



Sleaford Town Council  
Finance & Strategy Panel  
Notes and Report of Meeting – 24<sup>th</sup> October 2019  
10am – 12.12pm

Panel Members present:

Councillor Anthony Brand (Lead)  
Councillor Tarek Hayat  
Councillor Paul Edward-Shea  
Councillor Ken Fernandes  
Councillor Linda Lowndes  
Councillor David Suiter 10.05am

Meeting supported by the Deputy Clerk and Administration Officer (LS)

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillor Stephen Shanahan-Kluth

**2. Welcome by Panel Lead**

The Panel Lead welcomed Panel members.

**3. Notes from the last meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

The Panel Lead explained that the notes from 26<sup>th</sup> September which have already been presented to Full Council on 9<sup>th</sup> October. The Panel discussed the fact that the notes go to the next Full Council without the panel first seeing them. Therefore, it was suggested that when the minutes are produced in a draft form these can be emailed to the Panel Members for comments but any changes to these notes will have to go through Panel Lead to then liaise back to Administration Officer to correct any inaccuracies.

**4. Financial Governance – Risk Management**

The Panel considered that the corporate risk management assessment lacked clear objectives and purpose. It was proposed that a clear mission statement together with objectives would support the structure of the corporate risk management assessment.

It was also considered that the document would benefit from another column to identify what role are appropriate for Officers and or Cllrs and a traffic light system.

**Recommendation to Council:**

- **That a clear mission statement and set of objectives for STC are created by the F&S Panel and adopted by Council.**
- **That F&S Panel identify how those objectives will be delivered.**
- **That F&S Panel identify training and development for Councillors to achieve mission statement and objectives.**

## 5. Eastgate Car Park Income and Charges

From the report it showed that the car park is meeting the needs of the public. The Panel identified that the prices have not gone up in line with the RPI inflation for a number of years.

### Action

To request that the Clerk to draw down to the next level on the Smart folio to identify if those paying cash are staying 1-3 hours and those paying by card are all day parking. Identify the possibility of having an app on a phone.

### Recommendation to Council:

- Council to agree in principle to look at the future of the car park fees, increasing as with RPI inflation as a minimum on an annual basis.
- Create a press release to let the public know we are reviewing the car parking charges and usage and to promote the availability to pay by card.

## 6. Local Audit – Code of Practice Consultation

The Panel spoke about this and agreed that STC had the opportunity to make a consultation response. If the council wish to respond it would need to be done in a timely fashion as the deadline was close and therefore a group needed to be formed at the earliest point.

### Recommendation to Council:

**If Council wish to engage with the consultation before 22<sup>nd</sup> November a small group of Cllrs to be nominated to respond on behalf of STC**

## 7. Climate Emergency Motion

Sleaford Town Council has declared Climate Emergency in line with many other local authorities. The Panel supported this and considered a Panel needed to be formed to form which would need to weave within STC's missions, values, statements and local plan. STC would need to engage with local groups.

### Recommendation to Council:

- Draft mission and objectives statement agreed earlier in the meeting embraces climate change.
- Environment Panel be created to scrutinise council business in relation to climate change.

## 8. Strategic Plan

The Panel noted the updated Strategic Plan.

## 9. Date and time for next meeting - Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2019 10am.

Items to go on the next agenda Eastgate Car Park and Mission Statement.

The Meeting Closed at 12.12pm