

ENVIRONMENTAL AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE (SPECIAL)

10th January 2013

PRESENT:-

Conservative Group

Councillor Watson (Chairman), and Councillors Mrs. Brown, Ford, Mrs. Hall, Lemmon (substitute for Councillor Roberts (Vice-Chairman)), Mrs. Patten and Stanton.

Labour Group

Councillors Chahal, Dunn, Mrs. Heath, Stuart, Taylor and Tilley.

In attendance

Councillors Atkin and Mrs. Plenderleith (Conservative Group).

EDS/40. **APOLOGY**

An Apology for absence from the Meeting was received from Councillor Roberts (Conservative Group).

MATTERS DELEGATED TO COMMITTEE

EDS/41. **SERVICE BASE BUDGETS 2013/14**

A report was submitted which informed Members of the Committee's proposed base budget for 2013/14, including an overview of the Committee's spending areas. It was proposed that the estimated income and expenditure was included in the consolidated budget of the Council for 2013/14, subject to the Council's overall medium term financial position. The report also set out proposals for levels of fees and charges under the responsibility of this Committee for the next financial year, and a summary was included of the Committee's existing capital investment programme.

This Committee was responsible for some large spending areas, which included waste collection and street cleansing, together with a range of services across Environmental Health. In addition, the Committee was also responsible for services where substantial amounts of income were generated for the Council. These included licensing and trade waste collections, plus building regulation applications, land charges and local planning applications. Income streams could have a big impact on the Council's overall financial position. However, they could be difficult to predict, and were subject to external factors. As previous budget and monitoring reports had highlighted in recent years, the on-going economic position has had a negative impact on these major income streams, which has impacted on the Council's overall financial position. Over the last year, there has been some levelling off and income has stabilised at estimated levels. However, the budgets proposed are still lower than currently assumed in the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP)

The Council's MTFP was reviewed and updated in October 2012, ahead of the Government detailed financial settlement for local authorities. Pressure remained on the medium term position with continuing reductions in government grant as set out in the 2010 Spending Review. During this budget round, all services were asked to look closely at current spending and to adopt a zero based approach to budgeting where possible.

Details of the Committee's overall net expenditure were provided, and it was estimated to increase overall between 2012/13 and 2013/14 by £36,246. An analysis of these variances was detailed.

In addition, an analysis of the main income streams was summarised within the report, along with a comparison of these areas compared to those, which were included in the MTFP. Overall, income for 2013/14 was estimated at approximately £90,000 below that forecast in the MTFP. This would affect overall resources and would need to be reviewed as part of the revised financial plan to be considered by the Finance and Management Committee on 17th January 2013.

Proposed base budgets for 2013/14 did not, at this stage allow for inflation. Some base costs would be subject to inflation during the year, and in some cases it would be unavoidable, for example employee costs if a national pay increase was approved. Allowances for inflation based on various assumptions regarding price increases etc, would be calculated across the main spending heads and, in total, held as a central contingency.

Details were given of the Council's approved Capital Investment Programme.

An appendix was provided which showed a schedule of the proposed levels of fees and charges that would operate from 1st April 2013, together with a comparison to the existing charge. Where applicable, VAT was also added at the standard rate. Key points relating to fees and charges were highlighted within the report.

RESOLVED:-

- (1) That the proposed revenue income and expenditure for 2013/14 for the Committee's Services be referred to the Finance and Management Committee for approval.***
- (2) That the proposed fees and charges for 2013/14 as detailed in an Appendix to the report be recommended for approval.***

EDS/42. **GAMBLING ACT 2005 – STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES**

Section 349 of the Gambling Act 2005 required that the Licensing Policy (Gambling) and Statement of Principles be reviewed every 3 years since its adoption in January 2010.

The Act introduced a licensing framework for gambling activities similar in many ways to the Licensing Act 2003. Licences were required for gambling operators, premises used for gambling activities and for individuals and

companies who intended to provide facilities for certain types of gambling. The Council is responsible for issuing premise licences, permits, and registrations.

The Act requires that the Licensing Authority consulted with interested parties prior to the adoption of their “Statement of Principles” for licensing. The consultation took place between 4th October 2012 and 15th November 2012. Members of the public, and all major stakeholders were invited to make comment.

4 responses were received in total, all confirming that they did not have any objections to the proposed amendments.

RESOLVED:-

That the Council’s Statement of Licensing Policy (Gambling) and Statement of Principles be approved.

P. WATSON

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting closed at 6.40 p.m.