

The Executive – 5 November 2014

Minutes of the meeting of **The Executive** held on **5 November 2014** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr T G Cutmore
Vice-Chairman: Cllr K H Hudson

Cllr Mrs G A Lucas-Gill
Cllr Mrs J E McPherson
Cllr Mrs C E Roe

Cllr S P Smith
Cllr M J Steptoe
Cllr I H Ward

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Cllr K J Gordon.

OFFICERS PRESENT

A Dave - Chief Executive
Y Woodward - Head of Finance
L Bliss - Senior Corporate Communications Officer
J Bostock - Member Services Manager

234 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 15 October 2014 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

235 QUARTER 2 2014/15 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT REPORT

The Portfolio Holder for Finance, Councillor S P Smith, presented the report on financial management for the second quarter of 2014/15.

Responding to questions, the Head of Finance explained the financial benefits to the Council associated with the new leisure contractor, Fusion, paying business rates as a registered charity and to the treatment of VAT in relation to the contract. The Head of Finance also advised that:-

- In the future, the appropriate Portfolio Holder could be informed of proposed write-offs when they are at a level whereby the Chief Finance Officer is required to consult the Leader or the Executive.
- The approach with regard to recouping monies from Holmes Place had been a matter for a previous Head of Service.
- Future reports on contracts for tender could include brackets to distinguish income from expenditure.

Members endorsed the observation of the Portfolio Holder that, overall, the current financial position was quite good. Changes made to car park charging arrangements were of note in terms of benefits for the customer. It was also

observed that it would be good to see more publicity given to the car parking pay by phone facility. Notwithstanding that the Council would not want to introduce additional costs, references to the phone facility on car park signage was quite small.

Resolved

- (1) That the current year-end forecasts for the revenue budgets of the Council based on financial performance in period April to September of the financial year 2014/15, as shown in appendix 1 of the report, be noted.
- (2) That the current financial performance on key financial indicators, as shown in appendix 2 of the report, be noted.
- (3) That the quarter 2 capital monitoring report, as shown in appendix 3 of the report, be noted and agreed.
- (4) That the contracts due to be competitively tendered in quarter 3 2014/15, as shown in appendix 4 of the report, be noted.
- (5) That the amount recommended for write off relating to historic leisure contract invoices, as detailed in paragraph 3.4 of the report, be approved. (HF)

236 CUSTOMER FEEDBACK UPDATE AND FREEDOM OF INFORMATION STATISTICS APRIL TO SEPTEMBER 2014

The Portfolio Holder for People and Technology, Councillor Mrs G A Lucas-Gill, presented the report on customer feedback and freedom of information statistics for April to September 2014.

Members concurred with the observation of the Chairman that it was good to see that compliments outnumbered complaints and that a news release on this would be appropriate. It was also observed that a high number of complaints emanated from the same sources.

Resolved

That the customer feedback and freedom of information statistics for April – September 2014 be noted. (HF)

237 COUNCIL TAX DISCOUNTS

The Portfolio Holder for Governance, Councillor Mrs C E Roe, presented the report on the application on new powers and flexibilities to amend certain Council Tax discounts.

The Portfolio Holder for Community, Cllr Mrs J E McPherson, advised that officers were considering possibilities around the question of whether private landlords could attract some form of Council Tax discount if they were prepared to free up property for persons on the Council's housing register. A

report on this matter would be considered by the Portfolio Holder. Members recognised that this was not a straight forward subject and that full account would need to be taken of potential costs and other implications for both landlords and the Authority.

Recommended to Council

- (1) That, with effect from 1 April 2015, the Council Tax discount for unoccupied and unfurnished dwellings be reduced from 100% for up to one month to 0% (Class C of the Council Tax (Prescribed Classes of Dwellings) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2012).
- (2) That, with effect from 1 April 2015, the Council Tax discount for unoccupied properties that either require, or are undergoing, major repair works or are under structural repairs be reduced from 50% for 12 months to 0% for 12 months (Class D of the Council Tax (Prescribed Classes of Dwellings) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2012). (HF)

EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the remaining business on the grounds that exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1 and 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 would be disclosed.

238 BUSINESS RATES WRITE OFFS

The Portfolio for Governance, Councillor Mrs C E Roe, presented the exempt report of the writing off of some business rates.

Resolved

- (1) That the sum of £15,159.95 for non domestic rates in relation to the first case in the exempt report be written off.
- (2) That the sum of £47,750.58 for non domestic rates in relation to the second case in the exempt report be written off. (HF)

239 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S APPRAISAL

Members received and noted the exempt report of the Chief Executive's mid-year appraisal and the progress on key objectives determined for the financial year 2014/15.

The Chairman referred to the comprehensive nature of the new approach to appraisals.

The Executive – 5 November 2014

The meeting closed at 7.58 pm

Chairman

Date

If you would like these minutes in large print, Braille or another language please contact 01702 318111.