

FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (SPECIAL)

27th September 2012

PRESENT:-

Conservative Group

Councillor Wheeler (Chairman), Councillor Mrs. Watson (Vice-Chairman) and Councillors Jones, Lemmon, Murray, Smith and Watson.

Labour Group

Councillors Frost, Rhind, Southerd, Stuart (substitute for Councillor Richards), Taylor and Wilkins.

In Attendance

Councillors Atkin and Mrs. Plenderleith (Conservative Group) and Councillor Bell (Labour Group).

FM/38. **APOLOGY**

An apology for absence from the Meeting was received from Councillor Richards (Labour Group).

MATTERS DELEGATED TO COMMITTEE

FM/39. **ACCOUNTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2011/12**

It was reported that under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011, the Council's audited accounts and financial statements were presented for approval. The Committee was required to approve the accounts with the knowledge of the opinion of the External Auditor. Their findings were contained within a report presented to the Audit Sub-Committee on 26th September 2012. The Sub-Committee considered in detail the findings and recommendations made by the Auditor for ensuring that the final published document was fully compliant with accounting and financial disclosure standards. Although the Auditor raised various issues, it gave an unqualified opinion on the accounts for 2011/12. There were no material misstatements or adjustments from the accounts submitted in draft form. Actions arising out of the final accounts process would be monitored by the Audit Sub-Committee. Consequently, the final accounts and financial statements for publication were submitted.

A full copy of the accounts had been circulated and the report detailed how they would be further distributed. The budget out-turn had been considered at the June Committee Meeting and summary financial information was also being published in the Council's Annual Report. These reports and summaries provided management information regarding the Council's income and expenditure performance for the year, together with the levels of reserves and assets at the year end. The Statement of Accounts was a much more complex and technical document prepared to meet the wider accounting and

financial standards. It gave a more in depth analysis of the Council's accounts and the figures were supported by numerous commentaries and disclosure notes. The accounts were now prepared on a full international financial reporting standards basis. A summary of each of the main sections contained within the accounts was also provided.

RESOLVED:-

That the Council's Audited Accounts and Financial Statements for 2011/12 are approved and signed by the Chairman of the Committee for publication.

FM/40. **BRETBY CREMATORIUM JOINT COMMITTEE: STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2011/12**

The Committee was presented with the final set of accounts and financial statements of the Bretby Crematorium Joint Committee, following the sale of the Crematorium in April 2011. A full copy of the accounts had been provided, which had been drawn up and approved for adoption by East Staffordshire Borough Council, which acted as the Treasurer to the Joint Committee. The accounts showed a final revenue surplus of £69,710 following the transfer to the Midlands Co-operative, which would be distributed to both Councils, with £32,067 attributable to this Council.

RESOLVED:-

That the Joint Committee's Accounts and Financial Statements for 2011/12 are approved.

FM/41. **A REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S ARRANGEMENTS FOR SECURING FINANCIAL RESILIENCE**

It was reported that under the Audit Commission's Code of Audit Practice, the External Auditor was required to reach a formal conclusion on whether the Council had put in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources (the Value for Money conclusion). Their work in this area included a review to determine whether the Council had proper arrangements in place for securing financial resilience. The review by the External Auditors had been completed and its report was submitted. It was noted that this report had also been considered by the Audit Sub-Committee at its Meeting on 26th September 2012.

Following the abolition of the Use of Resources Assessment in 2010, the Audit Commission introduced a new approach to assessing Value for Money (VFM) at a local level. The report provided a more detailed assessment on the VFM opinion, which was undertaken against a set of criteria considered to be good practice. The Head of Corporate Services took Members through the report confirming that the majority of assessments were positive and he gave further detail on the two "amber" ratings. Thanks were recorded to the Head of Corporate Services and his team. In response to a question, further information was provided about the development of a new asset register.

RESOLVED:-

That the report is considered and approved.

R. WHEELER

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 5.15 p.m.