

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE (SPECIAL – BUDGET)

8th January 2019

PRESENT:-

Conservative Group

Councillor Hewlett (Chairman) and Councillors Dr. Coyle, Ford (substituting for Councillor Smith), Grant, Roberts and Watson.

Labour Group

Councillors Dunn (substituting for Councillor Wilkins), Rhind, Richards and Shepherd

HCS/64 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Smith and Wyatt (Conservative Group), Councillor Wilkins (Labour Group) and Councillors Coe and Tipping (Independent/ Non-Grouped Member)

HCS/65 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Shepherd declared a personal interest in the grants to voluntary bodies element of Item 6 Service Base Budgets 2018 / 2019 by virtue of being on the board of trustees for the Citizens Advice South Derbyshire and City (CASDAC).

Councillor Hewlett declared a personal interest in the grants to voluntary bodies element of Item 6 Service Base Budgets 2018/2019 by virtue of being on the board of trustees for the Citizens Advice South Derbyshire and City (CASDAC).

Councillor Dr Coyle declared a personal interest in the grants to voluntary bodies element of Item 6 Service Base Budgets 2018/2019 by virtue of being on the board of trustees for Sharpe's Pottery Heritage & Arts Trust Ltd.

HCS/66 **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.

HCS/67 **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO 11**

The Committee was informed that no questions from Members of the Council had been received.

HCS/68 **REPORTS OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

There were no Overview and Scrutiny Reports to be submitted.

MATTERS DELEGATED TO COMMITTEE

HCS/69 **SERVICE BASE BUDGETS 2019 / 2020**

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) presented the report to Committee, outlining the budgetary process through to the meeting of Council on the 27th February 2019. The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) provided context on the overall financial position by highlighting the savings identified in certain budgets and the risks associated with the use of some reserves, growth within the District and the effects of the reduction in core funding. The Director also confirmed that fee increases were being proposed for cemeteries, specifically for the reservation of plots and that neighbouring authorities charged considerably more than this Council.

Some Members raised concern in relation to the reasons for the proposed fee increases for cemeteries. Councillor Richards suggested the addition of a clause to address these concerns; the Chairman requested that the officer investigate its inclusion. Information on the cost of welfare funerals was also requested by the Committee which the Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) agreed to provide in writing.

Councillor Shepherd, whilst referring to the report, wished to thank the Council for the £30,000 funding for the Stenson Fields Community Facility and commented that a lower off-peak room hire fee would have been sufficient. The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) responded that fees of other community facilities were used to assist in this assessment. Councillor Richards sought clarification on how community and business use of such facilities is differentiated, particularly in relation to private nurseries using such facilities to profit from childcare provision. The Chairman requested that the matter be investigated and reported back to this Committee at a future date.

The Chairman was joined by Members in agreeing that grants to voluntary and community bodies be increased by 2%.

RESOLVED:-

- 1.1 The Committee considered and referred the proposed revenue income and expenditure for 2019/20 for the Committee's Services as detailed in Appendix 1 to the Finance and Management Committee for approval.**
- 1.2 The Committee considered and approved the proposed fees and charges as detailed in Appendix 2 for 2019/20.**
- 1.3 The Committee gave consideration to the level of any increase in Grants to Voluntary Bodies in 2019/20.**

Abstentions: Councillors Dr Coyle, Hewlett and Shepherd.

HCS/70 **HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET, FINANCIAL PLAN and PROPOSED RENT 2019/20**

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) presented the report to Committee, outlining the strong financial position of the Council, with appropriate reserves earmarked for anticipated risks and service pressures.

Councillor Dunn sought further clarification on the depreciation figures, specifically the planned maintenance element. The Housing Services Manager responded that planned maintenance included work to the structure of the building and gas servicing.

RESOLVED:-

- 1.1** *The Committee reduced the Council House Rents by 1% for Tenants with effect from 1st April 2019 in accordance with provisions contained in the Welfare Reform and Work Act 2016.*
- 1.2** *The Committee considered and referred the proposed revenue income and expenditure for 2019/20, together with the 10-year Financial Plan for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) as detailed in Appendix 1, to the Finance and Management Committee for approval.*
- 1.3** *The Committee to keep the HRA under review and measures identified to mitigate the financial risks detailed in the report to maintain a sustainable financial position.*

HCS/71 **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.

The Meeting terminated at 6.45pm.

COUNCILLOR J HEWLETT

CHAIRMAN