

FINANCE, RESOURCES AND PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Thursday, 5th October, 2017
Time of Commencement: 7.00 pm

Present:- Councillor Joan Winfield – in the Chair

Councillors Fear, Frankish, Pickup, Spence, Stubbs,
S Tagg, Waring and Wright

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

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 14 June 2017 be agreed as a correct record.

3. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY

The Executive Director (Resources and Support Services) submitted a report which provided members of the Committee with the opportunity to scrutinise the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS).

A link to the previous year's document was provided along with the covering report to Cabinet.

Members asked for an explanation and clarification of the assumptions in a number of areas within the MTFS Summary including:-

- Employee incremental increases
- Pay awards
- Superannuation and National Insurance increases
- Premises
- Fees and charges
- Other costs (including energy)
- New pressures

The Executive Director responded and addressed each of the points raised.

Discussions moved on to the use of credit cards by residents to pay council tax. In this respect it was clarified that the Council currently charges 1.3% on credit card transactions which generates about £8,000 of income annually. This amount will be lost post January when the new regulations come into force.

A member raised the slightly confusing representation of increased collection rates and how this resulted in a budgetary pressure. The Executive Director clarified the reasons and agreed that this item should receive a more detailed explanation in the final report to Cabinet.

The Executive Director responding to a question on savings following the move to all-out elections explained that this would be reported back as part of the overall savings plan

The Chair suggested that all the Chairs of Scrutiny be invited to attend future meetings of this Scrutiny Committee to observe for information purposes on the budgetary setting process and especially in respect of the services within their remit. This was supported by the Committee.

Agreed That the Scrutiny Committee recommend to Cabinet approval of the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2018/19 to 2022/23.

4. **WORK PLAN**

With regard to the report of the investigation by the Association of Election Administrators into the 8 June election process the Chair pointed out that this had not yet been received and clarified that the role of this scrutiny committee would be to examine any recommendations..

In respect of the November meeting it was agreed that, due to the need for staff to concentrate on the move to Castle House, a report on the time taken to answer calls to the Contact Centre would be considered at the January meeting.

5. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

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

6. **URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no Urgent Business.

7. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on 1 November 2107

COUNCILLOR JOAN WINFIELD
Chair

Meeting concluded at 7.40 pm