

FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (SPECIAL)

25th January 2010

PRESENT:-

Conservative Group

Councillor Harrison (Chairman) and Councillors Bladen, Mrs. Brown, Grant, Lemmon (substitute for Councillor Mrs. Coyle), Roberts, Stanton (substitute for Councillor Wheeler and Watson (substitute for Councillor Mrs. Wheeler).

Labour Group

Councillors Richards, Southerd, Taylor and Wilkins.

In attendance

Councillors Atkin, Mrs. Farrington and Jones (Conservative Group) and Councillor Rhind (Labour Group).

Consultees

D. Richards (Business Link) and Mrs. J. Smith (South Derbyshire CVS).

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from Councillors Mrs. Coyle, Mrs. Wheeler and Wheeler (Conservative Group) and Councillor Pabla (Independent/Non-Grouped Member).

MATTERS DELEGATED TO COMMITTEE

FM/75. **CONSOLIDATED BUDGET PROPOSALS 2010/11 AND FINANCIAL PLAN TO 2015**

Under Minute No. FM/74 of 14th January 2010, the Finance and Management Committee had considered this item. A copy of the report had been provided to consultees and a presentation was given by the Head of Finance and Property Services. This covered the key issues being faced by the Council. The report included an executive summary and overall commentary, which explained the position on the General Fund, the critical financial year of 2011/12 and the need to identify capital resources. The main issue continued to be a reduction in the Council's income base. The effects of the national financial situation were reported, together with proposed actions and potential opportunities, including a restructure of the Community Services Directorate, the Corporate Services Partnering Project and a number of other reported areas. The detail of the report then looked at the Council's financial settlement for 2010/11, the General Fund 5-

Year Financial Projection, meeting the budget deficit and balancing the Medium-Term Financial Plan, Council Tax and Capital Investment and Financing.

Questions were invited and Mrs. Smith of the Council for Voluntary Services sought further information on the proposed reduction in funding for Disabled Facility Grants, which was duly provided. Mr. Richards of Business Link spoke of the close working arrangements with the District Council. Given the need for efficiency savings, he questioned whether there would be any service reduction, which would affect Business Link and it was confirmed there was a policy commitment to maintain and improve service delivery in this area. There was also discussion about the discretionary grant scheme, which assisted new businesses.

The Chairman advised that feedback had been received from the Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Chamber of Commerce, seeking further information on a number of areas, which were reported, together with how the Council was approaching each area. Particular discussion took place about how the Council promoted economic development and worked with the business community. This had been recognised by a Government Minister. Mr. Richards confirmed that the Council was an exemplar in this area. Jo Smith thanked the Council for the additional funds being provided to the voluntary sector and it was confirmed this funding was secure for the next twelve months. The consultees were thanked for their attendance.

FM/76. **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.

LAND AT CHURCH GRESLEY (Paragraph 3)

The consideration of this item was deferred.

J. HARRISON

CHAIRMAN