

AUDIT AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 25th November 2010 at Retford Town Hall

Present:

Councillors: P C Offer (Chair)
H Burton, C Entwistle, G J Evans, M T Gray, S Greaves, J W Holland, S May,
D Potts, J B Rickells, Mrs A Simpson, S Toms, A A D Tromans, C Troop and
Mrs E M Yates

Also present: D Armiger, S Brown, A Burton, C Crossland, M Hill, L Hull, M Ladyman, S Pearson,
and T Winfield

Standards Committee Member: Mr G Law

25. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs V A Bowles, D Challinor, G Freeman,
W Graham, B Jones, Mrs J F Smith and G J Wynne.

26. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

(a) Members

Councillor A A D Tromans declared a personal interest in Agenda Item No 6(a) – Budget Monitoring and Capital Programme Update Report to 30th September 2010 as he is a member of the A1 Housing Board. He stated that he would remain in the meeting.

Councillor Mrs C Troop declared a personal interest in Agenda Item No 6(a) – Budget Monitoring and Capital Programme Update Report to 30th September 2010 as she is a member of the A1 Housing Board. She stated that she would remain in the meeting.

(b) Officers

There were no declarations of interest by officers.

27. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 23RD SEPTEMBER 2010

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd September 2010 be approved.

28. MINUTES FOR ACTION AND IMPLEMENTATION

RESOLVED that the Minutes for Action be received.

29. OUTSTANDING MINUTES LIST

The Committee were informed that at Minute 16(b), the verbal update on Sundry Debtors would be covered by A Burton in Item No. 7(b)

RESOLVED that the Outstanding Minutes List be received.

Key Decisions

None

Other Decisions

30. REPORT(S) OF THE DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES

(a) Budget Monitoring and Capital Programme Update Report to 30th September 2010

Members were informed of: the spending position for the period 1st April to 30th September 2010 for the council's General Fund, Housing Revenue and Capital Programme; any significant variances from the approved budgets; the requested approval for variations and additions to the existing Capital Programme; proposed resourcing of the Capital Programme and the level of Council capital resources available, including capital receipts; updates on regeneration projects and sites that are not monitored through the Council's Capital Programme; updates on Treasury Management Budget issues; and the regular quarterly update on performance against the approved Treasury Management Prudential Indicators for the period ending 30th September 2010.

The report was presented at the Cabinet Meeting on the 2nd November, giving details on: General Fund Revenue; Housing Revenue Account; Capital Programme Expenditure; Capital Programme Resourcing; Capital Programme Expenditure, Capital Receipts; Updates on Key External Regeneration Sites; and Treasury Management.

The Head of Finance and Property commented on the difficulties of making projections in the current economic climate. It is anticipated that there will be an overspend of £0.587m on the overall General Fund budget, this is primarily from anticipated reduction in fees and charges receipts, increased housing, council tax benefit costs and changes to the Housing Subsidy interest rates that have a detrimental impact on the costs of long term borrowing.

The current projections are that there will be an £0.185m underspend on the Housing Revenue Account due to savings on the costs of long-term borrowings and that £9m has been spent during the second quarter for the Capital Programme Expenditure.

The Head of Finance and Property commented that in relation to the Housing Revenue Account in the future Councils may have to take on additional housing debt but will be able to keep all the rent and sales receipts they collect which will be a benefit to the Council.

Elected Members raised issues on the budget allocated to the proposed cinema; the contaminated land at Misterton; recovery of monies from Icelandic banks and additional costs incurred for the new pedestal for Worksop War Memorial.

RESOLVED that:

- (1) The Budget Monitoring and Capital Programme Update Report to 30th September 2010 be noted.
- (2) Details of the additional costs incurred for the new Worksop War Memorial Pedestal be provided to the committee.

31. REPORT(S) OF THE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

(a) Corporate Plan Scorecard – Quarter 2 – 2010/11

Members were presented with a report which provided a compressive update regarding the performance of the Councils Corporate Plan 2010-2013. The Scorecard covers the 4 priorities of the Corporate Plan: Customer, People, Process, Financial.

The Performance Improvement Officer commented that under each priority is an update of the Corporate Plan projects and that beneath the projects are the Council's Performance Indicators that link to the Corporate Plan Priorities. For Quarter 2 no risks have been identified.

The Head of Revenues and Customer Service informed Members that the Sundry Debt Report is available to view on the Covalent system.

Members asked questions relating to Retford Market; derelict land/buildings; and Worksop's former library building.

RESOLVED that the Corporate Plan Scorecard be received and performance noted for Quarter 2 of 2010/11

(b) Service Scorecards – Quarter 2 – 2010/11

Members were presented with a report which provided a comprehensive update regarding individual Service performance. The scorecards covered four key areas: Customer, People, Process, Financial. The information used to populate the report is held on Covalent which all can access.

Each Head of Service or their representative presented their scorecard report, copies of which were appended to the report. For Quarter 2 no risks had been identified.

Members asked questions relating to Retford Market, derelict land/buildings, the Consilium contract, target-setting, Community Safety funding, electoral registration returns, Sandy Lane Play Park and the percentage of employees leaving the organisation annually.

RESOLVED that:

- (1) The Service Scorecards are received and performance noted for Quarter 2 2010/11
- (2) An update on Community Safety Partnership budget issues and the electoral register canvass be provided to members.

SECTION B – ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION IN PRIVATE

Key Decisions

None.

Other Decisions

None.

32. ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS TO BE URGENT

As there was no other urgent business to consider, the Chairman closed the meeting.