

FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

19th March 2015

PRESENT:-

Conservative Group

Councillor Mrs Watson (Chairman), Councillor Jones (Vice-Chairman) and Councillors Murray, Smith, Watson and Wheeler

Labour Group

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

In Attendance

Councillors Atkin and Harrison.

FM/115 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from Councillor Hewlett.

FM/116 **MINUTES**

The Open minutes of the Meeting held on 15th January 2015 were taken as read, approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

FM/117 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Committee was informed that no Declarations of Interest had been received.

FM/118 **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/119 **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/120 **REPORTS OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

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

MATTERS DELEGATED TO COMMITTEE**FM/121 CORPORATE PLAN 2014/15: PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2014**

The Director of Finance and Corporate Services summarised the report, drawing attention to the fact that plans relating to Customer Services were behind schedule, that although capital targets had not quite been achieved, there was no major impact on financial plans and whilst sickness absence was improving for the third year running, it was still above the local government average.

(Councillor Murray joined the Meeting at 6.05pm)

RESOLVED:

That progress against performance targets be considered and approved.

FM/122 BUDGET AND FINANCIAL MONITORING 2014/15

The Director of Finance and Corporate Services referred to his report, highlighting concerns regarding costs at the depot, due to staffing and vehicle maintenance expenditure. The Director of Housing and Environmental Services is preparing a report for Committee, to address the issues at the depot. It was also reported that as a result of the tighter banking situation it was becoming more difficult to place money with the banks. With regard to benefits processing, although the position had improved back to normal performance levels, there was still a concern regarding future processing and the sustainability of additional resources currently in place. The recently approved Risk Based Verification scheme will help in this area, but the Director of Finance and Corporate Services is to present a report on the options relating to the Benefits Service at a future Committee. This report will also refer to the options as to how the DWP Atlas notifications are dealt with.

Queries relating to labour and fleet costs at the depot, a fleet replacement programme, agency arrangements, the roll out of and funding for Universal Credit (from September 2015 for South Derbyshire District Council), Council Tax arrears targets and the imminent demolition of a building in disrepair in Church Gresley were all responded to and noted.

RESOLVED:-

- 1) That the latest budget and financial monitoring figures for 2014/15 be considered and approved.***
- 2) That the additional costs in Waste and Cleansing, together with Transport Services be reviewed as a matter of urgency to reduce their incidence in 2015/16.***

The meeting terminated at 6.22pm

COUNCILLOR MRS. A. WATSON

CHAIRMAN