

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

21st January 2015

PRESENT:-

Conservative Group

Councillor Mrs. Plenderleith (Chairman), Councillor Atkin (Vice-Chairman), and Councillor Mrs Patten.

Labour Group

Councillor Bambrick and Mrs Heath.

OS/30 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs. Hood (Conservative Group), Councillor Mrs Mead and Councillor Pearson (Labour Group).

OS/31 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

OS/32 **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/33 **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/34 **CUSTOMER SERVICES AND PAYMENT FACILITIES**

This report was discussed in detail at the last Committee Meeting; the item was therefore noted accordingly.

OS/35 **SERVICE BASE BUDGETS 2015 / 2016**

The Committee received a copy of the budget report for 2015/16, which had recently been considered by the Finance and Management Committee. This was accompanied by a presentation from the Director of Finance & Corporate Services, who initially took Members through the recommendations approved at the earlier Policy Committee. The presentation focused on summarising the Council's proposed Base Budget for 2015/16, with a comparison to the

current year, 2014/15. This included an overview of the Committee's main spending areas. It was proposed that the estimated income and expenditure be included in the consolidated budget of the Council for 2015/16, subject to the Council's overall medium-term financial position.

The report set out proposals for the level of fees and charges under the responsibility of this Committee for the next financial year, including a summary of the Committee's existing capital investment programme.

RESOLVED:-

(1) That the report be noted.

OS/36 **CONSOLIDATED BUDGET REPORT 2015/16 – CONSULTATION UPDATE**

The Committee received the consolidated Budget Report 2015/16. This was accompanied by a presentation from the Director of Finance & Corporate Services where he reported the Council's overall financial position following a detailed review of current income and expenditure on the General Fund. The presentation covered the following items:

- Confirmation of the Council's financial settlement from central government for 2015/16;
- The Council's current spending and proposed base budget position for 2015/16 including proposed spending by policy committees;
- The proposed Council Tax Base for 2015/16 and Collection Fund position for 2014/15;
- Options for Council Tax levels in 2015/16; and
- The overall impact on the General Fund's 5-year financial projection.

The Committee was informed that the updated medium term financial projection had been considered and approved by the Finance & Management Committee on 16th October 2014. This set out the projected level of net revenue expenditure on the General Fund, together with the level of the General Reserve to 2020. As part of the annual budget round, the Council's base budget had been reviewed in detail. This confirmed some additional cost pressures, although, it was noted, there had also been further budget savings and additional income identified. The General Fund had a budget surplus for 2015/16 and 2016/17 based on current projections. A deficit would then be forecast from 2017/18 as expected reductions in core government funding would take effect. The proposed decrease in Council Tax income was based on a Council Tax freeze for 2015/16 (subject to Council approval). Planned reductions in spending from 2014/15 had been confirmed, together with other reductions in spending as part of the annual base budget review. The largest changes were due to additional income from growth and in particular the Council Tax base, which consequently had a beneficial impact on the New Homes Bonus allocation. The surplus on the Collection Fund during 2013/14

and to-date in 2014/15 had been confirmed and built into the on-going Base Budget.

It was explained that the overall financial position had been steadily improving over the last 2 years due to budget savings, together with positive out-turn positions compared to base budgets. Reserves should be further supplemented by the estimated underspend in 2014/15 (as reported in December 2014) although this had not been included in the MTFP at this stage and will need to be confirmed.. The Budget will continue to make on-going provision for some growth in expenditure and annual inflation and, separate reserves will be maintained to meet specific one-off costs.

The members discussed the report in detail and asked questions on the projection of figures, fees and changes to the Base Budget.

RESOLVED:-

- (1) That the report be noted.***
- (2) That the Committee raised no substantive issues.***

OS/37 **REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT 2000 (RIPA) –
INSPECTION, POLICY & GUIDANCE DOCUMENT AND QUARTERLY
REPORT**

The Committee received a report regarding the Council's Inspection by the Office of Surveillance Commissioners to approve the Council's Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 Policy and Guidance document, as set out in Appendix A. The Committee were asked to note the report on the Council's use of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 since 1st August 2014.

RESOLVED:-

- (1) That the Council's Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 ('RIPA') Policy and Guidance document, in light of recommendations following the Inspection by Assistant Surveillance Commissioner HH Norman Jones QC of the Office of Surveillance Commissioners, be approved,***
- (2) To note the internal report on the Council's use of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 in the last quarter***

OS/38 **REVIEW OF LEISURE PROVISION - (VERBAL REPORT)**

The Director of Community and Planning Services delivered a verbal presentation on Leisure Services Provision in the District. His presentation focused on the following issues:-

- Current Facility Provision;
- Sport England Planning Facility Model;
- Leisure Centre User Statistics;
- Leisure Centre Programming;

- Access to Sport and health Across the District; and
- Non User Surveys.

The Committee were informed that these were commercially driven programmes with local objectives built on historical, strategy and needs surveys led by information gathered from Market Knowledge, Girls and Women Participation, Young People, Family Participation and Capacity.

It was reported that the District had a good level of Outreach Provision with items such as, 'Get Active In The Forest', 'Village Games', 'Playschemes', 'Sport and Health' and 'Active Nation'. However, it was recognised that the Council would make efforts to try and involve elderly people more in the future. A Survey will be conducted with both elderly and young people that will drive the new 2015 Leisure Provision Programme.

OSC/39 **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 was 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.

OSC/40 **EXEMPT QUESTIONS 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.

MRS. A. PLENDERLEITH

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 6.55 p.m.