

FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (SPECIAL)

29th January 2007

PRESENT:-

Labour Group

Councillor Wilkins (Chair), Councillor Pabla (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Carroll, Southern, Taylor and Whyman, M.B.E.

Conservative Group

Councillors Harrison, Lemmon and Mrs. Wheeler.

In Attendance

Councillors Bell, Shepherd and Tilley (Labour Group).
Councillor Atkin (Conservative Group).

Consultees

Mr. G. Cowcher (Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Chamber of Commerce), Mrs. S. Churchill (National Forest Company), Mr. G. Royall (South Derbyshire Citizens Advice Bureau), Mrs. J. Smith (South Derbyshire CVS) and Inspector M. Thandi (Derbyshire Constabulary).

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from Councillors Nalty and Mrs. Renwick (Conservative Group).

Apologies were also received from the following consultees:-

Reverend D. Frudd (Swadlincote Council of Churches), Mrs. B. Hunt (Learning and Skills Council), Mr. J. Moore (East Midlands Development Agency), Mrs. V. Price (Derbyshire County PCT), Mr. R. Russell (Sport England (East Midlands Region) and Mrs. G. Williams (Old Post Regeneration Association Limited).

FM/107. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

The Chair advised this was the Special Meeting of the Finance and Management Committee which had been arranged to enable the Council to consult on its budget with representatives of National Non-Domestic Ratepayers, commercial and industrial undertakings and the Council's partners in the public, private and voluntary sectors.

FM/108. **CONSOLIDATED BUDGET PROPOSALS AND MEDIUM-TERM FINANCIAL PLAN TO 2010**

A copy of the report considered by the Finance and Management Committee at its Special Meeting on 18th January 2006 on the Consolidated Budget Proposals and Medium-Term Financial Plan to 2010, together with a copy of the draft resolution from that Meeting had been circulated to all Members of the Committee and the consultees.

Mr. K. Stackhouse, Head of Finance and Property Services highlighted the key sections of the report. He advised that the report detailed the Council's overall financial position for the 2007/08 budget cycle and built on the medium-term financial plan and strategy approved in July and October 2006.

It was noted that the report covered the following areas:-

- The Council's annual financial settlement from the Government for 2007/08.
- The General Fund's three-year financial forecast including proposed spending by Policy Committees and associated analysis.
- The proposed council tax base and collection fund surplus.
- The effects of indicative Council Tax levels.
- Proposed service developments.
- A review and update of the existing capital investment programme and financing available.

During the presentation, the Chair invited questions from all of the consultees present. Responding to a question in respect of funding for the voluntary sector, the Meeting was advised that a review of voluntary sector funding was ongoing and when completed, its findings and any recommendations would be reported to the Council for its consideration.

Members indicated their support and value they attached to the help and assistance received from the voluntary and community sector in assisting the Council to deliver its services.

Mr. Cowcher requested the Council to ensure that it obtained the best value from the finance spent on its human resources and expressed his thanks for the support the Council provided for businesses in South Derbyshire.

The Chair, on behalf of Members, thanked all the consultees for attending the Meeting and taking the time to participate actively in the consultation process.

P.J. WILKINS

CHAIR

The Meeting terminated at 6.30 p.m.