

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

17<sup>th</sup> January 2018

**PRESENT:-**

**Conservative Group**

Councillor Swann (Chairman), Councillor Billings (Vice-Chairman) and Councillors Atkin, Mrs Coe and Mrs Patten

**Labour Group**

Councillors Bambrick, Dr Pearson and Mrs Stuart (Labour Group)

**In attendance**

Councillor Shepherd (Labour Group)

OS/39 **APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies received for the Meeting.

OS/40 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ARISING FROM ITEMS ON AGENDA**

Councillor Atkin declared a pecuniary interest in Item 8, by virtue of his family owning land in the area, leaving the Chamber whilst the Item was debated.

OS/41 **QUESTIONS RECEIVED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 10**

The Committee were informed that no questions from members of the Public had been received.

OS/42 **QUESTIONS RECEIVED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 11**

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

OS/43 **REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT 2000 (RIPA) – QUARTERLY REPORT ON USAGE**

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) outlined the report, emphasising that the usage of Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) since 1st September 2017 was nil, and no authorisations had been requested or granted.

**RESOLVED:-**

***Members noted the internal report on the Council's use of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000.***

OS/44 **BUDGET SCRUTINY 2018**

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) presented the report to Committee advising that the detailed budget proposals had been reported to and considered by each of the Council's Policy Committees earlier in the month and would be presented at the upcoming Area Forums. The Director highlighted that the October Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP), although positive, had projected a deficit from 2019/20. It had been anticipated at that time potential changes to the New Homes Bonus allocation. In addition, since October the application to be considered for the 100% business rates retention pilot scheme had been submitted. The Director advised that all budgets had been scrutinised in recent weeks, the financial settlement had been received the growth reserve and the minimum level of General Reserve had also been reviewed. The Director updated the Committee that out of fifty applications across the country, Derbyshire was successfully selected as one of ten areas to be entered into the 100% business rates retention pilot scheme. The Director explained that there would be no Revenue Support Grant from 2018/19 but that a further 50% of business rates across the County would be retained as part of the pilot, of this 70% would be shared in a pool arrangement between authorities and 30% would be held centrally within Derbyshire and allocated to regeneration and economic development projects.

Councillor Bambrick sought clarification on the distribution of the 70% amongst the pool and questioned whether this would be split equally. The Director responded that the 70% would be split according to the size of the authority and the amount of business rates generated for growth. The Director informed Members that this one-year pilot did not currently include any additional responsibilities for local authorities, but this may be reviewed by central government once the pilot is complete where other grant funding could potentially be amended accordingly. With regards to the New Homes Bonus, the Director updated Committee that upon review, the government decided the New Homes Bonus would not be 'top-sliced' further which would generate a further £400,000 than that originally forecast in the MTFP for 2018/19. Members sought clarification on the growth figures forecast in the budget, and this was provided by the Director.

Risks relating to Planning and Licensing income, recycling, growth and funding for community and leisure services were also referenced. The Director advised that Finance and Management Committee had approved the budgets, the 2018/19 Council Tax Base, the Collection Fund surplus, agreed to increase the funding to voluntary bodies by 2%, and approved a Council Tax increase by 1.95% for 2018/19. The Director also referred to the proposal to invest £250,000 in a further Community Partnerships Scheme which had been approved by Finance and Management Committee. Reference was made to the change in referendum limits for 2018/19, allowing for Council Tax increases of up to 3%. Whilst noting that the expenditure base remained

unsustainable in the longer-term, the Director updated this Committee that the Finance and Management Committee had approved to raise the agreed minimum level of the General Reserve from £1m to £1.5m.

Members sought clarification on when the General Reserve is topped up and whether the application to be entered into the 100% business rates pilot scheme had been approved by the Finance and Management Committee. The Director responded by confirming the submission had been approved by the Committee.

The Vice-Chairman made reference to the costs of the Waste Collection Service and its funding. Following some discussion, it was agreed that the Director would provide further information regarding the Budget and the costs of growth to the next meeting.

In relation to the Housing Revenue Account, the Director updated the Committee on its current position, debt repayment obligations, impact on the Base Budget of rent decrease, no increase in the amount of Supporting People grant and highlighted that the key change will be the full roll-out of Universal Credit. The Director informed the Committee that nationally evidence suggests that payments made directly to tenants and not landlords has led to an increase in rent arrears.

Members raised queries on rent restructuring, debt repayment and measures that the Council would be taking in order to mitigate risks of bad debt. Concerns were also raised by some Members regarding the access to Universal Credit and the complexity of the application process. The provision of support was requested to assist in this. The Director responded to all issues raised and advised that the Officers are looking into increasing the provision of computers in the council's reception area to assist completion of the online forms. It was noted that provision of support to residents in facilitating the process and guidance in management of money would be key. The Committee requested a brief note or report from the Housing department outlining their strategy and actions being taken in this regard. The Director agreed to bring this back to the next meeting.

**RESOLVED:-**

***1.1 That the Committee considered the proposed budgets of the Council for 2018/19 and would make any recommendations to Finance and Management Committee as part of the consultation process.***

***1.2 That the Committee considered the medium-term financial plans of the General Fund and Housing Revenue Accounts and would make any recommendations to Finance and Management Committee to support budget and policy development in due course.***

Councillor Atkin and Dr Pearson left the Meeting at 6:50pm

**OS/45 UPDATE ON SECTION 106 HEALTH ALLOCATIONS (Verbal Update)**

The Planning Services Manager provided the Committee with a verbal update and circulated a document outlining Section 106 contributions currently held. The Committee were informed that staffing within the authority and within the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) had delayed review of the matter, but the return of a former employee within the CCG, who had been proactive in resolving matters in the past, was welcomed by the Committee. The Chairman wished for them to be invited to a future Committee.

Councillor Mrs Patten sought clarity on whether the contributions were being reviewed chronologically or based on monetary value. The Planning Services Manager advised that they were being reviewed simultaneously.

Members raised concerns regarding the amount of money that was not being allocated and in some cases lost to developers and urged that the representative from the CCG being invited to a future meeting in order to update the Committee.

**RESOLVED:-**

***Members noted the update provided.***

**OS/46 PRIMARY MEDICAL PROVISION IN AND AROUND STENSON WARD.**

Councillor Shepherd attended the Meeting as Ward Member for Stenson and explained that this item had been added to the Agenda upon his and his fellow Ward Member's request and thanked the Planning Services Manager for his report. The Councillor advised that a number of complaints had been received from residents in his Ward highlighting the difficulty experienced in obtaining a doctor's appointment and raised concerns that further planned developments within the Ward would exacerbate the situation. Councillor Shepherd cited section three of the Officer's report and raised that the Hollybrook Surgery is not situated in the Stenson Ward, nor in South Derbyshire and furthermore is not served by a direct bus route. Councillor Shepherd informed Committee that the surgery in Sinfin is affiliated with the Hollybrook surgery and expressed that expansion of this facility would have been deemed more appropriate in order to serve the residents of Stenson Fields. Councillor Shepherd provided suggestions for consultation when further development within the Stenson Ward is planned; that local Members be informed whether the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) has applied for Section 106 funding; that local members are informed who in the CCG will decide where the money will be spent so they may express their residents' views; that the CCG is informed of the likely development of the Stenson Ward under the Local Plan Part One so that they are able to plan a strategy rather than reacting as a consultee; when the Planning Department review community provision for the development of Wragley Way, that provision for a health centre is included subject to the agreement of the CCG.

The Planning Services Manager responded that the case for funding Hollybrook surgery was presented in order to alleviate the number of patients from the Sinfin surgery by offering appointments at the Hollybrook surgery. The Officer advised that although the suggestions can be incorporated, engaging the CCG at the point of the submission of planning applications is late in the process.

Councillor Shepherd requested that the representative be invited from the CCG to discuss an allocation strategy. The Planning Services Manager advised that the CCG representative would be invited to attend a future Committee to present and explain their strategy in relation to the allocation of Section 106 funding.

**RESOLVED:-**

***1.1 Members noted the information regarding healthcare facilities as a result of Local Plan commitments for around 1950 dwellings at Wragley Way (plus additional areas within Derby City); any future potential additional dwellings (up to 1200) within the Infinity Garden Village.***

***1.2 Members noted the information on the provision and application of the Section 106 healthcare contribution for the development at Stenson Road, Stenson.***

OS/47 **COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2017/18**

The Vice-Chairman requested that the scope of Street Scene and Waste be widened and a report be submitted to a future Committee with the inclusion of the information on the Committee's site visit to North West Leicestershire Council.

The Vice-Chairman advised that a report reviewing planning administration be added to the Work Programme following confusion on initial planning decisions in his Ward.

**RESOLVED:-**

***Members considered and approved the updated work programme.***

OS/48 **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 would be 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.***

**EXEMPT QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO 11**

***The Committee were informed that no exempt questions from Members of the Council had been received.***

The Meeting terminated at 7.30pm.

COUNCILLOR S SWANN

CHAIRMAN