

FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

1st September 2016

PRESENT:-

Conservative Group

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

Labour Group

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

FM/47 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillors Mrs Coe, Hewlett (Conservative Group) and Southerd (Labour Group)

FM/48 **MINUTES**

The Open Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th June 2016 were taken as read, approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

FM/49 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Harrison declared a prejudicial interest in relation to Item 8 Cockshut Lane Recreation Ground, Melbourne Sports Facility Project, by virtue of his Chairmanship of the Melbourne Sports Partnership and informed the Committee that he would leave the Chamber whilst this item was discussed.

FM/50 **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/51 **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/52 **REPORTS OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

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

FM/53 **CORPORATE PLAN 2016-21: PERFORMANCE REPORT (1 APRIL – 30 JUNE 2016)**

The Director of Finance and Corporate Services presented the report to Committee, highlighting various issues such as Housing Benefit applications, the improving sickness absence position and the latest situation in relation to the rollout of Universal Credit in the area.

Councillor Richards questioned the figures quoted under the rental income section, which the Director undertook to investigate and report back on. The Councillor also queried whether if the benefits processing continued below target there was a possibility of the DWP imposing another surcharge on the Council. The Director confirmed that whilst there was such a possibility, the situation was far less serious this time around and was therefore unlikely.

RESOLVED:-

Members noted progress against the performance targets.

The Chairman left the Chamber at 6.10pm.

FM/54 **COCKSHUT LANE RECREATION GROUND, MELBOURNE SPORTS FACILITY PROJECT**

The Director of Community and Planning Services delivered the report to Committee.

Councillor Watson thanked Councillor Mrs Plenderleith for raising this matter at the last Housing and Community Services Committee, resulting in more detail being applied to the loan repayment conditions. The Director confirmed that he had received a letter from the MSP confirming that they would be looking to repay the loan over 10 years starting after year 2. Councillor Atkins queried whether any penalty would apply if early repayment was made. The Director confirmed that no such penalty would be applicable.

RESOLVED:-

1.1 Members approved the allocation of up to £50,000 from the Sport and Health / Get Active Reserve towards the Melbourne Sporting Partnership project to complete the fitting out of the clubhouse building prior to its transfer to the Melbourne Sporting Partnership.

1.2 Members approved entering into a loan agreement that the Melbourne Sporting Partnership repay the reserve fund allocation back to the Council over the period of the lease with the loan secured against the freehold reversion of the land.

The Chairman returned to the Chamber at 6.15pm.

FM/55 **PROCUREMENT STRATEGY AND FRAMEWORK 2016 TO 2020**

RESOLVED:-

Members approved the proposed Procurement Strategy and Framework for 2016 to 2020.

FM/56 **HEALTH AND SAFETY: QUARTERLY REPORT APRIL TO JUNE 2016**

The Director of Finance and Corporate Services presented the report to Committee, adding that the Council had been awarded a ROSPA Gold Award, a rare achievement for local authorities.

Councillor Atkin queried the number of incidents reported onto the Health and Safety Executive from the total number of incidents. The Director clarified the criteria that governed such reporting, but assured Members that all incidents were investigated.

Councillor Watson commended the ROSPA Gold Award granted to the Council and, in relation to the report content, the separation of work and non-work incidents. The Chairman also commented on the ROSPA Award, suggesting that it being given some prominence, some publicity. It was agreed that the award be formally presented at the next Full Council.

RESOLVED:-

Members noted the quarterly report and accident statistics.

FM/57 **BUDGET AND FINANCIAL MONITORING 2016/17**

The Director of Finance and Corporate Services delivered the report to Committee, pointing out that the savings from the DSO restructure in 2015/16 would be fully utilised to meet the costs of seconding a post to the Waste Less Save More Project. In addition, the Director pointed out that along with all other Derbyshire authorities, the Council was looking to retain some kind of Business Rates Pool set-up, beyond the Retention provisions and would be responding to the government consultation accordingly. The Director also stated that following the recent bank rate cut, some banks were stating that they would charge for monies held on deposit if the rate went into the negative, although the Council's bank has stated no such intention.

Councillor Atkin queried whether this should be on the Risk Register, but the Director responded that any such risk was minimal given the sums involved.

The Chairman queried the allocation of funding, to which the Chief Executive responded that Districts were unlikely to see little funding once the allocations had been made to County and devolved authorities. The Chairman also requested an update on the NHS Trusts' application to be made exempt from Business Rates. The Director stated that no new information was available regarding this issue.

RESOLVED:-

Members considered and approved the latest budget and financial position for 2016/17.

FM/58 **LEASEHOLD FLAT INSURANCE**

The Director of Finance and Corporate Services presented the report to Committee and the Chief Executive outlined the legal position relating to the matter.

Councillor Wheeler outlined his view that whilst the matter was more complex than initially thought, he had some sympathy with leaseholders seemingly having to pay more for insurance and suggested deferral of the matter to gain further information and consider other options. Councillor Rhind supported the deferral proposal, but highlighted the fact that the leaseholders enter into the leasehold agreements aware of the insurance position, wary of any other costs that may result from changes in the lease documentation.

Councillor Wilkins queried the insurance position in various scenarios, which the Chief Executive clarified. Councillor Mrs Coyle also supported the deferral proposal, citing a need to look at how the premiums can be reduced or justified. The Chief Executive explained that subject to certain actions being carried out, the Council can make charges in excess of the market norm. Councillor Richards queried the less expensive insurances in the context of communal areas, access routes, etc. Councillor Smith referenced the information on such matters provided by the Association of British Insurers, suggesting that this be considered as part of the further research.

RESOLVED:-

Members deferred the matter to a future Committee for further investigation of the options available.

FM/59 **COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

RESOLVED:-

Members 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.

MINUTES

The Exempt Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th June 2016 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.

STRAY DOG COLLECTION AND KENNELING CONTRACT

RESOLVED:-

The Committee approved the recommendation made in the Report.

ICT DEVELOPMENT PLAN

RESOLVED:-

The Committee approved the recommendations made in the Report.

The meeting terminated at 7.15pm.

COUNCILLOR J HARRISON

CHAIRMAN