

# Finance and Audit Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 27 September 2016 at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.00pm.

**Present:** Councillor Quinney (Chair), Councillors; Barrott, Mrs Falp, Gifford, Illingworth, Murphy, and Thompson.

**Also present:** Councillors; Mobbs, Phillips and Whiting.

## 51. **Apologies and Substitutes**

- (a) Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Cain, Harrington and Mann; and
- (b) Councillor Murphy substituted for Councillor Rhead.

## 52. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

## 53. **Public and Press**

**Resolved** that under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 that the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item by reason of the likely disclosure of exempt information within the paragraph 5 and the subsequent item by virtue of paragraph 3, of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, as set out below.

## 54. **Learning from the Outcome of the further Audit Work on Electrical Repair & Maintenance Contract**

The Chief Executive provided an update on the progress on the learning from this Audit. The details of which will be reported in the confidential minutes for this meeting.

**Resolved** that a meeting of the Committee, in December 2016, be arranged to consider the detailed report on this subject.

## 55. **Executive Agenda (Confidential Items & Reports – Wednesday 28 September 2016)**

### Item Urgent – Premises in Spencer Street

The Committees comments will be detailed in the confidential minutes. supported the recommendations in the report and were assured of the urgency for the report considering the desire by the current owner to place the property on the market in the immediate future.

56. **Executive Agenda (Non-Confidential Items & Reports – Wednesday 28 September 2016)**

Item 9A - Significant Business Risk Register

The Committee supported the report and welcomed the recognition of the challenges in “staff recruitment and retention” and the work of the People Strategy Steering Group (PSSG) to respond to that specific matter. Due to this, it was noted that in some areas of the Council the risk of “sustained quality service reduction” was now an emerging issue rather than a risk.

The Committee welcomed the information that the PSSG and Employment Committee would see results of the work and recommended actions to mitigate the risk at their next meetings.

Item 8 - HEART Shared Service to deliver Home Adaptations (including Disabled Facilities Grants)

The Committee welcomed the high quality report and the recommendations contained within it. Members were pleased that service/turnaround targets for the District and regular performance monitoring would continue. One member queried whether the planned gains in efficiency and productivity of the new service would reduce its cost to the Council over time.

Item 5 - Fees and Charges

The Committee had some concerns about the retrospective recovery of costs on taxi licences in particular and it's possible impact on the trade overall, especially with respect to new applicants. Members asked how recovery of cost was being smoothed over time and asked whether it would be acceptable to phase it in. The Committee therefore asked officers to circulate to Councillors the process used to calculate the costs of these applications. One Councillor was not in favour of the fees and charges proposal because of these concerns.

The Committee noted that the detail of Paragraph 15.4.1 had been omitted from Appendix A, and an addendum containing this would be circulated at the Executive.

57. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meetings held on 31 August and 20 September 2016 were not presented for consideration.

58. **Review of the Work Programme & Forward Plan**

The Committee considered its Work Programme for 2016 and the Forward Plan.

**Resolved** that the Work Programme be amended to include the additional meeting to look at the Learning from the Outcome of the further Audit Work on Electrical Repair and maintenance contract

and that the National Fraud Initiative report will be presented to the Committee on 1 November 2016.

(The meeting ended at 8.25 pm)