

FINANCE AND AUDIT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 6 August 2013 at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.00pm.

PRESENT: Councillors Mrs Bromley, Dagg, MacKay, Rhead, Mrs Sawdon, Mrs Syson, Weber, Weed and Williams.

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Mobbs (Portfolio Holder for Finance).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Barrott, Mrs Mellor and Pittarello.

43. **SUBSTITUTES**

Councillor Weber substituted for Councillor Barrott.

44. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR**

It was proposed, duly seconded and

RESOLVED that Councillor Weed be appointed as Chair of the meeting in Councillor Barrott's absence.

45. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

46. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 July 2013 were taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

47. **2012/13 ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT REPORT**

The Committee received a report from Finance which detailed the Council's Treasury Management Performance for 2012/13, attached as an appendix to the report.

In accordance with the Code of Practice for Treasury Management, the Council had an obligation to report the year's activities no later than 30 September 2013. Furthermore, it was considered appropriate to report the Council's performance directly to this Committee because it fell within the Committee's remit.

The report reminded Members that Treasury Management had a potentially significant impact on the Council's budget through its ability to maximise investment interest income and minimise borrowing interest payable. Many of the Council's services were funded from the interest received on such investments and further details of this were included in paragraph 11.9 of the report.

FINANCE AND AUDIT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (Continued)

The net interest received by the General Fund for 2012/13 was £336,000 against a revised estimate of £306,000 and original of £321,000.

The Head of Finance responded to questions in relation to investments in other local authorities and receipts.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

48. 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 10 July 2013.

RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted.

49. FORWARD PLAN

The Committee considered a report from Civic and Committee Services informing it of the current Forward Plan, attached as an appendix to the report.

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.

50. REVIEW OF THE WORK PROGRAMME

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

The Head of Finance advised Members that a report on the Anti Fraud Strategy was intended to be presented to the September meeting of the Committee.

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

FINANCE AND AUDIT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (Continued)

51. 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 7 August 2013.

Item 7 – Exception to the Code of Procurement Practice

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.

Item 6 – Proposal for the Delivery of on-street Enforcement across Warwickshire

The Committee noted that, in respect of the second recommendation, it was intended that the Chairs of the Scrutiny Committees would represent the Council alongside the Portfolio Holder for Finance at the meeting with the County Council on 4 September, and supported the recommendations in the report.

Item 8 – Upgrade to Linen Street Car Park

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report, with an additional recommendation that officers be asked to investigate opening Linen Street Car Park until midnight on a daily basis and that efforts be made to ensure that this arrangement be cost neutral.

Item 4 – Budget Review to 30th June 2013

While some concern was expressed over the level of savings which the Council would still need to achieve in the future, the Committee was encouraged by the savings achieved in recent years and supported the recommendations in the report.

(Councillor Mobbs left the meeting at the conclusion of this item.)

Item 5 – Brunswick Healthy Living Centre

Notwithstanding that the Committee felt that there should have been more substance in the report, Members recognised that this was a positive project aimed at getting people back in to work, asked that it be emphasised to the people of Brunswick that the Council had given its financial support for one year only, and supported the recommendations in the report.

52. 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.

FINANCE AND AUDIT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (Continued)

The full text of Minutes 53 to 55 was recorded in a confidential minute which would be considered for publication following implementation of the relevant decisions. However, a summary is as follows:

53. EXECUTIVE AGENDA (CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS & REPORTS)

The Committee passed comment on item 12 on the Executive agenda, "Staffing Reviews", which would be discussed at the meeting of the Executive on Wednesday 7 August 2013.

54. MINUTES

The confidential minutes of the meeting held on 9 July 2013 were taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

55. CONFIDENTIAL 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 10 July 2013.

RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted.

(The meeting ended at 7.35 pm)