

# Public Document Pack

**Date of meeting**      **Wednesday, 14th June, 2017**

**Time**                      **7.00 pm**

**Venue**                    **Committee Room 1, Civic Offices, Merrial Street,  
Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire, ST5 2AG**

**Contact**                 **Jayne Briscoe 2250**



**Civic Offices  
Merrial Street  
Newcastle-under-Lyme  
Staffordshire  
ST5 2AG**

## **Finance, Resources and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee**

### **AGENDA**

#### **PART 1– OPEN AGENDA**

- 1      Apologies**
- 2      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**  
To receive Declarations of Interest from Members on items included in the agenda
- 3      MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS** **(Pages 3 - 6)**  
To consider the minutes of the previous meeting held on 25 January 2017
- 4      Presentation by the ICT Operations and Development Manager  
- IT Security**
- 5      Presentation by the Partnerships Manager - Partnership  
arrangements with the Borough Council**
- 6      WORK PLAN** **(Pages 7 - 10)**  
To discuss and update the work plans to reflect current scrutiny topics
- 7      PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**  
Any member of the public wishing to submit a question must serve two clear days' notice, in writing, of any such question to the Borough Council.
- 8      URGENT BUSINESS**

To consider any business which is urgent within the meaning of Section 100B (4) of the Local Government Act 1972.

**Members:** Councillors Fear, Frankish, Pickup, Proctor, Spence (Vice-Chair), Stubbs, S Tagg, Waring, White (Vice-Chair), Wilkes, Winfield (Chair) and Wright

<p><b>‘Members of the Council: If you identify any personal training / development requirements from the items included in this agenda or through issues raised during the meeting, please bring them to the attention of the Committee Clerk at the close of the meeting’</b></p>
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**FIELD\_TITLE**

## **FINANCE, RESOURCES AND PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, 25th January, 2017  
Time of Commencement: 6.30 pm

**Present:-** Councillor Joan Winfield – in the Chair

Councillors Fear, Frankish, T Hambleton, Loades, Pickup, Proctor, Spence, Waring, Wilkes and Wright

Officers Jayne Briscoe - Scrutiny Officer and Executive Director (Resources and Support Services) - Kelvin Turner

### **1. APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies.

### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 12 December 2016 be agreed as a correct record.

### **4. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY - 2017/18**

The Executive Director Resources and Support Services presented the Treasury Management Strategy for 2017/18. The report set out in line with CIPFA requirements the management of the local authority's investments and cash flows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions.

**Agreed:** That the Committee approve the strategy for submission to the Full Council on 22 February 2017.

### **5. REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET 2017/18**

The Executive Director (Resources and Support Services) submitted this report which provided members with the opportunity to scrutinise the draft Budget and Council Tax proposals. The report had been approved by Cabinet on 18 January 2017 when they requested any comments from the Finance, Resources and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee for them to consider at their meeting on 8 February 2017.

### **Comments from Scrutiny Members**

A few members of the Committee considered that the Capital Programme was not aspirational and they were disappointed that it did not make best use of assets and failed to display confidence to encourage investment into the Borough.

Specifically concern was expressed that only £500k was included in the 2017/18 Capital Programme.

Members asked Cabinet to look again at the Capital Asset Management Strategy, which had been agreed some time ago, and to move forward with the sale of these assets.

Supporting this view, a member considered that a more imaginative capital asset programme should be drawn up in line with the agreed asset management strategy.

A specific area of land at Keele Golf Course was put forward as an asset that may be brought into play.

In response, the Executive Director Resources and Support Services agreed that the Capital Programme for 2017/18 was severely constrained by the availability of funding but he added that the alternative of borrowing had revenue consequences. The schemes included in the programme were those which were most urgently required to be carried out to ensure continued service delivery, to safeguard income or to ensure health and safety compliance.

Members suggested that in future it would be useful to see previous income levels, as a comparison, in respect of the budget items that were experiencing a decrease in revenue e.g. car parks and Kidsgrove Leisure Centre.

In respect of Kidsgrove Leisure Centre members requested a comparison of costs per head/per visit with J2. The Executive Director Resources and Support Services agreed to circulate this to all members of the Scrutiny Committee.

### **Notable Achievements in 2016/17**

A number of members felt that this section should be renamed **Outcomes** with a reduction in the number of statements (max 12,) with demonstrable achievements and that the outcomes be highlighted. All efficiency measures should be grouped together under one heading.

Certain Members agreed that the document set out wishes together with a narrative of processes which should already be embedded within council.

Members congratulated the Council on its achievements in the Heart of England in Bloom competition. They also felt it was noteworthy that Clayton Sports Centre had been refurbished at a cost of approximately £350,000 with over 95% of external funding.

There were a number of suggestions in relation to the narrative which are set out below:-.

In relation to the recycling service and the redesigned integrated enquires system a member considered that an optimal service level had not been achieved as there was a 28 day delay in the response times.

With regard to the monitoring of contracts a member requested that a report be submitted to this Committee on any leakage of work.

A member asked that the report include the outcomes in relation to the delivery of the Local Police and Crime Plan.

With regard to the portfolio vacancy rate a member requested that national comparators be included in any future report to offer a clearer perspective of the Boroughs performance in this area.

In relation to the implementation of a land/property disposal programme members pointed out that forward motion on this had not yet been fully achieved.

A member requested information relating to the number of apprentices employed by the Borough.

A member asked for anticipated outcomes from the Northern Gateway to be listed.

The gratitude from the Parish Councils was extended in respect of the 4 year adjustment period for Section 136 Contributions.

A member suggested that the CCGs be encouraged to become a tenant of the Hub.

**Agreed;** That the comments of this Scrutiny Committee be forwarded to the Cabinet for consideration prior to the final decision on the Revenue and Capital Budget 2017/18.

**6. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

**7. URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no Urgent Business.

**8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - MONDAY 13 MARCH 2017**

**COUNCILLOR JOAN WINFIELD**  
**Chair**

Meeting concluded at 8.30 pm

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Members: Fear, Frankish,  
Pickup, Proctor, Spence, Stubbs,  
S. Tagg, Waring, Winfield,  
Wilkes, Wright

## **FINANCE, RESOURCES AND PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PLAN**



**Chair: Councillor Mrs Winfield**

**Vice Chair: Councillor Spence**

**Portfolio Holder(s) covering the Committee's remit:**

**Councillor Elizabeth Shenton (Policy, People and Partnerships)**

**Councillor Terry Turner (Finance, IT and Customer)**

**Councillor John Williams (Town Centres, Property and Business)**

**Work Plan correct as at: Tuesday 31st May 2017**

**The areas that the Finance, Resources and Partnership Scrutiny Committee may wish to scrutinise includes:**

- |  |                                  |   |
|--|----------------------------------|---|
| •Communications and consultation                           | •Risk Champion                   | •Health & Safety Champion               |
| •Council structure and democracy and constitutional review | •Accountancy                     | •Human Resources                        |
| •Customer contact and customer service centres             | •Budget                          | •Information & Communication Technology |
| •Neighbourhood and locality working                        | •Capital and Revenue Expenditure | •Procurement Champion                   |
| •Partnerships: Newcastle Partnership Strategic Board       | •Efficiency savings              | •Treasury Management                    |
| •Performance management and monitoring                     | •Financial monitoring            | •Workforce Development                  |
| •Revenues and benefits                                     |                                  | •Co-operative Council                   |

Date of Meeting	Item	Reason for Undertaking
<b>14 June 2017 (agenda dispatch 6 June 2017)</b>	Finance, Resources and Partnership Scrutiny Committee Work Plan	To discuss the Work Plan and potential topics that Committee Members would like to scrutinise over the forthcoming year
<b>14 September 2017 (agenda dispatch 6 September 2017)</b>	Draft Medium Term Financial Strategy	To review an update on the Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2018/2019 and the following four years, indicating the projected budgets for these years and the shortfall compared to available resources.
<b>1 November 2017 (agenda dispatch 24 October 2017)</b>	Draft Revenue Budget Savings 2018/19	To review progress on the completion of the revenue and capital budgets for 2018/2019 to enable a robust and affordable budget to be approved
	Draft Scale of Fees and Charges	Review of the fees and charges which the Council makes in order to keep them in line with the cost of service provision and to establish the amounts to be included in the 2018/2019 budget
	Finance, Resource and Partnership Scrutiny Committee Work Plan	To discuss the work plan and potential topics that Committee Members would like to scrutinise over the forthcoming year
<b>24 January 2018 (agenda dispatch 6 January 2018)</b>	Draft Treasury Management Strategy 2018/19	To review the Strategy to be followed by the Council in carrying out its treasury management activity in the forthcoming year 2018/19
	Revenue and Capital Budgets 2018/2019	To consider the Revenue and Capital Budget 2018/2019 before it is considered by Council
<b>12 March 2018 (agenda dispatch 2 March 2018)</b>		
<b>13 June 2018 (agenda dispatch 5 June 2018)</b>		



<b>Suggestion for Potential Future Items:</b>	
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