

Dorchester Town Council

Policy Committee

18 July 2017

Present: Councillors, B. Armstrong-Marshall, R. Biggs, A. Chisholm, T. Harries, S. Hosford, G. Jones (Chairman) and T. Jones.

Also present: Councillor J. Hewitt. Andy Worth, Ridgeway Radio

Declaration of Interest: Councillor A. Chisholm declared a non-pecuniary interest at item 4 as President of Ridgeway Radio.

1. Minutes

The Minutes of the Committee of 16 May 2017, adopted by Council on 23 May 2017, were taken as read and confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

2. Financial Report 2017-18

The Town Clerk provided an update covering the Council's Month 3 spend in relation to the budget, cash position, plus the current debt and payments position.

Resolved

- a) That existing National Savings and Investment and Invesco MMF accounts are used for surplus cash not immediately required for cash flow purposes and then actively managed against cash flow needs
- b) That the Payments list totalling £222,832.79 be approved

3. Corporate Plan Review

The Committee received a report from the Town Clerk regarding proposed changes to the Corporate Plan that had been developed as a result of informal workshop sessions with Councillors in June.

Members discussed the wording of the Heritage Tourism project, whether the focus was too narrow or not specific enough, and how this work needed to be prioritised. They also considered the recent discussions with West Dorset District Council relating to Retail in Dorchester. A councillor asked that smart targets be introduced for the tasks and the volume of work entailed in the Plan was also noted.

The following comments were recorded

- The Heritage Tourism Strategy should reflect the need for a new brand for Dorchester to be developed and ensure that the strategy also recognises the contribution of other parts of the town's overall offer
- The milestones need to be firmed up as smart targets

Recommended

That Council includes the revisions as laid out in the report to the Policy Committee in a new Draft Corporate Plan.

4. Ridgeway Radio application for Community Radio Licence

The Town Clerk provided an update regarding Ridgeway Radio's application for a licence and their request to the Town Council for financial and in-kind support.

Members asked questions to Andy Worth of Ridgeway Radio regarding the role of BBC Dorset, the risks associated with income, the audience base and how the Town Council might benefit from acting as a funder. While recognising the risks associated with any new venture Members were very supportive of Ridgeway Radio's plan to expand to provide a community radio station.

Resolved

That the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Policy Committee, finalises the Council's support based on the original request made by Ridgeway Radio

5. DCC Working Together Programme

The Town Clerk presented a report covering discussions with Dorset County Council Highways Team about formalising existing and future highway maintenance arrangements within their Working Together initiative.

Resolved

That the Town Clerk agree a Working Together protocol with DCC Highways, based on current delivery arrangements, with the potential to add new items at a later date

6. Town Bus Services

The Committee received and noted the update, regarding changes to bus provision since it last considered the issue in March 2017, noting in particular that Damory had decided to register the 1/2 service as a commercial service.

Chairman