

FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (SPECIAL)

30th January 2006

**PRESENT:-**

**Labour Group**

Councillor Wilkins (Chair), Councillor Pabla (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Bell, Carroll and Whyman, M.B.E.

**Conservative Group**

Councillors Harrison, Lemmon, Nalty, Mrs. Renwick and Mrs. Wheeler.

**In Attendance**

Councillor Atkin (Conservative Group),

**Consultees:-**

Mr. G. Royall (Citizens Advice Bureau), Miss. E. Morrow (Citizens Advice Bureau), Mr. J. Oake (Sharpe's Pottery and Heritage Trust), Mrs. G. Sanderson (Derbyshire Chamber), Mrs. Jo Smith (South Derbyshire CVS) and Mrs. G. Williams (Old Post Regeneration Association Ltd.)

**APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from Councillors Southern and Taylor (Labour Group).

Apologies were also received from the following consultees:-

Ms. M. Hallam (Government Office for the East Midlands), Miss. V. Price (Derbyshire Dales and South Derbyshire Primary Care Trust), Reverend D. Frudd (Swadlincote Council of Churches), Councillor J. Sanders (Derbyshire County Council), Councillor Carlyle (Derbyshire County Council), Mrs. J. Wade (Swadlincote and District Chamber of Trade and Commerce), Mr. B. Wood (Secretary/Treasurer Derbyshire Association of Local Councils) and Professor Coyne (Vice-Chancellor University of Derby).

FM/102. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

The Chair confirmed that this Special Meeting of the Council's Finance and Management Committee had been arranged so that the Council could undertake its consultation on its budget with representatives of National Non-Domestic Ratepayers, representatives of commercial and industrial undertakings and the Council's partners in the public, private and voluntary sectors.

FM/103. **CONSOLIDATED BUDGET PROPOSALS AND FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2006-2009 – CONSULTATION ON THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET**

A copy of a report considered by the Finance and Management Committee at its Special Meeting on 17th January 2006: Consolidated Budget Proposals

and Financial Strategy 2006-2009 had been circulated to all Members of the Committee and the Consultees.

Mr. K. Stackhouse, Head of Finance and Property Services at the District Council highlighted the key sections of the report. He said that the purpose of the report was to detail the Council's overall financial (base) position for the 2006/07 budget round and the projections and financial strategy approved in July and October 2005.

It was noted that the report covered the following areas:-

- The Council's Annual Financial Settlement from the Government for 2006/07 and 2007/08.
- The General Fund's three year financial forecast, including proposed spending by the policy committees and associated analysis
- Reviewing and proposing a minimum level of General Reserve
- The effects of indicative Council Tax levels
- The Housing Revenue Account and associated annual subsidy settlement
- A review and update of the existing Capital Expenditure Programme and financing available.

At 6.22 p.m. the Fire Alarm sounded and the Meeting was adjourned and all those present left the building.

The meeting recommenced at 6.40 p.m.

During the presentation the Chair invited questions from all of the consultees present. A number of questions were asked, particularly regarding the Council's Asset Management proposals.

It was confirmed that the Council had an Asset Management Strategy, which was currently being developed, but it was not envisaged that the Council would be selling significant areas of land for housing development. The Meeting was advised that the Council had been seeking to undertake a consultation with a wide range of people living and working in South Derbyshire as possible to ensure that its spending priorities and future plans matched the needs of local residents, business and the Council's partners.

The Chair on behalf of Members thanked all the consultees for attending the Meeting and taking the time to participate actively in the consultation meeting.

P.J. WILKINS

CHAIR

The Meeting terminated at 6.55 p.m.