

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE (SPECIAL)

10th January 2008

**PRESENT:-**

**Conservative Group**

Councillor Lemmon (Chairman) and Councillors Harrison, Hewlett, Murray, Mrs. Patten, Mrs Wheeler (substitute for Councillor Grant [Vice-Chairman]) and Ford (substitute for Councillor Mrs. Farrington).

**Labour Group**

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

**In Attendance**

Councillors Jones (Conservative Group) and Mrs. Brown (Independent Member).

**APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from Councillors Grant (Vice Chairman) and Mrs. Farrington (Conservative Group).

**MATTERS DELEGATED TO COMMITTEE**

HCS/55. **SERVICE BASE BUDGETS 2008/09**

A report was submitted on the Committee's proposed base budget for 2008/09. 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 these estimates would be included in the consolidated budget of the Council for 2008/09 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 included of the Committee's existing capital investment programme. In addition, an analysis of the Committee's proposed service development bids was included for consideration.

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. A breakdown of every cost centre was provided within the report, and it was highlighted that the Committee was responsible for some large spending areas, in particular on leisure, recreational facilities and private sector housing. One of the main issues for the Committee was the amount of service provision that currently relied on external funding, in particular for the delivery of community support and crime prevention. It was reported that the Committee's net expenditure was estimated to reduce overall between 2007/08 and 2008/09 and it was confirmed that this could be accounted for by variances in inflation, internal recharges (mainly deferred

charges), one-off expenditure falling out and other changes in the base budget. Generally these variances were known and had previously been reported and included in the Council's Medium-Term Financial Plan.

A further subjective analysis was provided, to show the Committee's services by cost type. The detail of the report looked at capital charges comprising depreciation and deferred charges. Central establishment recharges were reported, together with accounting for pensions.

The budget for 2008/09 had initially been compiled at November 2007 prices. An allowance for inflation had been included where it was considered unavoidable to cover for price increases to March 2009. Details were provided of the assumptions built into the estimates.

Capital investment was considered and the report outlined the Committee's current investment programme. A further Appendix provided a schedule of the proposed fees and charges to operate from 1st April 2008, together with a comparison to the existing charge. No major changes were proposed and generally fees and charges were being increased by 2.75%.

In response to a Member's question, further information was provided on the issue of cemetery space within Etwall.

**RECOMMENDED:-**

- (1) That the budgeted revenue income and expenditure for 2008/09 for the Committee's Services be recommended to the Finance and Management Committee for approval.***
- (2) That the Committee's proposed fees and charges for 2008/09 be approved as submitted.***
- (3) That the Committee's Service Development Proposals be recommended to the Finance and Management Committee for approval.***

HCS/56. **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.***

**CONTRACT FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF THE GREEN BANK LEISURE  
CENTRE (Paragraph 3)**

***The Committee agreed to extend the existing contract under the terms  
and conditions identified in the report.***

J.L. LEMMON

CHAIRMAN