

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE (SPECIAL)

7th January 2010

PRESENT:-

Conservative Group

Councillor Lemmon (Chairman), Councillor Grant (Vice-Chairman) and Councillors Atkin, Harrison, Hewlett, Mrs. Hood, Murray and Roberts.

Labour Group

Councillors Mrs. Gillespie, Mrs. Lane, Rhind, Richards and Shepherd.

In Attendance

Councillor Mrs. Wheeler (Conservative Group) and Councillor Taylor (Labour Group).

MATTERS DELEGATED TO COMMITTEE

HCS/47. **SERVICE BASE BUDGETS 2010/11**

A report was submitted informing Members of the proposed base budget for 2010/11. This included an overview of the Committee's main spending areas and some of the main cost pressures facing its services. It was proposed that the estimated income and expenditure was included in the consolidated budgeted accounts for 2010/11, subject to the Council's overall medium-term financial position. The report also set out proposals for the levels of fees and charges under the responsibility of this Committee for the next financial year. A summary was included of the Committee's existing capital investment programme.

A large part of the Committee's annual spending, on community development in particular, was delivered in partnership with other agencies. Over the last 12 months, external funding had successfully been secured for the longer term, in particular through the Safer South Derbyshire Partnership. This covered core service provision and delivered the Council's priorities in relation to crime prevention, sports development and youth engagement, etc. A table in the report confirmed areas where associated funding (including the Council's contribution) was now in place.

Further details were also provided on Swadlincote Woodlands and the new Etwall Leisure Centre.

It was expected that the Council's overall situation would tighten further in 2010/11 with knock-on effects over the life of the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) to 2015. In addition 2011/12 had already been identified as a critical year financially for the Council, as the current budget deficit would push the level of general reserves below the safe minimum level if not addressed during 2010/11.

A summary of the Committee's net revenue expenditure was provided in a table within the report and it was estimated to decrease overall between 2009/10 and 2010/11 by £57,326. Full details were provided on the main reasons for this. After allowing for the reduction in internal recharges and transfers to other committees, the decrease for the Committee was approximately £14,000. An analysis of these variances was detailed in an Appendix to the report.

All the Committee's cost centres were detailed in a further Appendix to the report, which showed a line-by-line breakdown of the Committee's services for 2008/09 (actual) to 2010/11 (proposed).

The proposed base budget for 2010/11 did not at this stage, allow for inflation. Allowances for inflation based on various assumptions regarding price increases etc would be calculated across the main spending heads and in total, held as a central contingency.

Details were given on the Council's approved Capital Investment Programme, Disabled Facilities Grants and the Free Swimming Modernisation Programme.

An Appendix within the report provided a schedule of the proposals for all fees and charges that would operate from 1st April 2010, together with a comparison to the existing charge. Further information was given on income from the Cemeteries Service, Etwall Leisure Centre, Rosliston Forestry Centre and Green Bank Leisure Centre.

Members asked further questions with regard to charges for the Cemeteries services, clarification of the fair charges, Swadlincote Woodlands and grants to voluntary bodies.

RESOLVED:-

- (1) That it be recommended to the Finance and Management Committee that grants to voluntary bodies be increased by 1.5% for 2010/11.***
- (2) That the proposed revenue and expenditure budget for 2010/11, for the Committee's services, be referred to the Finance and Management Committee for approval.***
- (3) That the proposed fees and charges for 2010/11, as detailed in Appendix 3 of the report, be approved.***

HCS/48. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AS AMENDED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (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.

FREE SWIMMING MODERNISATION PROGRAMME (Paragraph 3)

The Committee approved the submission of a Stage 2 application to the Free Swimming Modernisation Programme, and the appointment of consultants to provide a range of professional services in the preparation of this application.

J. LEMMON

CHAIRMAN