

FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

31st August 2017

PRESENT:-

Conservative Group

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

Labour Group

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

FM/40 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillor Mrs Coe (Conservative Group), and Richards (Labour Group).

FM/41 **MINUTES**

The Open Minutes of the Meetings held on 15th June 2017 were taken as read, approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

FM/42 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

FM/43 **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/44 **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/45 **REPORTS OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

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

FM/46 **CORPORATE PLAN 2016-21: PERFORMANCE REPORT (1 APRIL – 30 JUNE 2017)**

The Director of Finance and Corporate Services presented the report to Committee and updated Members on the final stages leading to the launch of the new Council website.

RESOLVED:

Members noted progress against performance targets.

FM/47 **DATA QUALITY & PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT**

The Director of Finance and Corporate Services presented the report explaining the processes and levels of control in place to ensure the security of data.

RESOLVED:

1.1 Members noted progress made against the Data Quality Strategy Action Plan for 2016/17, as detailed in Appendix A to the report.

1.2 Members noted the recommendations and responses provided in the Data Quality and Performance Management Report 2016/17, Appendix B to the report.

1.3 Members approved the action plan for 2017/18, as detailed in Appendix C to the report.

FM/48 **BUDGET and FINANCIAL MONITORING 2017/18**

The Director of Finance and Corporate Services delivered the report to Committee, pointing out that savings from the transfer in-house from Northgate would be incorporated into the Medium Term Financial Plan. An increase in expenditure on vehicle replacement was reported, due to the procurement process to replace refuse vehicles. The Director advised Members on the changes proposed to the Counterparty List as a consequence of the banking restructure.

Councillor Southerd sought clarification on the status of the capital scheme for Swadlincote Woodlands Nature Reserve. The Director agreed to send a briefing note to Members with an update.

RESOLVED:

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

1.2 Members approved the updated Counterparty List for short-term investments and bank deposits as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report.

1.3 That restructuring in the UK banking sector and its potential effect upon the Council as detailed in the report was considered and noted by Members.

1.4 Members approved that the application of the EU Directive on market regulation as detailed in the report and its potential effect on the Council's Treasury Management operations be kept under review.

FM/49 MONEY MARKET FUNDS

The Director of Finance and Corporate Services presented the report to Committee, explaining that this investment would provide the option to diversify the cash the Council currently has on deposit. It was reported that such funds are used by many local authorities where the funds are liquid and the maximum length of investment is for sixty days.

RESOLVED:

- 1.1 Members approved that the Council's Lending Policy and Counterparty List are updated to include the use of Money Market Funds as detailed in the report.***
- 1.2 That a maximum overall limit of £10m be placed on deposits in Money Market Funds with a maximum of £2m invested in any one Fund.***
- 1.3 That delegation be given to the Director of Finance and Corporate Services to select and monitor the use of individual Funds.***
- 1.4 Members approved that the performance of Money Market Funds be reported to the Committee on at least a quarterly basis.***

FM/50 THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES' PROPERTY FUND

The Director of Finance and Corporate Services presented the report to Committee, explaining the operation, governance, performance and potential yield as well as the risks and benefits of the fund. The Director highlighted that any investment into this pool would potentially only benefit if it is long term.

Councillor Wilkins addressed the Committee expressing his moral objection to the proposal as he felt that local authorities should not enter into money markets and property speculation. Members expressed their concerns, but many agreed that as local authorities are responsible for public money to deliver services to residents, opportunities to make this money work smarter needed to be explored in order to respond to continuing cuts.

RESOLVED:

- 1.1 Members approved that the policy test for long-term investments, as detailed in the report, and the Council's Investment Strategy be updated accordingly.***
- 1.2 That the CCLA Lamit Property Fund be added to the Council's approved Counterparty List and the Investment Policy and Treasury Management Strategy be updated accordingly.***
- 1.3 Members approved that the Council invests £1m into the CCLA Lamit Property Fund for an indefinite period, subject to quarterly review.***

1.4 That progress on the value of the cash deposit together with dividend returns be reported to the Committee on a quarterly basis.

FM/51 **COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

RESOLVED:-

Members considered and approved the updated work programme.

FM/52 **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 15th June 2017 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.

PROPOSED WRITE OFFS: COUNCIL TAX, BUSINESS RATES, BENEFIT OVERPAYMENTS (Paragraph 1)

Members approved the recommendation in the report.

COMMUNITIES – AMENDMENTS TO SPORT AND HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES UNITS’ STAFFING (Paragraph 2)

Members approved the recommendation in the report.

COMMUNITY SPORT ACTIVATION OFFICER (Paragraph 2)

Members approved the recommendation in the report.

The meeting terminated at 7.10pm.

COUNCILLOR J HARRISON

CHAIRMAN