

FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

2nd December 2010

PRESENT:-

Conservative Group

Councillor Harrison (Chairman) and Councillors Bladen, Grant, Mrs. Hood (substitute for Councillor Mrs. Coyle), Stanton, Watson (substitute for Councillor Murray) and Wheeler.

Labour Group

Councillors Rhind (substitute for Councillor Taylor), Richards, and Wilkins.

In attendance

Councillors Atkin, Mrs. Brown, Hewlett, Mrs. Plenderleith and Timms (Conservative Group).

FM/47. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN**

It was noted that the Chairman had been delayed. In his absence and the absence of the Vice-Chairman, it was agreed that Councillor Wheeler Chair the Meeting in the interim.

FM/48. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from Councillors Murray (Vice-Chairman), Mrs. Coyle and Lemmon (Conservative Group), Councillors Southerd and Taylor (Labour Group) and Councillor Pabla (Independent/Non-Grouped Member).

FM/49. **MINUTES**

The Open Minutes of the Meeting held on 21st October 2010 were taken as read, approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS DELEGATED TO COMMITTEE

FM/50. **AUDIT SUB-COMMITTEE**

The Chairman of the Sub-Committee presented the Minutes of a recent Meeting, advising of the complimentary comments received from the Council's external auditors and highlighting a recent audit of the Etwall Leisure Centre.

RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the Audit Sub-Committee Meeting held on 29th September are received and any recommendations contained therein are approved and adopted.

FM/51. BUDGET AND FINANCIAL MONITORING 2010/11

The latest budget and financial monitoring report was presented for the Committee's consideration. Initially, this focused on the General Fund Revenue Account and a table summarised the estimated budget deficit for the year in the sum of £472,192. Since the budget was set out in February, several adjustments had been made and these were reported, together with the revised budget position for the General Fund 2010/11 in further tables. The budget deficit was now estimated to be £364,985.

In line with normal monitoring arrangements, the position on the revised net expenditure on services continued to be reviewed. The revised budget, together with major variances identified as at September 2010 were summarised in a table, which showed that there would be an overall increase in net expenditure of approximately £50,000 compared to the revised budget for the year. Specific commentary was provided on variances in the following areas:-

- Environmental Services
- Corporate Services
- Housing Benefits
- Leisure and Community
- Planning Services
- Area based grant

Next, the report focused on the Housing Revenue Account (HRA). A table showed the HRA performance against the revised budget for 2010/11 as at September 2010. Other than for rent income, there were no additional variances to that reported previously. The projected loss of income of £48,000, resulted from a reduction in Supporting People Grant and increased income from rechargeable works and Telecare customers.

Capital expenditure and financing were reported and a further table showed an analysis of spending by main service or project area. No major variances were anticipated at this stage. Under this heading, there were sections on capital receipts and a VAT windfall from two claims totalling £493,461.

The report then considered Treasury Management, with an analysis of the Council's borrowing and short-term investments/bank deposits. This section of the report also looked at overall debt liability.

Finally, the report advised of a requirement from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to publish spending over £500, by January 2011. Work was underway on compiling the data required and details were also provided of the transactions excluded from this requirement.

RESOLVED:-

That the latest budget and financial monitoring figures for 2010/11 are approved.

FM/52. **CORPORATE PLAN 2009-14: PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT (1ST JULY TO 30TH SEPTEMBER 2010)**

A report was submitted detailing performance for the quarter ending 30th September 2010, in relation to the Council's Corporate Plan 2009-2014. The Corporate Plan Action Plan consisted of four main themes, of which this Committee was responsible for actions and relevant performance indicators within the "Value for Money" theme. Full details of key achievements were provided under the initiatives: Meeting Community Needs, Increasing Efficiency, Development of Staff and Members, High Performing Services and High Standards of Corporate Governance. Summary details of actual performance were also provided including tables showing performance against actions and targets and those at risk of failure. Appendices to the report detailed performance indicators for Value for Money and financial performance.

It was noted that there had been no reduction in performance resulting from the transition of services to Northgate and staff were congratulated for the way they had responded to the transfer.

RESOLVED:-

- (1) That the Committee notes the Council's key achievements and performance for the quarter ending 30th September 2010.***
- (2) That where performance has failed to achieve the specified target, the Committee accepts the adequacy of the response submitted.***

FM/53. **COMPLAINTS AND FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUESTS 1ST APRIL TO 30TH SEPTEMBER 2010**

An informative report was submitted on the comments, compliments and complaints received during this period. These comprised 3 comments, 61 compliments and 33 complaints. Tables were included in the detail of the report, showing the Division to which each related. Statistics were then provided on the Freedom of Information requests received.

RESOLVED:-

That the report be noted.

FM/54. **WORK PROGRAMME**

Note: At 6.15 p.m. Councillor Harrison joined the Meeting and assumed the Chair.

The Committee was asked to review its work programme.

RESOLVED:-

That the updated Work Programme be received and noted.

FM/55. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 (AS AMENDED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT [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.

MINUTES

The Exempt Minutes of the Meeting held on 21st October 2010 were received.

LAND AT SWADLINCOTE (Paragraph 3)

The Committee approved the granting of a wayleave.

SENIOR MANAGEMENT REVIEW (Paragraph 1)

The Committee approved proposals for a Senior Management Review.

COMMUNITY SERVICES RESTRUCTURE (Paragraph 1)

The Committee agreed to a restructure of the Community Services Directorate.

J. HARRISON

CHAIRMAN