

FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

30th August 2018

PRESENT:-

Conservative Group

Councillor Harrison (Chairman) and Councillors Ford, Hewlett, Smith and Watson

Labour Group

Councillors Rhind, Richards, Southerd and Taylor

FM/47 **COUNCILLOR WHEELER**

At the behest of the Chairman all present stood for a minute's silence in memory of Councillor Wheeler. Councillor Southerd paid tribute to his fellow former Member, noting his dedication to the end.

FM/48 **COUNCILLOR MRS PLENDERLEITH**

Following Mrs Plenderleith's recent resignation, Members wished to record their thanks to the former Councillor for her long-term commitment to the Council.

FM/49 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillors Billings and Mrs Coyle (Conservative Group)

FM/50 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Smith declared a personal interest in Item 15 on the Agenda by virtue of being Chairman of Active South Derbyshire.

Councillors Richards and Ford declared a personal interest in Item 10 on the Agenda by virtue of their involvement with the Toyota twinning ceremony, both stating that they would take no part in the debate.

FM/51 **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/52 **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/53 **REPORTS OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

The Committee was informed that no reports had been received.

MATTERS DELEGATED TO COMMITTEE

FM/54 **AUDIT SUB-COMMITTEE**

The Open Minutes of the Audit Sub-Committee Meeting held on 25th July 2018 were submitted.

Councillor Richards made reference to Minute No.AS/20, querying what lessons had been learned. The Chairman confirmed that the matter had been reviewed by senior staff, noted for future reference. The Chief Executive stated that the contract is operational and being provided to a good level, but that it would be reviewed as opportunities arose. An aural understanding is in place, in effect a binding contract that protects the Council's position, although it was acknowledged that the preference was always that a signed contract should be in place.

FM/55 **CORPORATE PLAN 2016-21: PERFORMANCE REPORT (1 APRIL – 30 JUNE 2018)**

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) presented the report to Committee, making particular reference to the two matters currently below target, namely sickness absence and the LGA DMA Review. With regard to the former, the situation is improving and in relation to the latter, following a meeting with the LGA earlier in the day, Final proposals had been signed off by the Leadership Team.

The Chairman queried the sickness figures and if they were being addressed. The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) gave assurances that the matter was constantly monitored and that the direction of travel was positive, the Chief Executive adding that the matter was on the agenda of a meeting being held with the Trade Unions the following week. Councillor Richards queried whether the absences were indicative of a morale issue. The Chief Executive stated that external reviews had concluded that morale at the Council was satisfactory.

RESOLVED:

The Committee noted progress against the performance targets.

FM/56 **BUDGET AND FINANCIAL MONITORING 2018/19**

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) presented the report to Committee, drawing attention to the improved Business Rates and Council

Tax returns, in addition to council house sales, which continued to be higher than anticipated.

Councillor Richards welcomed the match-funding for Swadlincote Woodlands, meaning it being completed as originally planned, but also queried the situation regarding the new refuse freighters and vans. The Strategic Director (Service Delivery) confirmed that the eight refuse freighters were in place, but that delays were being incurred with the delivery of the 29 vans on order. Councillor Smith queried if a late delivery penalty clause could be invoked. The Strategic Director (Service Delivery) confirmed that the contract had not included such a clause, that matters were being pursued with the contractor as a matter of urgency.

Councillor Watson made references to the New Homes Bonus and increased Council Tax revenues, querying what assumptions were being made in the medium-term financial calculations. The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) confirmed that the figures were monitored and increased accordingly, running below the Local Plan estimates to be prudent, with growth costs also being accounted for.

RESOLVED:

The Committee considered and approved the latest budget and financial position for 2018/19, as detailed in the report.

FM/57 **TREASURY MANAGEMENT UPDATE 2018/19**

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) presented the report to Committee, highlighting the Investment Benchmarking comparison table in the report, detailing the Council's position compared to other local authorities.

RESOLVED:

1.1 The Committee considered and approved the latest Treasury Management Update for 2018/19, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

1.2 The Committee approved the updated Counterparty List for investments and bank deposits, as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report.

FM/58 **TOYOTA CITY**

The Chief Executive introduced this item, outlining the benefits for the future, including opportunities for employment, engagement, education and investment.

RESOLVED:

The Committee approved the following:

- *Recognition of the importance of the relationship with Toyota City to South Derbyshire, particularly in terms of inward investment and employment.*
- *To support the activities of the Toyota City Partnership Development Board.*
- *The allocation of a one-off budget of £14,500 from General Fund Reserves to support the allocation of resources to further develop this successful relationship for the benefit of the local economy.*

FM/59 **COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

RESOLVED:

The Committee considered and approved the updated work programme.

FM/60 **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.

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.

BUSINESS RATE RETENTION PILOT – STRATEGIC INVESTMENT FUND (Paragraph 3)

The Committee approved the recommendations in the report.

REVIEW OF STRATEGIC HOUSING TEAM (Paragraph 2)

The Committee approved the recommendations in the report.

SPORT AND HEALTH SERVICE UNIT STAFFING STRUCTURE AND CONTRACT EXTENSIONS (Paragraph 1)

The Committee approved the recommendations in the report.

COMMUNITIES TEAM – SERVICE ASSISTANT (Paragraph 1)

The Committee approved the recommendation in the report.

ROSLISTON FORESTRY CENTRE – MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS (Paragraphs 2 & 3)

Members approved the recommendations in the report.

REVIEW STAFFING – REVENUES, BENEFITS & CUSTOMER SERVICES
(Paragraph 2)

The Committee approved the recommendations in the report.

FINANCIAL SERVICES: SERVICE PROVISION RESTRUCTURE
(Paragraph 2)

The Committee approved the recommendations in the report.

The meeting terminated at 7.15pm.

COUNCILLOR J HARRISON

CHAIRMAN