

FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

20th March 2014

PRESENT:-

Conservative Group

Councillor Wheeler (Chairman), and Councillors Hewlett (substitute for Councillor Lemmon), Jones, Murray, Smith, Stanton (substitute for Councillor Mrs. Watson) and Watson.

Labour Group

Councillors Bell, Rhind, Richards, Southerd, Taylor and Wilkins.

In Attendance

Councillors Atkin and Harrison (Conservative Group)

FM/.98 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from Councillors Lemmon and Mrs. Watson (Conservative Group).

FM/.99 **MINUTES**

The Open Minutes of the Special Meetings held on 16th January and 27th January 2014, were taken as read, approved as true records and signed by the Chairman.

FM/.100 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors Bell, Richards, Southerd and Stanton declared an interest in Minute Number 108 as Members of the Planning Committee.

MATTERS DELEGATED TO COMMITTEE

FM/.101 **CORPORATE PLAN 2009 TO 2014: PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT (1ST OCTOBER 2013 – 31 DECEMBER 2013)**

A report was submitted on performance for the period 1st October 2013 to 31 December 2013, in relation to the Council's Corporate Plan 2009-14.

The report and appendices gave detail on the progress and achievements during the period 1st October to 31 December 2013. Details were provided in the report and appendices of the key projects, performance measures and an overview of the number of accidents which occurred within the Council during the quarter.

Members asked questions regarding Health and Safety and Accident Statistics.

RESOLVED:-

- (1) That the progress and achievements during the period 1st October – 31st December 2013 in relation to the Council's Corporate Plan be noted.***
- (2) Review where progress has failed to achieve the specified target and consider the adequacy of the remedial action taken.***
- (3) Receive a quarterly overview of the number of accidents as part of the Council's Health and Safety performance management framework.***

FM/102 **CORPORATE ACTION PLAN 2014/15**

A report was submitted for Members to approve the Corporate Action Plan for 2014/15. A refreshed Action Plan for 2014/15 was considered which set out the priorities for the year ahead along with the projects and the key measures of success that will support the delivery of the Plan.

Background information was provided, together with the process for refreshing the Corporate Action Plan. During January 2014, Officers completed this through a series of facilitated workshops. Each workshop focussed on addressing one of the four themes within the Corporate Plan. The sessions held had been challenging and focussed on improving service delivery within the resources available. As a result, the priorities in each theme had been updated along with the refreshment of projects and measures that would form the basis of the Corporate Action Plan for 2014/15.

RESOLVED:

That the updated Corporate Action Plan for 2014 / 15 be approved

FM/103 **BUDGET AND FINANCIAL MONITORING 2013/14**

The latest budget and financial monitoring report was presented for the Committee's consideration. Initially, this focussed on the General Fund Revenue Account and tables showed the revised deficit of £138,675. In accordance with budget monitoring arrangements, the position on net expenditure on services continued to be reviewed. The latest monitoring figures were provided in a series of tables showing performance against budget as at January 2014 by Committee and main service area.

Following the updated Medium Term Financial Plan, which was considered by the Committee on 20th February, adjustments were made that reflected definite savings previously identified and resulted in a revised budgeted surplus for the year of £260,372, details were shown in a table in the report. In accordance with budget monitoring arrangements, the position on Net Expenditure on Services is the main area that is subject to on-going review. This is the amount that is

directly managed and controlled by the various budget holders across the Council.

Next, the report focussed on the Housing Revenue Account (HRA). Performance on the HRA was detailed in an appendix to the report and showed that it was estimated to achieve a surplus in the year of £249,406 this was due to slippage on the Planned Maintenance Programme, which did not commence until January 2014. The main variances were reported.

Capital expenditure and financing was reported and a table showed capital spending compared to the budget at January 2014. This section of the report also covered council house sales to date, land sales and General Fund receipts.

Next, the report focussed on Treasury Management, with a table and commentary explaining the HRA debt outstanding and the amounts on deposit through short-term investments. Finally, other financial indicators were reported.

The Director of Finance and Corporate Services answered questions from Members.

RESOLVED:

That the last budget and financial monitoring figures for 2013/14 are approved.

FM/.104 **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Committee was asked to review its work programme.

RESOLVED:

That the updated work programme be received.

FM/.105 **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 Special Meeting held on 16th January 2014 were received.

RESTRUCTURE OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

The Committee approved the implementation of the restructure of Legal and Democratic Services.

At 6.40pm Councillors Bell, Richards, Southerd and Stanton left the meeting for item no.14.

LAND AT MIDWAY

Members approved the sale of residential land and construction of leisure facilities.

R. WHEELER

CHAIRMAN