HULL AND GOOLE PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

Thursday, 1st October 2020

(Council Chamber, the Guildhall, Kingston upon Hull)

PRESENT: -

Councillors Brady (Chair), Vickers (Deputy Chair), Briggs, Chambers, Chaytor, Fareham and Pantelakis.

IN ATTENDANCE: -

Laurence Dettman (Chief Port Health Inspector), Annemarie Hamil (Chief Administrative Officer), Carolina Borgstrom (Assistant Director North East Lincolnshire Council), Alison Gill (Senior Finance Officer, Hull City Council) and Louise Hawkins (Democratic Services Officer, Hull City Council).

APOLOGIES: -

Councillor Handley.

| Minute **No.** | Business |
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| 1749 | **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**  No declarations of interest were made in respect of the items that follow below. |
| 1750 | **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 30TH JULY, 2020**  **Agreed** - That, the minutes of the meeting of this Authority, held on 30th July, 2020, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and correctly recorded and be signed by the Chair. |
| 1751 | **BUDGET MONITORING 2020-21**  The Treasurer and Chief Port Health Inspector submitted a report which informed members of the Authority’s spending to the end of July 2020 compared to the approved budget and highlighted any anticipated variations to the budget for the full year.  The members were informed that because of the Covid-19 pandemic there had already been a downturn in income of around £40,000. There was a possibility that some of the Covid-19 related costs could be recovered. The Authority would have to draw on its reserves to cover the budget shortfall and consider an increase in the levies next year.  A discussion took place around the use of the reserves and members expressed concern that they would not like to see the reserves be reduced any lower than £50,000.  A member queried whether the Authority could introduce interim reserves. The Chief Port Health Inspector replied that he did not think the Authority could have interim reserves however, it did have the powers to raise loans if required.  **Agreed –**   1. That the report be noted, and 2. That a special meeting of the Authority is arranged to discuss the reserves if required. |
| 1752 | **POST TRANSITIONAL PERIOD UK BORDER CHECKS 2021 UPDATE**  The Chief Port Health Inspector submitted a report which provided an update on the matters that were reported to members at the last meeting held on 30th July 2020 (minute 1746 refers).  The members were informed that the Chief Port Health Inspector had written to the local Members of Parliament (MPs) and the relevant Ministers. A response had been received from the MPs which was attached as an appendix to the report.  A video conference had recently taken place with the Chair and the Chief Port Health Inspector, councillors from Hull City Council and North Lincolnshire Council and officers from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). It had been a useful meeting which had provided some clarity and reassurances. However, there were still a significant number of unknowns in relation to the plans for post transitional UK Border checks.  The information coming through from the Government had been slow and it was hoped there would be some contingency plans in place.  The Chief Port Health Inspector went on to inform the members that a detailed bid had been submitted to DEFRA for additional staffing resources, training, and certain other costs. The Authority had received a list of supplementary questions which had been responded to within a very short timescale. The Chief Port Health Inspector paid tribute to the Chief Administrative Officer for the excellent liaison work carried out to collate all the elements and data for the bid. It was hoped that a decision would be made in the next few weeks and if the bid was a successful a strategy would be developed and presented at the next meeting by the Chief Port Health Inspector.  A discussion took place around the funding which was provided to Local Authorities as part of the ‘no deal’ contingency planning. It was confirmed that this funding was not ring-fenced and despite the additional work that the Authority had undertaken in contingency planning it had not received any of this funding.  Members commented that local authorities were currently facing many ‘unknowns’ and were having to react to significant issues.  A discussion took place around new Border Control Posts and whether the Authority had received any confirmation that the ports would provide these facilities. The Chief Port Health Inspector explained that the port infrastructure funding bidding opened the following day. The funding was being made available to allow ports to build the required facilities. The preference of the ports and the Authority was for the facility to be located on the docks.  Members raised the following matters –   1. How the Authority would appoint the staff that would be required to undertake any additional duties, and what would happen if the Port Health Authority was not ready in time? The Chief Port Health Inspector explained that the Authority would need to move quickly in developing a recruitment plan. There would need to be various grades of officer and additional training would be required for the new work. The Chief Port Health Authority had raised his concerns in relation to readiness and had been informed that contingency planning would be undertaken by DEFRA.      1. Whether the Authority knew how much additional funding would be required in relation to border checks? The Chief Port Health Inspector explained that the bid had been submitted for £226,000 which had been costed according to EU imported food throughput data supplied by government. If the Authority did not receive the full amount there would elements of the work required that it would be unable to carry out.   **Agreed –**   1. That the Board notes and endorses the contents of this report and awaits a further update by the Chief Port Health Inspector following receipt of further vital information, to enable a comprehensive strategic plan to be presented to the Board at a future meeting, and 2. That members are informed of the outcome of the bid submitted to DEFRA at the earliest opportunity. |
| 1753 | **QUARTERLY REPORT SUMMARY MAY TO JUNE 2020**  The Chief Port Health Inspector submitted a report which detailed the quarterly summary of the Authority’s work in respect of inspections; notifications, and investigations undertaken during the period May to June 2020.  **Agreed –** That the report be noted. |
| 1754 | **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**  **Agreed -** that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the item listed as exempt. |
| 1755 | **EU/UK POST-TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS AT GRIMSBY, IMMINGHAM AND KILLINGHOLME**  The Chief Port Health Inspector submitted a report which informed the Board of a preliminary discussion with North East Lincolnshire Council in relation to joint priorities for the provision of port health checks following the end of the EU/UK transition period on 31st December 2020.  The Chief Port Health Inspector and the Assistant Director of North East Lincolnshire Council outlined the nature of discussions that had taken place.  Members of the Board discussed the options outlined within the report.  **Agreed –** that the Board welcomes and approves appropriate further dialogue with North East Lincolnshire Council, including the potential for engaging with all stakeholders in furtherance of Option 1 as outlined within the report. |