

FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

1<sup>st</sup> December 2016

**PRESENT:-**

**Conservative Group**

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

**Labour Group**

Councillors Rhind, Richards, Southerd and Wilkins

FM/88 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillor Smith (Conservative Group).

FM/89 **MINUTES**

The Open Minutes of the Meetings held on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2016 and 13<sup>th</sup> October 2016 were taken as read, approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

FM/90 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

FM/91 **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/92 **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/93 **REPORTS OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

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

FM/94 **COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY 2016/21 AND INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY 2016/18**

The Chief Executive presented the report to Committee.

Councillor Atkin commended the report contents, but queried media coverage of South Derbyshire matters. The Communications Manager gave assurances that contact is maintained with all local media.

Councillor Mrs Coyle commented that as Members cannot access certain information via their iPads and that as staff at the depot did not have access to the intranet, other means of communication needed to be maintained or developed.

Councillor Richards also made reference to the wording of consultations, stating that when individuals fail to understand the content they are less likely to respond.

**RESOLVED:**

***Members agreed to adopt the draft Communications Strategy 2016/21 and Internal Communications Strategy 2016/18.***

FM/95 **CORPORATE PLAN 2016-21: PERFORMANCE REPORT  
(1 JULY-30 SEPTEMBER 2016)**

The Director of Finance and Corporate Services presented the report to the Committee, making particular reference to the benefit processing situation, now back on track, and the sickness figures, recently showing an upward trend due to some long-term absences.

Members raised queries relating to the sickness absences, responded to by the Director, and in relation to figures relating to responses to challenged benefit decisions. The Director undertook to source further information in relation to the latter query.

**RESOLVED:**

***Members noted progress against performance targets.***

FM/96 **BUDGET AND FINANCIAL MONITORING 2016/17**

The Director of Finance and Corporate Services delivered the report to the Committee, highlighting issues of note including the downturn in Building Control income, the potential for additional costs from the markets operation, the healthy Collection Fund position and the positive Treasury Management situation.

Councillors Wheeler and Rhind queried the retention rates relating to housing receipts, to which the Director gave an explanation of the sliding retention rates now applicable under the new rules.

Councillor Southerd, noting the competitive market in which Building Control operates, queried whether they could vary the services offered / charges made. The Director confirmed that their charges may be varied and the Chief Executive stated that the Council is currently considering other options in this area. Councillor Southerd also voiced his concerns relating to the potential for enhanced private sector involvement in planning matters.

**RESOLVED:**

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

FM/97 **COMPLAINTS, COMPLIMENTS & FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUESTS 1 APRIL TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2016**

**RESOLVED:-**

*Members noted the complaints and FOI requests as detailed in the report.*

FM/98 **COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

**RESOLVED:-**

*Members considered and approved the updated work programme.*

FM/99 **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 13<sup>th</sup> October 2016 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.*

**A REVIEW OF THE LAND CHARGES UNIT (Paragraph 2)**

*Members approved the recommendations in the report.*

**THE TRANSFER OF CORPORATE SERVICE AND STRUCTURE PROPOSALS (Paragraphs 2 and 3)**

*Members approved the recommendations in the report.*

**PREMISES AT SWADLINCOTE (Paragraph 3)**

*Members approved the recommendations in the report.*

The meeting terminated at 7.35pm.

COUNCILLOR J HARRISON

CHAIRMAN