

FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

16th March 2017

PRESENT:-

Conservative Group

Councillor Harrison (Chairman), Councillor Mrs Plenderleith (Vice-Chairman) and Councillors Atkin, Mrs Coe, Mrs Coyle, Hewlett, Stanton (substituting for Councillor Smith), Watson and Wheeler

Labour Group

Councillors Rhind, Richards, Southerd and Wilkins

In Attendance

Councillor Taylor (Labour Group)

FM/131 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillor Smith (Conservative Group).

FM/132 **MINUTES**

The Open Minutes of the Meetings held on 12th January 2017 and 16th February 2017 were taken as read, approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

FM/133 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

FM/134 **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/135 **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/136 **REPORTS OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

There were no reports of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee to consider.

FM/137 **AUDIT SUB-COMMITTEE**

The Open Minutes of the Audit Sub-Committee Meeting held on 15th February 2017 were submitted.

RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the above Audit Sub-Committee Meeting be received and any recommendations contained therein approved.

FM/138 COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATE PLAN 2016-21: PERFORMANCE REPORT (1 OCT – 31 DEC 2016)

The Director of Finance and Corporate Services presented the report to Committee, highlighting the sickness absence and benefits processing figures, both showing an upward trend. Members discussed the sickness issue, noting that the reporting criterion is being reviewed in accordance with the requirements of the Equality Act.

RESOLVED:

Members noted progress against performance targets.

FM/139 BUDGET AND FINANCIAL MONITORING 2016/17

The Director of Finance and Corporate Services presented the report to the Committee, stating that the General Fund surplus had grown since the last update; that planning fees income had also risen, reflecting the growth in development; that vacancy savings exceeded temporary recruitment costs and that fuel costs had decreased due to an effective review of vehicle use and routes. The Director also referred to the increased budget for domestic refuse bins, the result of both demand for replacement bins and the supply of new bins to a growing housing base.

In relation to the Collection Fund, the Director reported that Council Tax was showing a healthy surplus and that Business Rates, whilst better, was still in deficit, although this had been anticipated. The Director further reported that, in relation to the Housing Revenue Account, a surplus was being budgeted for, whilst, when referring to Housing Capital Receipts, 23 sales had occurred to date this financial year, positive for capital income, albeit a loss to rental income.

Councillor Richards raised the issue of the Disabled Facility Grant budget, which had been exhausted, but queried whether additional funding would satisfy the outstanding applications. The Director confirmed that the extra funding would accommodate the current caseload. The Chairman also asked if there was still an issue with occupational health appointments hindering the process. The Director stated that this was no longer the case.

RESOLVED:

Members approved the latest budget and financial position for 2016/17.

FM/140 **COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

RESOLVED:-

Members considered and approved the updated work programme.

FM/141 **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 Meetings held on 12th January 2017 and 16th February 2017 were received.

AUDIT SUB-COMMITTEE

The Exempt Minutes of the Audit Sub-Committee Meeting held on 15th February 2017 were submitted.

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.

HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND TOWNSCAPE PROJECT – DIANA MEMORIAL GARDEN (Paragraph 3)

Members approved the recommendations in the report.

SAFER HOMES SCHEME (Paragraph 3)

Members approved the recommendation in the report.

PREMISES IN SWADLINCOTE (Paragraph 3)

Members approved the recommendation in the report.

STAFFING AMENDMENTS – COMMUNITY AND PLANNING DIRECTORATE (Paragraph 1)

Members approved the recommendations in the report.

THE TRANSFER OF CORPORATE SERVICES: MATTERS OUTSTANDING
(Paragraphs 2 & 3)

Members approved the recommendations in the report.

The meeting terminated at 7.15pm.

COUNCILLOR J HARRISON

CHAIRMAN