

FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

15th March 2012

PRESENT:-

Conservative Group

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

Labour Group

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

In Attendance

Councillors Atkin and Harrison (Conservative Group).

FM/97. **APOLOGIES**

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

FM/98. **MINUTES**

The Open Minutes of the Special Committee Meetings held on 12th and 23rd January and of the Committee Meeting held on 14th February 2012, were taken as read, approved as true records and signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS DELEGATED TO COMMITTEE

FM/99. **AUDIT SUB-COMMITTEE**

RESOLVED:-

That the Open Minutes of the Audit Sub-Committee Meeting held on 22nd February 2012 are received and any recommendations contained therein are approved and adopted.

FM/100. **MORTGAGE INTEREST RATE**

It was reported that under Section 438 of the Housing Act 1985, the Council was required to declare the Local Average Rate of Interest on its mortgages at six monthly intervals. Borrowers were charged the higher of the Standard National Rate or the Council's Local Average Rate, which was the higher at 5.13%. In response to a question, it was noted that there was only one Council mortgage remaining with a small balance.

RESOLVED:-

That the Local Average Rate of Interest for the period October 2011 to March 2012 is declared at 5.13%.

FM/101. **CORPORATE ACTION PLAN 2012/13**

It was reported that the Council had approved a five-year Corporate Plan for the period to 2014. Quarterly performance reports were submitted to monitor progress against the Plan. It was important to review and update this Plan to take account of the progress made and any revisions to the targets. The refreshed Action Plan for 2012/13 set out the priorities for the year ahead along with the projects and key measures of success that would support the delivery of the Plan. Background was provided, before reporting the process undertaken to refresh the Corporate Action Plan. Members were reminded of the Council's Vision and the four themes of the current Plan for Sustainable Growth and Opportunity, Safe and Secure, Lifestyle Choices and Value for Money.

During 2012, staff had been involved in a series of facilitated workshops to refresh the Corporate Action Plan and an outline was provided of the areas covered in each workshop. The refreshed Corporate Action Plan continued the direction contained in the current Plan and, as with previous versions, the Action Plan detailed key measures and important projects under each theme. This would form the basis of the quarterly performance reporting.

The report set out changes to the Corporate Action Plan under each of the four themes, reporting the additions or amendments to existing measures and measures that had been removed. Further areas covered within the report concerned communications campaigns and risk management.

Members reviewed the changes to the Action Plan, submitting questions on measures that had been removed. In particular, there was discussion about the measures relating to the determination of planning applications within set periods and the move to providing comparative data of this Council's performance against others. It was questioned why targets relating to reductions in energy consumption and reduction in housing based carbon emissions had been removed. Officers explained the additional measure on maintaining a high level of environmental performance through the validation of ISO 14001 for the Council. It was agreed to circulate information on this aspect to Members. A question was raised on the removed measure relating to the numbers of households living in temporary accommodation and officers confirmed the additional measures included within the Safe and Secure Theme.

RESOLVED:-

That the updated Corporate Plan Action Plan for 2012/13 be commended to Council for approval.

FM/102. **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Committee was asked to review its work programme.

RESOLVED:-

That the Committee notes the updated Work Programme.

FM/103. **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 Special Committee Meeting held on 12th January and of the Committee Meeting held on 14th February 2012 were received.

AUDIT SUB-COMMITTEE (Paragraph 1)

The Committee received the Exempt Minutes of the Audit Sub-Committee Meeting held on 22nd February 2012.

STRAY DOG CONTROL CONTRACT (Paragraph 3)

The Committee approved proposals to amend the scope of the existing stray dog collection and kennelling contract.

SERVICE REVISIONS IN HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH (Paragraph 1)

Members approved the proposals for service revisions to the post of Architectural Technician and for the Pest Control Service.

FORMER TENANT ARREARS – WRITE OFF (Paragraphs 1 and 5)

The Committee approved the write-off of sums due to the Council in accordance with the Financial Procedure Rules.

REORGANSIATION OF THE SPORT AND HEALTH SERVICE (Paragraph 1)

The Committee approved proposals for the restructuring of the Sport and Health Service.

**CONSULTATION FEEDBACK FOR THE LEGAL, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES
AND LICENSING REVIEW (Paragraph 1)**

The Committee approved the proposals submitted for the restructure of these Divisions, following a period of consultation.

R. WHEELER

CHAIRMAN