

FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE - SPECIAL

26th July 2018

PRESENT:-

Conservative Group

Councillor Harrison (Chairman), Councillor Mrs Plenderleith (Vice-Chairman) and Councillors Mrs Coe (substituting for Councillor Mrs Coyle), Billings, Ford, Stanton (substituting for Councillor Hewlett) and Watson.

Labour Group

Councillors Rhind, Richards, Southerd and Taylor

In attendance

Councillor Dunn

FM/27 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillors Mrs Coyle, Hewlett and Wheeler (Conservative Group).

The Committee wished to convey their regards to Councillor Wheeler who had been admitted into hospital.

FM/28 **MINUTES**

The Open Minutes of the Meeting held on 14th June 2018 were taken as read, approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

FM/29 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Ford declared a personal interest in Item 17 of the Agenda by virtue of being a County Councillor.

Councillor Ford declared a personal interest in Item 18 of the Agenda by virtue of being an acquaintance of the External Auditor.

Councillor Harrison declared a pecuniary interest in Item 19 of the Agenda by virtue of being an Honorary President of Melbourne Sporting Partnership, advising that he would leave the Chamber whilst the Item was being discussed.

FM/30 **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/31 **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/32 **REPORTS OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

The Committee was informed that no reports had been received.

MATTERS DELEGATED TO COMMITTEE

FM/33 **AUDIT SUB-COMMITTEE**

The Open Minutes of the Audit Sub-Committee Meeting held on 30th May 2018 were submitted.

Councillor Richards wished for it to be noted that in relation to the Expression of Interest for the Infinity Garden Village, the Councillor felt that the correct decision had not been made by the Audit Sub-Committee as in the Councillor's opinion, it fell outside the agreed Scheme of Delegation and for this reason it could not be supported. The Chief Executive responded that the Member's opinion would be recorded.

FM/34 **BUDGET OUT-TURN and FINAL ACCOUNTS 2017/18**

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) presented the report to Committee highlighting which accounts had generated income, explaining variances in the General Fund where additional Business Rates and being part of the Derbyshire pool had been financially beneficial. It was also noted that due to residential development and better collection rates Council Tax receipts continued to increase. In relation to the Housing Revenue Account, the Strategic Director outlined this was underspent due to the changes in the Housing Department and subsequent vacancies.

Members thanked officers and welcomed the report commenting that it was informative and reassuring that prudence was proving to be positive.

RESOLVED:

1.1 The Committee approved the final out-turn position for:

- ***The General Fund Revenue Account 2017/18***
- ***The Housing Revenue Account 2017/18***
- ***Capital Expenditure and Financing 2017/18***
- ***The Collection Fund 2017/18***
- ***The Balance of Reserves and Provisions at 31st March 2018.***

1.2 The Committee approved that a net appropriation of £599,071 in 2017/18 be made from the General Fund Reserve to other Earmarked Reserves as detailed in the report.

1.3 The Committee noted the following contributions and adjustments have been made to Bad Debt and Appeal Provisions in 2017/18:

Sundry Debtors	84,978	General Fund
Temporary Accommodation	21,828	General Fund
Housing Benefit Overpayments	100,135	General Fund
Council Tax Arrears	-7,661	General Fund
Business Rates Arrears	58,065	General Fund
Business Rates Appeals	-171,121	General Fund
Planning Appeals	5,500	General Fund
Housing Rent Arrears	48,168	HRA

FM/35 TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) presented the report to Committee.

RESOLVED:

1.1 The Committee approved the Treasury Management Annual Report for 2017/18.

1.2 The Committee noted the Prudential Indicators and Limits for 2018/19 to 2022/23 as approved in February 2018.

1.3 The Committee approved the updated counterparty (lending) list as at 1st April 2018.

FM/36 ACCOUNTS and FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2017/18

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) introduced the report informing the Committee that the detailed statutory accounts, notes and numbering were presented in the prescribed form. Members were advised that the draft version of the accounts had been publicly available since May and that the internal and external audit reports had been considered by the Audit Sub-Committee at its Meeting the previous day. The Strategic Director explained that the outcome of the whistleblowing investigation and subsequent remaining actions had led to the 'except for' qualification issued by the Auditors for the Council's 'value for money' arrangements.

Members raised questions regarding the qualified and unqualified opinion, which were clarified by the Strategic Director.

A discussion ensued between Councillors Southerd, Richards and the Chairman regarding increasing Council Tax due to the amount held in the Council Reserves.

RESOLVED:

The Committee approve that the Council's Audited Accounts and Financial Statements for 2017/18 be approved and signed by the Chairman of the Committee for publication.

FM/37 **BETTER CARE FUNDING ALLOCATION 2018-19**

The Strategic Director (Service Delivery) presented the report to Committee which had previously been approved by the Housing and Community Services Committee on 7th June 2018.

Councillor Richards sought clarification on whether the funding would be available to private landlords to which the Strategic Director (Service Delivery) responded that it would only be available to tenants.

The report was welcomed and commended by the Committee.

Councillor Southerd queried how the scheme would be publicised. The Strategic Director (Service Delivery) responded that although information would be accessible on the Council's website, the scheme would be available through referrals.

RESOLVED:

1.1 Following approval at Housing and Community Services Committee on 7th June, the Finance and Management Committee approved the proposed schemes and associated financial commitment from the Better Care Fund (BCF) required to establish and deliver the projects and mandatory grant delivery during 2018/19.

1.2 The Committee approved that each of the new projects be established as separate schemes within the Council's capital programme for 2018/19.

1.3 The Committee acknowledged the wider impact of the schemes on other Council Services.

1.4 The Committee approved the additional hours and associated staffing costs within the Housing Solutions Team to deliver the Hospital-to-Home scheme.

FM/38 **THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES' PROPERTY FUND**

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) presented the report to Committee advising Members that the proposed increase in investment would be required long-term to enable capital growth and to maximise dividends.

RESOLVED:

The Committee resolved:-

1.1 That the Council invests an additional £1m into the CCLA Lamit Property Fund for an indefinite period, subject to quarterly review.

1.2 That progress on the value of the cash deposit together with dividend returns is reported to the Committee on a quarterly basis.

FM/39 **PLANNING & LAND CHARGES SOFTWARE**

The Strategic Director (Service Delivery) presented the report updating the Committee that as stated at the Environmental and Development Services Committee Meeting on the 30th May 2018, this report set out the business case for software requirements.

RESOLVED:

1.1 The Committee endorsed the Business Case set out in section 3 of Appendix A (Project Brief - Planning Services Improvement) as a valid business reason to invest in a new Planning and Land Charges system.

1.2 The Committee approved a maximum of £100,000 from earmarked reserves to fund the implementation of new Planning and Land Charges software in accordance with the Business Case.

FM/40 **COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

RESOLVED:

The Committee considered and approved the updated work programme.

FM/41 **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 14th June 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.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE COMPLETION OF SINFIN LANE WASTE TREATMENT FACILITY ON THE COUNCIL'S WASTE COLLECTION SERVICE (Paragraph 3 and 4)

Members approved the recommendation in the report.

AUDIT OF THE HOUSING BENEFITS SUBSIDY CLAIM (Paragraph 3)

Members approved the recommendations in the report.

MELBOURNE SPORTS PARK – LAND DRAINAGE MATTERS (Paragraph 3)

Members approved the recommendations in the report.

The meeting terminated at 7.15pm.

COUNCILLOR J HARRISON

CHAIRMAN