look to replenish the Eastgate Car Reserve out of any year end underspend. This is to replace the cost of the Tractor Shed refurbishment taken from the reserve originally.**

**5. Current 7-year capital programme**

It was requested for this to be re-visited at a future meeting.

**6. Chairman's Allowance**

Cllrs discussed the matter at length both in terms on the reasons for the review and the Council's approach to disbursing the allowance.

It was asked that the Clerk provide some clarity on the budget head for the allowance and the hospitality budget. It was also requested that the Clerk seek confirmation and guidance from LALC on the matter.

**7. Eastgate Car Park**

The Clerk explained that external input is required to progress the refurbishment of Eastgate Car Park from both the technical (drawing of plans) and project management (overseeing of work) angles. This will have a cost and there are not sufficient funds on the Eastgate Car Park reserve to cover this. The Clerk suggested an alternative reserve could be used.

**Recommendation: That Council confirm the use of up to £25k from the Planning & Transport Consultancy reserve to fund the professional input needed for the Eastgate Car Park refurbishment**

**8. Future Work Planning**

Panel Members briefly discussed the Council's current strategy and the need for it to be updated and refreshed. The Panel Lead and Clerk would look at the documents and it would be on the agenda for the next meeting.

Panel Members were invited to let the Finance Officer know of any other items for future agendas.

**9. Date for next meeting 1<sup>st</sup> November 2018 10am**