

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE (SPECIAL)

8th January 2009

**PRESENT:-**

**Conservative Group**

Councillor Lemmon (Chairman), Councillor Grant (Vice-Chairman) and Councillors Atkin, Harrison, Hewlett, Mrs. Patten and Roberts.

**Labour Group**

Councillors Dunn, Mrs. Gillespie, Mrs. Lane, Rhind and Shepherd.

**In Attendance**

Councillors Bladen, Jones and Mrs. Wheeler (Conservative Group), Councillor Richards (Labour Group) and Councillor Mrs. Brown (Independent Member).

HCS/48. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors Lemmon and Mrs. Brown declared a personal interest in the item on Procurement Of Health And Fitness Equipment – New Leisure Facilities, Etwall, as the Council's nominated representatives on Etwall Leisure Centre Joint Management Committee.

**MATTERS DELEGATED TO COMMITTEE**

HCS/49. **SERVICE BASE BUDGETS 2009/2010**

A report was submitted informing Members of the proposed base budget for 2009/2010. This included an overview of the Committee's main spending areas and some of the main cost pressures facing its services. It was proposed that the estimated income and expenditure was included in the consolidated budget of the Council for 2009/2010, subject to the Council's overall medium term financial position. The report also set out proposals for the level of fees and charges under the responsibility of this Committee for the next financial year. A summary was also included of the Committee's existing capital investment programme.

The Committee's net revenue expenditure was summarised in an Appendix to the report, which set out the budgets for each main cost centre and aggregated several of the main service areas. In addition a line-by-line breakdown of every cost centre was also included within the report.

One of the main issues for the Committee was the amount of service provision that currently relied on external funding, in particular, the delivery of community support and crime prevention. The posts reliant on external funding were currently subject to consideration by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee as part of their work on the Council's draft budget proposals.

It was confirmed that the Council's overall situation would tighten in 2009/10 with knock-on effects over the life of the Medium Term Financial Plan to 2014. This was mainly due to the current economic downturn and

the effect this was having on reducing income streams. The Finance and Management Committee would consider the detail of the overall financial position on 15th July 2009, including proposals from this Committee. Spending proposals detailed in the report did not allow for any additional growth in services or new spending, other than that approved in previous budget rounds. This situation was being kept under constant review.

A summary of the Committee's net revenue expenditure was provided in a table within the report and it was estimated to increase overall between 2008/09 and 2009/10 by £517,869. An analysis of these variances was detailed across the services. It was pointed out that the largest variance of £514,000 related to departmental and employee costs, which were not additional costs to the Council, but represented the cost of the main departmental accounts for Leisure, Community Development and Private Sector Housing that had previously been charged to and then reallocated from Finance & Management Committee. Further details were also given on service development, one-off expenditure, provision of new leisure facilities at Etwall and Swadlincote Woodlands.

Details were given on the Council's approved capital investment programme including the on-going pressures for capital funding and other potential schemes awaiting approval/funding allocations.

An appendix provided a schedule of the proposed levels of fees and charges that would operate from 1st April 2009, together with a comparison to the existing charge. Each service area had been given a target to generate 2.75% of additional income compared to current base budget. Charges had also been amended to reflect the recent change in VAT rate from 17.5% to 15% from the period December 2008 to December 2009. Further detail was also provided on the fees for Etwall Leisure Centre and the free swimming offer.

**RESOLVED:**

- (1) That the proposed revenue and expenditure budget for 2009/10 for the Committee's Services be referred to the Finance and Management Committee for approval.***
- (2) That the proposed fees and charges for 2009/10 as detailed in Appendix 4 of the report be approved.***

HCS/50. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AS AMENDED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985**

**RESOLVED:-**

***That, in accordance with Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the Meeting as it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that there would be disclosed exempt information as defined in the paragraphs of Part 1 of the Schedule 12A of the Act indicated in brackets after each item.***

**EXTRA CARE HOUSING PROJECT: SITE OF WILLOUGHBY HOUSE/GRANVILLE COURT (Paragraph 3)**

*The Committee noted progress on the design of a new Extra Care Housing and Residential Care Project for the site of Willoughby House/Granville Court and the County Council's site of the former Oaklands.*

**PROCUREMENT OF HEALTH AND FITNESS EQUIPMENT – NEW LEISURE FACILITIES, ETWALL (Paragraph 3)**

*The Committee approved the procurement process for the supply of health and fitness equipment for the new leisure facilities.*

J. LEMMON

CHAIRMAN