

FINANCE, RESOURCES AND PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE.

Thursday, 28th January, 2016

Present:- Councillor Mike Stubbs – in the Chair
Councillors Dymond, Hambleton, Loades, Pickup, Sweeney, Waring, Wilkes and Williams

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Waring declared an interest in relation to the Go Kidsgrove item

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 3 December be agreed as a correct record.

3. GO KIDSGROVE

Mr Ashton provided a brief overview of the work that had been carried out by Go Kidsgrove. Mr Ashton stated that the Company would be in a much better position to take on responsibility for the Christmas lights once funding had been withdrawn by the Borough Council. Work was being undertaken to keep litter down and social media was being used to help keep all members and residents up to date.

Members asked Mr Ashton how the relationship was between the Town Council and the Partnership; Mr Ashton stated that Chairs of the various bodies including the Town Centre LAP, the Borough Council and Go Kidsgrove met quarterly to discuss workloads and that this was helping to enhance partnership working.

Some concerns were raised regarding the apparent apathy amongst local traders who did not appear to be engaging with the partnership.

Members also questioned why the £10,000 originally provided to the partnership had not all been spent. Mr Ashton stated that a lot of services had been provided in kind which had meant that the money had not had to be spent in many cases.

Members questioned with there was a newsletter for the partnership. Mr Ashton confirmed that there was a quarterly piece in the Kidsgrove news and that there had previously been a monthly newsletter published with the help of Trudie Barnard from the Borough Council. The suggestion was made that the newsletters be placed in local shops rather than delivered door to door.

Resolved: That the information be received and the comments noted.

4. QUARTER THREE FINANCIAL AND PERFORMANCE REVIEW

A report was submitted to provide the Committee with the Financial and Performance Review report - third quarter 2015/16. The report provided information on a quarterly basis regarding the performance of individual council services, alongside related

financial information on the organisation. The report would be presented to Cabinet on 10 February 2016.

Resolved: That Members note the contents of the attached report and agree to the recommendation that the Council continues to monitor and scrutinise performance alongside the latest financial information for the same period.

5. **REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGETS**

A report was submitted to provide the Committee with an opportunity to scrutinise the draft Budget and Council Tax proposals before the final proposals were considered at Cabinet in February 2016.

The report had been presented to the Cabinet at its meeting on 20 January 2016. Members considered the report and the request was made that officers and Cabinet look into the costs associated with the new waste and recycling service and how it was being funded and whether there were alternative options.

Members also questioned whether community centres were starting to look at grants to help fund larger pieces of work. Officers stated that this was already happening and that a heritage bid was already going in for the Borough Museum and Art Gallery. Members also congratulated Dave Adams, Rob Foster and Andy Arnott for the work undertaken at the Sports Hall at Lillishall Road in Clayton; this work had included securing a bid for additional funding.

Resolved: That Cabinet look into the costs associated with the new waste and recycling service and how it was being funded and whether there were alternative options.

6. **TREASURY MANAGEMENT**

A report was submitted requesting the Committee to consider the content of and scrutinise the Treasury Management Strategy for 2016/17, including the Prudential Indicators, Investment Strategy and Minimum Revenue Provision Strategy contained within it.

The Council needed to have an approved Treasury Management Strategy for 2016/17 in place before the start of the 2016/17 financial year.

At the Council meeting of 24 June 2009 it was resolved that the strategy be scrutinised by the Finance, Resources and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee before being submitted for approval by Full Council. The strategy would be submitted to the Full Council for approval at its meeting on 24 February 2016.

Clarification was sought that amendments could still be tabled at the meeting of Full Council in February; this was confirmed by officers.

Resolved: (i) That the Committee consider and scrutinise the content of the Treasury Management Strategy for 2016/17.

(ii) That the Committee approve the strategy for submission to the Full Council on 24 February 2016.

7. **WORK PLAN**

Members considered the work plan and the following additions were requested:

- a) An item regarding the Newcastle Business Improvement District.
- b) An item regarding how risks are reported to the Audit and Risk Committee.
- c) An update on the work being carried out by the Kidsgrove Leisure Centre Cabinet Panel.

8. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no public questions

9. **URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no Urgent Business.

COUNCILLOR MIKE STUBBS
Chair