



Item No.

Name of Committee:COUNCIL

Meeting Date:27th November 2006:

Report Title

Progress on Recent Council Motions

1. Recommendations

That Council receives this report.

2. Summary

The report sets out the appropriate recent motions that have been approved by Council and their progress.

Text of Council Resolution	Latest Position
<p>Council 24 July</p> <p>This Council recognises Northampton Racecourse as one of the most important parks in the town.</p> <p>Further this Council:</p> <p>Acknowledges that recent occurrences of anti-social behaviour and crime on the park have led to concerns about the safety of the environment on the park.</p> <p>Welcomes the initiative by the Chronicle and Echo in its “Reclaim the Racecourse” Campaign, the recent summit held jointly with Friends of Northampton Racecourse.</p> <p>Welcomes the “Healthy Living Hub” Initiative as a possible way of leveraging funds and resources to create a new public facility on the park.</p> <p>Notes that it passed policy in 2003 to draw up a rolling five year plan for the park and that this has not happened.</p> <p>This Council resolves to</p> <p>Work with all stakeholders and partners to draw up a master plan for the park.</p> <p>Support the idea of the Healthy Living Hub to seek funding for plans to improve the park and develop new public facilities.</p>	<p>This motion is on the agenda for Cabinet on 4 December. During the interim the following actions have been taken up:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Establishing a Racecourse Action Team <p>The Streetscene and Property Maintenance Management Team are now fully recruited to. Whilst a specific Action Team for the Racecourse has not been established, the Management Team meet regularly to discuss strategic development of all open spaces, both internally and with the Portfolio Holder. Many Tenants & Residents Groups and “Friends of” meetings are attended by the Team, of which the Racecourse is included. This allows for representatives to act as a conduit for information provision when required from other internal service areas or external partners.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Developing a Masterplan for the park <p>A masterplan has not been developed and it does not seem prudent to do so in isolation. The Management Team are aware of many interested partners and users who are keen to have an input into the future of the Racecourse. In addition it is evident from the “Healthy Living Hub” initiative, that a number of studies and proposals have already been carried out, for example, the Environmental Audit and the Community Safety Report. The Council would not want to duplicate this already good work but it is important to manage expectations and be realistic about what the Council is able to achieve. In addition a high level maintenance schedule to the Racecourse area is already implemented and it would not seem wise to commit to a</p>

Set up a Racecourse Action Team headed by a Northampton Borough Council Manager that draws together all NBC stakeholders and external partners.

Actively seek external funding opportunities for improvements to the park.

To nominate Councillors and senior officers to represent the Borough on the new Racecourse Partnership Board.

This Council welcomes the Racecourse summit held on Thursday 20 July 2006 and congratulates the Chronicle and Echo for their initiative and involvement. This Council also welcomes the contribution and attendance of all other Partners and Stakeholders, especially the Friends of the Racecourse. In particular this Council welcomes the Healthy Living Hub Initiative and appreciates the effort put in by stakeholders to take this forward.

This Council requests the Cabinet to discuss and address the outcomes of the summit and work with partners and stakeholders to drive them forward. Council also requests the Cabinet to identify resources and support and develop a viable action plan and long term vision for the Racecourse in partnership with partners and stakeholders.

masterplan for a period without having certainty with regard to Northampton Borough Council's future finances.

– Supporting the Healthy Living Hub initiative

The Streetscene and Property Maintenance Management Team are in support of this initiative and have attended every meeting to date. The lead representative on this group is Tony Spiezick, Street Care & Environment Manager, who is empowered to make decisions on behalf of the authority. In addition, the Corporate Manager for streetscene and property maintenance endeavours to attend and following on from the first meeting the Council is reviewing the potential for the provision of land to support the initiative further.

– Cabinet progress on identifying resources and development of a longer term action plan

As you will be aware, the Council is entering into the budget setting stages for next and future years. Councillors will determine the priorities for delivery within available resources. On conclusion of this process the Council will be in a better position to advise on feasibility but any commitments in addition to the Management Team's existing work schedules and plans must be considered for ongoing revenue implications to determine viability..

Council 24 July

This Council welcomes the LGA Report entitled “Leading The Way: How Local Authorities Can Meet the Challenge of Climate Change”. This Council recognises the importance of promoting a clean environment for the citizens of Northampton especially a clean air environment for the children of our town.

The Council requests Overview & Scrutiny to review the existing Energy Strategy.

Referred to Cabinet 21 August from Overview & Scrutiny advising that unable to include in its Work Programme and suggesting possibly a Working Party be set up.

<p>Council 28 September</p> <p>While this Council appreciates the need to focus on improvement, it also recognises the urgent need to address the causes of climate change.</p> <p>This Council calls for a Council-wide environmental audit to be undertaken as soon as possible to identify ways in which we can improve the environmental performance of the Council, reduce our environmental footprint, mitigate the effects on climate change and identify future savings in tax payers money. We encourage our partners to do the same.</p> <p>The motion was duly debated, voted upon and stood referred to Cabinet for further discussion and identification of resources.</p>	<p>This motion has been put on 4 December Cabinet Agenda</p>
<p>Council 28 September</p> <p>Council welcomes the decision of Cabinet on 11 September to support the preparation of a joint core strategy for West Northamptonshire and commends all involved for their hard work.</p> <p>Council agrees with the Administration that completion of the Local Development Plans is vital to the future prosperity and improvement of Northampton and that they should be produced as quickly as possible, taking into account the available resources and due process.</p> <p>The motion was carried and referred to Cabinet.</p>	<p>This motion has been put on the 4 December Cabinet Agenda.</p> <p>Agreement has now been reached with Daventry and South Northamptonshire Councils over the timetable for the Joint Core Strategy and other documents which will need to be produced jointly. A joint Local Development Scheme has been prepared which sets out which documents will be prepared jointly and which individually and a timetable with key milestones for the production of each. This is being presented to Cabinet on 4 December and the target is for it to be approved by the Government Office at the end of January 2007 a Growth Options Study for Northampton is being completed and consultation on the Joint Core Strategy will commence early in the New Year.</p> <p>The Leader and Portfolio Holder continues to meet their counterparts in the other Councils at the West Northamptonshire</p>

	<p>Joint LDD Steering Group which the Leader chairs. A Joint Planning office is being created to serve the three Councils to accommodate a Joint Planning team led by a Joint Planning Manager who is currently being recruited. Staff from each Council will be seconded to work in the Joint Office.</p>
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