

FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

15th March 2018

PRESENT:-

Conservative Group

Councillor Harrison (Chairman), Councillor Mrs Plenderleith (Vice-Chairman) and Councillors Mrs Coe (substituting for Councillor Swann), Mrs Coyle, Ford, Hewlett, Smith and Wheeler

Labour Group

Councillors Rhind, Richards, Southerd and Taylor (substituting for Councillor Wilkins)

FM/140 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillors Swann, Watson (Conservative Group) and Wilkins (Labour Group)

FM/141 **MINUTES**

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

FM/142 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Committee was informed that no declarations of interest had been received.

FM/143 **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/144 **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/145 **REPORTS OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

The Committee was informed that no reports had been received.

MATTERS DELEGATED TO COMMITTEEFM/146 **CORPORATE PLAN 2016-21: PERFORMANCE REPORT (1 OCTOBER – 31 DECEMBER 2017)**

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

Councillors Mrs Coyle and Southerd raised queries in relation to the figures associated with mandatory training and the action taken in relation to those who do not attend. The Strategic Director clarified how the figures were calculated and how attendance was monitored.

Councillor Richards made reference to General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), queried preparedness and the revised retention requirements. The Strategic Director confirmed that plans were well advanced, with reports due to be submitted to Council in April, then this Committee thereafter. The Chief Executive further stated that the matter would be discussed with the Group Leaders shortly.

RESOLVED:

Members noted progress against the performance targets.

FM/147 **BUDGET AND FINANCIAL MONITORING 2017/18**

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) presented the report to Committee, highlighting various elements from the report, including the General Fund, the continuing increase in Council Tax revenue, HRA savings, Capital expenditure, Council house sales and Treasury Management matters.

RESOLVED:

Members considered and approved the latest budget and financial position for 2017/18 as detailed in the report.

FM/148 **STREET SCENE RESOURCES AND IMPROVEMENTS**

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) presented the report to Committee. The Chief Executive added that the report not only gave a statement of what the Council does, but also an indication of what it aims to add in terms of enhancing the quality of service.

RESOLVED:

1.1 Members approved an increase to the Establishment of one new Cleansing Operative post and two new Grounds Maintenance Operative posts to help respond to increasing demand for service due to continual growth within the District.

1.2 Members agreed to increase the Council's vehicle fleet by one additional compact sweeper, one additional ride on mower and one

additional van/pick-up to help respond to increasing demand for service due to continual growth within the District.

1.3 Members approved the purchase of other ancillary equipment including strimmers, blowers, fuel, spare parts, etc to help respond to increasing demand for service due to continual growth within the District.

1.4 Members approved an increase to the Establishment of four new Grounds Maintenance Operative posts to improve the maintenance standards within the District.

1.5 Members agreed to increase the Council's vehicle fleet by one additional van/pick-up to improve the maintenance standards within the District.

1.6 Members approved the purchase of other ancillary equipment including strimmers, blowers, fuel, spare parts etc. to improve the maintenance standards within the District.

FM/149 **SWADLINCOTE TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE**

The Chief Executive presented the report to Committee, detailing the recommendations. The Chairman requested that a report be submitted to the next Committee meeting, confirming the outcomes.

Councillor Richards queried whether this award could set a precedent in relation to other voluntary bodies, the end use of the funds and the fact that financial assistance was still being requested. The Chief Executive stated that no precedent was being made, this being a separate claim, judged on its own merits. The Service Level Agreement dictated that the funds were purely for the Tourism Information Centre and the Centre was now at break-even, with other income opportunities being pursued.

RESOLVED:

1.1 Members approved an increase of £3,000 per year in the Grant to Sharpe's Pottery Heritage & Arts Trust for the operation of the Tourist Information Centre.

1.2 That the increase is subject to the satisfactory completion of the Service Level Agreement between the Council and the Trust.

1.3 That the increase is applied from 2018/19 onwards.

1.4 That a retrospective contribution of £1,500 is made to the Trust in 2017/18 to cover increased costs of operating the Tourist Information Centre.

FM/150 APPLICATION FOR EUROPEAN STRUCTURAL & INVESTMENT FUNDS

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) presented the report to Committee, adding further detail in relation to the Grants Panel, involving the Council, CVS, Job Centre Plus, YMCA and the County Council, the aim being to tackle welfare reform issues, with the potential to bring another £500k into the District.

Councillor Southerd expressed some disquiet with the potential for bidding bodies also being on the panel. The Chief Executive undertook to investigate the specifications further and report his findings.

Other Members speculated on the likely bids from certain organisations, for example, for computer purchases and training, to assist with individual on-line applications.

RESOLVED:

- 1.1 Members approved an application for a two and half year European Structural & Investment Fund Project that will enable voluntary and community sector organisations to apply for the proposed South Derbyshire Employability Grants Fund to deliver ‘back to work’ projects and programmes across the District.***
- 1.2 That a post of Grants and Monitoring Officer, fully funded through the Investment Fund, is added to the Council’s Establishment and is employed on a fixed-term contract to co-ordinate the delivery of the Grants Fund.***
- 1.3 That the Council becomes the Accountable Body for the Project and the Project is delivered in accordance with the relevant policies and procedures of the Council.***
- 1.4 To note that the Council will utilise current resources in Finance, Economic Development and Housing as match funding to discharge its accountabilities as the Accountable Body and to support the Project.***
- 1.5 That any opportunities for the Council to utilise the Grants Fund directly with matched funding from within existing budgets is kept under review, to support Council Tenants and other residents with the implementation of Universal Credit.***

FM/151 COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**RESOLVED:**

The Committee considered and approved the updated work programme.

FM/152 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 January 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.

ESTABLISH A NEW SUPPORT POST IN THE ICT UNIT (Paragraph 2)

Members approved the recommendations in the report.

COMMUNITIES TEAM – SERVICE ASSISTANT (Paragraph 1)

Members approved the recommendations in the report.

PREMISES IN SWADLINCOTE (Paragraph 3)

Members approved the recommendations in the report.

ROSLISTON FORESTRY CENTRE (Paragraphs 2 & 3)

Members approved the recommendations in the report.

The meeting terminated at 7.05pm.

COUNCILLOR J HARRISON

CHAIRMAN