

FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

25th April 2013

**PRESENT:-**

**Conservative Group**

Councillor Wheeler (Chairman), Councillor Mrs. Watson (Vice-Chairman) and Councillors Hewlett (substitute for Councillor Watson), Jones, Lemmon, Murray and Smith.

**Labour Group**

Councillors Frost, Mrs. Heath (substitute for Councillor Rhind), Richards, Southerd, Taylor and Wilkins.

**In Attendance**

Councillors Atkin and Harrison (Conservative Group).

FM/109. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from Councillor Watson (Conservative Group) and Councillor Rhind (Labour Group).

FM/110. **MINUTES**

The Open Minutes of the Meeting held on 21st March 2013 were taken as read, approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

**MATTERS DELEGATED TO COMMITTEE**

FM/111. **ADDITIONAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

It was reported that this matter had also been considered by the Housing and Community Services Committee at its Meeting on 18th April 2013. The Committee was asked to consider proposals for a delivery mechanism for new and additional affordable housing in the District. Sections of the report covered the background, the affordable housing demand and the proposed delivery mechanism for new and additional affordable housing. Further sections concerned property acquisition and the scale and ambition of this proposal. Appended to the report was a document showing delivery options for affordable housing.

**RESOLVED:-**

- (1) That the Committee approves phase 1 for a two-year new build development and acquisition programme for affordable housing, subject to three-monthly update reports to the Housing and Community Services Committee.***

- (2) That progress also be monitored through meetings of the long established Strategic Housing and Planning Group.**
- (3) That an initial new build and acquisition fund of up to £5.37m is established utilising £1.012m in Right to Buy receipts, Housing Revenue Account balances of £1.434m and borrowing approval of up to £2.924m.**
- (4) That the Committee notes that development opportunities may change and arise both within and outside of any agreed programme and that officers will need to respond to those opportunities, subject to necessary formal approvals.**
- (5) That the intention to enter into subsequent phases of a new build programme to specifically include the possible creation of a separate development company or “special purpose vehicle” be noted.**
- (6) That the Committee notes the recommendation of the Housing and Community Services Committee taken at its 18th April 2013 meeting.**

FM/112. **AUTOMATIC ENROLMENT TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME**

It was reported that the Pensions Act 2008 required employers to automatically enrol eligible staff into a qualifying pension scheme. A report was submitted which set out the options for applying the relevant regulations for the Council both as an employer and a member of the Local Government Pension Scheme. The detail of the report provided background and explained why automatic enrolment was being introduced. Sections were included on employees opting out of the scheme, those employees that were eligible and the implementation and staging dates. The position for new starters and employees that had opted out previously were also reported. Under the financial implications, it was noted that 29 currently eligible employees had opted out of the Local Government Pension Scheme and if they were to opt in, this would cost the Council approximately £135,000 per year in additional pension fund contributions. Further sections covered the potential impact on the Medium Term Financial Plan and other potential costs.

**RESOLVED:-**

- (1) That the Council applies transitional arrangements for the implementation of Automatic Enrolment into the Local Government Pension Scheme in accordance with the following timetable:**
  - Identify all employees who are eligible job holders within one month of the staging date of 1st February 2014 and issue a general notice of the Council’s intention to delay Automatic Enrolment.**

- ***With effect from 1st February 2014, automatically enrol all new employees, together with any employee passing the age of 22 or breaching the earnings threshold of £9,440 per year for the first time.***
  - ***On 1st October 2017, automatically enrol all current employees who are not currently scheme members who are on a salary greater than £9,440 (or the updated figure) per year and aged over 22.***
- (2) ***That all Council employees are notified of the staging date of 1<sup>st</sup> February 2014.***
- (3) ***That all employees being auto enrolled or where transitional arrangements are being applied are notified individually.***
- (4) ***That the Pension Regulator is notified of the Council's intention to apply the transitional arrangements.***
- (5) ***That a sum is earmarked in the Medium Term Financial Plan to provide for the potential cost of Automatic Enrolment.***
- (6) ***That the timetable in (1) above is kept under review and any proposed changes are reported to the Committee.***

FM/113. **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Committee was asked to review its work programme.

**RESOLVED:-**

***That the updated work programme is approved.***

FM/114. **MELBOURNE CONSERVATION AREA**

It was noted that approval had been given for the consideration of this urgent item. However, more information had come to light since producing the report, which would need to be reappraised and the item was therefore withdrawn.

FM/115. **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 March 2013 were received.*

**LAND AT SWADLINCOTE (Paragraph 3)**

*The Committee approved terms negotiated to accommodate an access for residential development purposes.*

**LAND AT FINDERN (Paragraph 3)**

*The Committee approved the disposal of an area of grass verge.*

**LAND AT MELBOURNE (Paragraph 3)**

*The Committee approved the acquisition of a drainage easement across third party land.*

**A REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S STRUCTURE (Paragraph 1)**

*The Committee approved recommendations for a review of the Council's structure.*

**REPORT OF THE REMUNERATION PANEL (Paragraph 3)**

*The Committee approved recommendations submitted by the Remuneration Panel.*

R. WHEELER

CHAIRMAN