

Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee and Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on 6 February 2018

Summary of comments made on the Executive Agenda for Wednesday 6 February 2018

3. **2018/19 General Fund Budget & Council Tax**

The Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee recognised the challenge of depreciation of our assets within accounts and asked that any work that can be done to provide funds for replacing and maintaining assets should be taken.

The Committee agreed to add to their work programme a review of the budgeted reserves to ensure they are necessary and appropriate.

The Committee support the use of new homes bonus for specific projects and not being used to support core general fund service.

4. Treasury Management Strategy 2018/19

The Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee supported the recommendations in the report and asked for the equity fund options to be shared with Councillors before this is considered by Council in February.

5. Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget 2018/19 and Housing Rents

The Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee supported the recommendations up in the report.

6. Heating, Lighting and Water Charges 2018/19 - Council Tenants

The Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee supported the recommendations up in the report.

7. Creation of additional car parking provision in Leamington

The Joint meeting of the Finance & Audit and Overview & Scrutiny Committee recognised the significant public interest in this item, there was a significant debate on this with all parties contributing to the discussion and there were concerns about the proposals for a number of reasons, however on being put to the vote the majority supported the recommendations 2.1 to 2.6.

In addition the Committee made two recommendations to the Executive these were

- (1) to explore if Riverside House can be used in weekdays as well as weekends; and
- (2) that any further options brought forward should be consulted on with stakeholders.

8. Recommendations for the Commissioning of Voluntary and Community Sector services for 2018-2021

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee noted the report but raised concerns regarding the reduction in allocation for the community forums.

10. **Private Sector Leasing Scheme**

The Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee supported the recommendations up in the report.

11. Leisure Development Programme – Phase II (Kenilworth)

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee noted the recommendations in the report.

12. Events Review Update

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee agreed to include the proposed report within their work plan.

13. **2018/19 ICT Services Digital Work Programme**

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee noted the recommendations in the report.

14 Investment in Newbold Comyn Arms Manor House

The Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee supported and accepted assurances that the agreement will seek to minimise any risk to the Council of any hiatus in the business or loss of key equipment, in the event of the contractor failing or withdrawing'.

15. Investment in Playbox Theatre

The Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee supported the recommendations in the report, but asked that before the loan is provided assurance is sought from them that the sponsorship and grants are recurring and that the theatre should be encouraged to undertake more fundraising themselves.

16(B) Significant Business Risk Register

The Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee did not comment on this item, have added it to their work plan for next meeting and ask that the Leader or his Deputy plus Councillor Whiting to attend their meeting.

18. Proposed purchase of the site of the former Stoneleigh Arms, Royal Leamington Spa

The Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee noted that there had been an independent valuation of the premises which was considered reasonable and that the Deputy Chief Executive (BH) would circulate this valuation to the Executive before they take this decision.

Urgent Item - Beauchamp House - 77-79 Coten End

The Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee supported the recommendations in the report including a revised wording to recommendation 2.1 so it reads "in the region of" and not "exceeding".

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee noted the report including a revised wording to recommendation 2.1 so it reads "in the region of" and not "exceeding".