

FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

11th October 2018

PRESENT:-

Conservative Group

Councillor Harrison (Chairman) and Councillors Ford, Billings, Mrs Coe, Dr Coyle, Hewlett, Murray, Watson and MacPherson

Labour Group

Councillors Rhind, Richards, Southerd and Taylor

FM/69 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillor Smith (Conservative Group) substituted by Councillor MacPherson

FM/70 **MINUTES**

The Open Minutes of the Meetings held on 26th July 2018 and 30th August 2018 were taken as read, approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

FM/71 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

FM/72 **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/73 **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/74 **REPORTS OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

The Committee was informed that no reports had been received.

MATTERS DELEGATED TO COMMITTEE

FM/75 MODERN SLAVERY STATEMENT AND MODERN SLAVERY REFERRAL PROCEDURE

The Communities Manager presented the report to Committee, highlighting that in accordance with Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2018 the Council is required to have a Modern Slavery Statement. The Communities Manager confirmed that all Council employees will be provided with the guidance.

RESOLVED:

The Committee approved the new Modern Day Slavery Statement and Referral Procedure - Guidance for Employees Document.

FM/76 UPDATE TO THE FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2018/19

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) presented the report to Committee, highlighting that there had been little change since the last review other than terminology and a change to the funding streams. A review had been undertaken to ensure that the Strategy remains in line with the Corporate Plan.

RESOLVED:

1.1 The Committee approved the Financial Strategy in Appendix 1 to the report for 2018/19.

1.2 The Committee approved that an annual review of the Strategy is undertaken and any significant changes are reported to this Committee.

FM/77 REVIEW and PROPOSED USE OF EARMARKED RESERVES

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) presented the report to Committee. Members raised questions regarding the Earmarked Reserves, which were clarified by the Strategic Director.

RESOLVED:

1.1 The Committee approved the Planning Services Reserve be earmarked for capital investment to develop a corporate mapping and geographical information system.

1.2 The Committee approved that the Corporate Services Innovation Fund be transferred to the ICT Reserve.

1.3 The Committee approved the residual amount on the Play Equipment Reserve be transferred to the Leisure Maintenance Reserve.

1.4 The Committee approved that amounts set-aside for matters arising from the Localism Act 2011 be transferred to the General Fund Reserve as detailed in the Report.

FM/78 UPDATE TO THE MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL POSITION

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) presented the report, outlining the changes to affect the Council's medium-term financial position, highlighting the Growth provision, the increase in the New Homes Bonus, the retention of Business Rates, income from Industrial Units, Funding for Disability Grants and provisions for Waste and Recycling due to potential increases in recycling costs.

RESOLVED:

The Committee approved the following:

- 1.1 The updated Medium-term Financial Plan to 2024 on the General Fund and to 2029 on the Housing Revenue Account as detailed in the report and summarised in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 to the report.*
- 1.2 That the risks and assumptions detailed in the report for the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account be noted and that the Council continues its cautious approach to maintain financial stability ahead of the Government's Spending Review in 2019/20.*
- 1.3 That this strategy be reviewed half-yearly to ensure that potential budget deficits are addressed at the earliest opportunity.*
- 1.4 That efficiencies and budget savings continue to be pursued where opportunities arise to sustain the current financial position.*
- 1.5 That the financial projections provide the basis for planning and for setting the Base Budget for the General Fund and HRA for 2019/20.*
- 1.6 That the Council supports an application to the Government as part of the Derbyshire Pool to pilot 75% Business Rates Retention for 2019/20.*
- 1.7 That an update on progress of the Pilot be provided at the next Committee meeting on 29th November 2018.*
- 1.8 That any additional New Homes Bonus received above the level forecast is earmarked for future growth and transferred to the Growth Provision.*
- 1.9 That the Government's Technical Consultation regarding Social Housing Rents from 2020/21 as detailed in the report be noted.*

FM/79 ANNUAL TRAINING REPORT 2017/18 AND PRIORITIES FOR 2018/19

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) presented the report, highlighting that there was an increase in attendance at Mandatory Courses

however due to employee absence it was not 100%. Further mandatory training would be provided in areas such as Safeguarding, Data Security and Equality and Diversity.

RESOLVED:

1.1 The Committee approved the priority areas for training and development during 2018/19, which are linked to the delivery of the key priorities of the Council's Corporate Plan.

1.2 The Committee noted the range of training activities and actions provided during 2017/18.

FM/80 **POTENTIALLY VIOLENT PERSONS POLICY**

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) presented the report to the Committee, highlighting the responsibility to protect employees at work under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, and providing additional protection in terms of having a Corporate Register of persons and/or properties where incidents of violence or threatening behaviour has been encountered.

Members raised queries relating to protection being provided to them and accessing the Corporate register, which were clarified by the Chief Executive and the Strategic Director.

RESOLVED:

The Committee approved the Potentially Violent Persons Policy (Appendix 1 to the report) as part of the Council's Health and Safety Management framework.

FM/81 **UPDATED HOUSING STRATEGY ACTION PLAN 2018/19**

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) presented the report to the Committee.

RESOLVED:

1.1 Following approval by Housing and Community Services Committee, the Committee approved the 12 month interim Housing Strategy Action Plan and proposed timescales for delivery attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

1.2 The Committee noted that a new three-year Health and Housing Strategy is to be compiled and brought back to Members for approval in Autumn 2019.

FM/82 **COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

RESOLVED:

The Committee considered and approved the updated work programme.

FM/83 **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 26th July 2018 and 30th August 2018 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.

FORMER TENANT ARREARS/ TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION DEBT WRITE-OFF (Paragraph 3)

The Committee approved the recommendations in the report.

STAFFING – CUSTOMER SERVICES (Paragraph 1)

The Committee approved the recommendations in the report.

STAFFING: REVENUES, BENEFITS AND CUSTOMER SERVICES FEEDBACK FROM CONSULTATION WITH STAFF AND TRADE UNIONS (Paragraph 1)

The Committee approved the recommendations in the report.

The meeting terminated at 6.55pm.

COUNCILLOR J HARRISON

CHAIRMAN