



**WISBECH TOWN COUNCIL**  
**POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**3 SEPTEMBER 2018 – 7.30 pm**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

**Present:** Councillor Oliver, Chairman; Councillors Balsevics, Miss Hoy, Hill, Human, Maul, Miss Oliver, Tibbs and Tierney.

**Apologies:** None (all members were present).

**Public Participation:** None requested.

The minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 9 July 2018 were confirmed and signed.

**R6/18 Cleansing Contract**

Members considered the recommendation (at minute A9/18) of the council's Assets Management Committee that the council's Cleansing Contract be extended for a further period of three years (until 30 September 2021) and that the Policy and Resources Committee determines the associated financial arrangements.

The Clerk reminded members that (via minutes A5/17 and A10/17) Wisbech Town Council had entered into a contract, with an initial term of one year (from 1 October 2017 until 30 September 2018), with Total Solutions of Wisbech for the cleansing of Wisbech Market Place, the Town Hall and the public toilets at Wisbech Park and Exchange Square. Extension of the existing contract had been considered by the council's Assets Management Committee at minute A9/18.

Naturally, prior to reference of the matter to the Assets Management Committee, there has been discussion between the Clerk to the Council and a representative of the contractor regarding the possible extension of the Cleansing Contract; a result, the contractor had stated that the company would be happy for extension of the current contract for a further period of three years (to 30 September 2021), on the basis of a 3.2% price increase for each of those years.

At minute A9/18 the Assets Management Committee agreed in principle, from an operational perspective, that the council's Cleansing Contract be extended for a further period of three years (until 30 September 2021) but that, because of the financial implications of such an arrangement, the final decision on the matter should be made by the Policy and Resources Committee. The Assets Management Committee did express (at minute A9/18) the opinion that it may not be appropriate for the council to agree to a specific level of price increase for a period beyond one year and asked that the Policy and Resources Committee takes that opinion into account in its decision-making.

The Clerk informed members that an increase of 3.2% on the total contract cost for the period 1 October 2018 to 31 September 2019 (a complete contractual year) equates to approximately £1,158.

The Clerk had informed the contractor of the decision (at minute A9/18) of the Assets Management Committee regarding the possible extension of the Cleansing Contract and the annual price increases. In response, the contractor had commented that the level of price increase proposed takes account of the increasing costs of refuse sacks, fuel, employees, as well additional time spent



in sorting plastic waste materials (members are aware of the issues surrounding the impact that plastic waste is having upon the environment and the measures being considered or introduced by the Government to try to tackle the impact).

Investigations undertaken by the Clerk, to assist members' deliberations, reveal that the Retail Price Index shows that the current rate of inflation is around 2.4% and the Consumer Price Index shows it as being at around 2.6%. However, members acknowledge that the operating costs of particular businesses would be affected differently depending upon the materials that they use etc.

The Clerk made the point that, given that this contract (which operates between October and September) "straddles" the financial year (which operates between April and March), the additional cost of a 3.2% price increase in a full contract year would have the effect of an increase of a 1.6% increase in the current financial year; this would mean an actual increase in the council's cleansing costs of £579 (i.e. half of £1,158) in the remainder of the financial year 2018/19.

In terms of being able to fund an increase (of £579) during the current financial year, the Clerk reminded members that £8,000 is included in this year's budget for the cleansing of the toilets at Exchange Square and none of that money has been spent to date.

Members decided, unanimously, on the proposal of Councillor Maul, seconded by Councillor Tibbs, that

- (1) the current Cleansing Contract be extended for a further period of three years (to 30 September 2021), on the same terms and conditions as the current contract, with a price increase of 3.2% for the contract period 1 October 2018 to 30 September 2019;
- (2) the level of price increase for the contract years 2019/20 and 2020/21 be considered by this committee at this point of the year in 2019 (for the contract year 2019/20) and 2020 (for the contract year 2020/21).

**Meeting finished at 7.50 pm**

Signed.....

Dated.....