

FINANCE AND AUDIT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 11 February 2014 at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.00pm.

PRESENT: Councillor Barrott (Chair): Councillors Mrs Knight, MacKay, Mrs Mellor, Pittarello, Mrs Sawdon, Mrs Syson and Williams.

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Shilton (Portfolio Holder).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs Bunker, Pratt and Rhead.

138. **SUBSTITUTES**

There were no substitutes.

139. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Minute 146 – Executive Agenda (Confidential Items & Reports) – Executive item 23 – 10, 12 & 14 Chapel Street, Warwick

Councillor Mrs Sawdon declared an interest because she was a governor of Warwick School. She did not take part in the discussion or decision, but left the meeting for the duration of the item.

140. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 January 2014 were taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

141. **EXECUTIVE AGENDA (NON-CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS & REPORTS)**

The Committee considered the following non-confidential items which would be discussed at the meeting of the Executive on Wednesday 12 February 2014.

Item 15 – Future delivery of off-street parking enforcement

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.

(Councillor Shilton left the meeting at the conclusion of this item)

142. **PUBLIC AND PRESS**

RESOLVED that under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item, by reason of the likely disclosure of exempt information

within paragraphs 1, 3 and 7 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

The full text of Minute 143 was recorded in a confidential minute which was to be considered for publication following implementation of the relevant decisions. A summary is as follows:

143. EXECUTIVE AGENDA (CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS & REPORTS)

The Committee considered the following confidential item which would be discussed at the meeting of the Executive on Wednesday 12 February 2014.

Item 24 – Extension of Adaptation Building Works Contract

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.

144. EXECUTIVE AGENDA (NON-CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS & REPORTS)

The Committee considered the following non-confidential items which would be discussed at the meeting of the Executive on Wednesday 12 February 2014.

Urgent Item – Proposed exemption from the Code of Procurement Practice

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.

(Councillor Mrs Mellor left the meeting during the course of this item)

Item 6 – Housing Revenue Account Budget 2014/15 and Housing Rents

The Committee supported the recommendations, except to put forward an alternative to recommendation 2.2, which the Committee suggested as an incentive to encourage tenants to downsize.

The alternative to recommendation 2.2 was; that if an existing District Council tenant transfers to a void property, the tenant should still be eligible for their current level of rent and not the capped formula ('target') social rent.

Item 7 – Heating, Lighting and Water Charges 2014/15 – Council Tenants

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.

Item 16 – Public Service Network (PSN) Compliance

The Committee recommended to the Executive that recommendation 2.2 be amended to read "for up to 17 Councillors".

For clarification, the recommendation, if approved, would now read:

"The Executive approve for a trial period the introduction of the following IT provision, for up to 17 Councillors, for either:
(a) A 3G iPad and printer but no broadband allowance, printed copies of agendas or printer consumables; or
(b) VDI desk top, printer, broadband allowance and printer consumables."

145. PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED that under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item, by reason of the likely disclosure of exempt information within paragraphs 1, 3 and 7 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

The full text of Minute 146 was recorded in a confidential minute which was to be considered for publication following implementation of the relevant decisions. A summary is as follows:

146. EXECUTIVE AGENDA (CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS & REPORTS)

The Committee considered the following confidential items which would be discussed at the meeting of the Executive on Wednesday 12 February 2014.

Item 22 – Housing with Care Opportunity at St Michael’s Chapel and Master’s House, Saltisford (Leper Hospital)

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.

Item 23 – 10, 12 & 14 Chapel Street, Warwick

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report, including additional recommendation 2.2 which was set out in the addendum.

(Councillor Mrs Sawdon left the meeting for the duration of this item, having declared an interest)

147. EXECUTIVE AGENDA (NON-CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS & REPORTS)

The Committee considered the following non-confidential items which would be discussed at the meeting of the Executive on Wednesday 12 February 2014.

Item 11 – Peer Challenge Improvement Plan Update

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.

Item 12 – 2nd Warwick Sea Scouts’ Headquarters

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.

Item 13 – Car Parking - National Bowls Championships

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.

Item 14 – Economic Development Action Plan – National Bowls Championships

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report and suggested that officers consider looking at how the Council could incentivise use of Covent Garden Car Park in some way, perhaps by offering a free car park ticket in a leaflet to be distributed on the first day of the championships, or by including a free ticket in the championship programme.

(Councillors Pittarello and Mrs Sawdon left the meeting at the conclusion of this item)

Item 5 – Budget 2014/15 and Council Tax – Revenue and Capital

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.

(Councillor MacKay left the meeting during the course of this item)

148. **COMMENTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE**

A report from Civic and Committee Services summarised the Executive’s response to comments which the Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee gave on reports submitted to the Executive on 8 January 2014.

RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted.

149. **FORWARD PLAN**

The Committee considered the latest published version of the Forward Plan.

One of the five main roles of overview and scrutiny in local government was to undertake pre-decision scrutiny of Executive decisions. If the Committee had an interest in a future decision to be made by the Executive it was within the Committee’s remit to feed into the process.

The Forward Plan detailed the future work programme for the Executive. If a non-Executive Member highlighted a decision which was to be taken by the Executive which they would like to be involved in, Members could then provide useful background to the Committee when the report was submitted to the Executive and they were passing comment on it.

RESOLVED that, at present, there were no forthcoming Executive decisions which Members wished to have an input into before the Executive make their decision.

150. **REVIEW OF THE WORK PROGRAMME**

A report from Civic and Committee Services detailed the Committee's work programme for 2013/14 and 2014/15.

RESOLVED that the work programme for 2013/14 and 2014/15 be noted.

151. **PUBLIC AND PRESS**

RESOLVED that under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following items, by reason of the likely disclosure of exempt information within paragraphs 1, 3 and 7 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

The full text of Minutes 152 and 153 were recorded in a confidential minute which was to be considered for publication following implementation of the relevant decisions. A summary is as follows:

152. **MINUTES (CONFIDENTIAL)**

The confidential minutes of the meeting held on 7 January 2014 were agreed as a correct record.

153. **COMMENTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE – APPENDIX 2 (CONFIDENTIAL)**

A report from Civic and Committee Services summarised the Executive's response to comments which the Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee gave on reports submitted to the Executive on 8 January 2014.

(The meeting ended at 8.45 pm)