

FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

29th November 2018

PRESENT:-

Conservative Group

Councillor Harrison (Chairman) and Councillor Watson (Vice-Chairman) and Councillors Ford, Billings, Mrs Coe, Hewlett, Patten (substituting for Councillor Dr Coyle), and Pegg (substituting for Councillor Smith)

Labour Group

Councillors Rhind, Richards, Southerd and Taylor

FM/89 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillors MacPherson, Smith and Dr Coyle (Conservative Group).

FM/90 **MINUTES**

The Open Minutes of the Meetings held on 11th October 2018 were taken as read, approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

FM/91 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Mrs Coe declared a pecuniary interest in Item 23 by virtue of being a Trustee of Sharpe's Pottery Heritage and Arts Trust advising that she would leave the Chamber whilst the Item was being discussed.

Councillor Mrs Patten declared a pecuniary interest in Item 23 by virtue of being a Trustee of Sharpe's Pottery Heritage and Arts Trust advising that she would leave the Chamber whilst the Item was being discussed.

FM/92 **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO 10**

The Committee was informed that no questions from members of the public had been received.

FM/93 **QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO 11**

The Committee was informed that no questions from Members of the Council had been received.

FM/94 **REPORTS OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

The Committee was informed that no reports had been received.

MATTERS DELEGATED TO COMMITTEE

FM/95 **CORPORATE PLAN 2016-21: PERFORMANCE REPORT
(1 JULY – 30 SEPT 2018)**

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) presented the report to Committee, making particular reference to sickness absences and benefits processing as both not performing to targets due to longer term sickness rates and summer staff changes impacting on processing timescales.

Councillor Richards requested a review of how the figures are presented to the Committee in the future and the Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) noted the request.

RESOLVED:

1.1 The Committee considered the progress against performance targets set out in the Corporate Plan.

1.2 The Committee reviewed the Risk Register and Action Plan for the Committee's services.

FM/96 **BUDGET and FINANCIAL MONITORING 2018/19**

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) presented the report to Committee, drawing attention to the General Fund, which was generally on target. However a recent court ruling on Business Rates could negatively impact the budget, as well as the on-going increase in Right to Buy, which continue to be higher than forecast.

RESOLVED:

1.1 The Committee considered and approved the latest budget and financial position for 2018/19 as detailed in the report.

FM/97 **TREASURY MANAGEMENT UPDATE 2018/19**

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) presented the report to Committee, noting the report detailed the Council's ranking against other Local Authorities. The Council maintained a healthier credit score due to lower risk investments, but was achieving slightly lower interest rates.

RESOLVED:

1.1 The Committee considered and approved the latest Treasury Management Update for quarter 2 2018/19 as detailed in Appendix 1.

1.2 The Committee approved the updated Counterparty List for investments and bank deposits as detailed in Appendix 2.

FM/98 COMMENTS, COMPLIMENTS, COMPLAINTS & FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUESTS - 01 APRIL 2018 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2018

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) presented the report to Committee, commenting complaints and compliments had increased during the previous six months. Freedom of Information requests had also continued to rise with over 100 additional requests received compared to the same period in 2017.

Councillor Richards queried if an analysis of the complaints received is available, especially to ascertain whether any trends could be established. The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) responded to the query, noting the challenges of capturing such themes, but highlighting the frequency of complaints and compliments over the years have ebbed and flowed.

RESOLVED:

- 1.1 *The Committee considered and noted the comments, compliments, complaints and FOI requests, as detailed in the report.***

FM/99 SUNDRY DEBT MANAGEMENT POLICY

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) presented the report to Committee, noting the overall policy applies only to Sundry Debt to help those collecting the debts by providing flexibility for staff in responding to those debtors who cannot, compare to will not pay.

The Chairman proposed an amendment to the Policy requesting that the line 'Credits less than £5.00 will not be refunded' be removed as it was felt that any monies owed should be refunded, regardless of value. The amendment was carried by the Committee.

RESOLVED:

- 1.1 *The Committee approved the Sundry Debt Management, Recovery and Write-off Policy in Appendix 1 for implementation from 1st December 2018, with the deletion of the sentence 'Credits less than £5.00 will not be refunded' from Section 12 of the Policy.***
- 1.2 *The Committee approved for an annual review of the Policy be undertaken and any significant changes are reported to this Committee.***

FM/99 LOCAL COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME REGULATIONS

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) presented the report to Committee, outlining that it is at the discretion of the Committee to adopt the changes to the Local Scheme under the national benefit regulations.

The Chairman expressed to the Committee the existing regulations should be maintained without implementing a two child limit. Councillor Richards supported this view in light of child poverty levels.

The proposed amendment to maintain the status-quo was carried by the Committee.

RESOLVED:

1.1 The Committee resolved to maintain the current Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme Regulations (South Derbyshire) without placing a two child limit within the calculation of support

FM/100 **EQUALITIES POLICY STATEMENT AND CORPORATE EQUALITIES AND SAFEGUARDING GROUP TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) presented the report to Committee, noting the updated Terms of Reference.

RESOLVED:

1.1 The Committee approved the updated Equalities Policy Statement.

1.2 The Committee approved the updated Terms of Reference for the Corporate Equalities and Safeguarding Group.

FM/102 **COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

RESOLVED:

The Committee considered and approved 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 Meeting held on 11th October 2018 were received.

TO RECEIVE QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 11

The Committee was informed that no questions had been received.

DIRECT ACQUISITION OF COUNCIL HOUSING AT CADLEY PARK

The Committee approved the recommendations in the report.

THE FUTURE OF BUILDING CONTROL – UPDATE

The Committee approved the recommendations in the report.

EXTENSION OF CONTRACT – PARKLIFE OFFICER (DS97)

The Committee approved the recommendations in the report.

REVIEW OF UNIT AND NEW POST OF STREET NAMING & LLPG OFFICER

The Committee approved the recommendations in the report.

DEBTS SUBMITTED FOR WRITE OFF

The Committee approved the recommendations in the report.

SHARPE'S POTTERY MUSEUM

The Committee approved the recommendations in the report.

A REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

The Committee unanimously approved the recommendations in the report.

The meeting terminated at 7:45pm.

COUNCILLOR J HARRISON

CHAIRMAN