



Finance Sub-Committee

Minutes of a meeting held on Wednesday 11 September 2013 at 7.30pm, Kasen Room, East Northamptonshire House, Thrapston

Present: Councillors: Peter Baden
David Brackenbury
Roger Glithero JP
Glenvil Greenwood-Smith
Glenn Harwood MBE

Officers: David Oliver (Chief Executive)
Sharn Matthews (Executive Director)
Glenn Hammons (Chief Finance Officer)
Katy Everitt (Head of Resources and Organisational Development)

1.0 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN FOR THE MEETING

1.1 In the absence of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Sub-Committee, nominations were sought for the appointment a Chairman to preside at this meeting. Councillor Glenn Harwood was nominated and the proposition was duly seconded.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Glenn Harwood be appointed Chairman for this meeting.

2.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Richard Lewis and Steven North.

3.0 MINUTES

3.1 The minutes of the meeting of the Sub-Committee held on 24 June 2013 were submitted. The minutes had been received and adopted by the Policy and Resources Committee on 29 July 2013, but the following items were highlighted:

Minute 6:

Noted that the Leader's reply to the Question under Procedure Rule 10.3 was missing from the minutes circulated with Agenda. The reply had been re-inserted into the copy of the minutes to be signed by the Chairman.

Minute 11.6 (i) - Splash Leisure Pool:

It was noted that that the two Resolve to Recommend items had not been discussed at Policy and Resources Committee on 29 July 2013 as it had been confirmed that the Sub-Committee had delegated authority to include the works in the Development Pool for the Capital Programme and to authorise variations to the Programme. A resolution to Council via Policy and Resources Committee would be required to approve the move from the Development Pool into the Approved Capital Programme itself in this case.

The “Resolved to Recommend” item in Minute 11.6(i) would therefore be amended to a “Resolved” item.

Minutes 9 and 15: Noted that the recommended changes to the Scheme of Delegation in the Council's Constitution would be considered at the next Council meeting on 14 October 2013.

RESOLVED:

That subject to the above, the minutes of the meeting of the Finance Sub-Committee held on 24 June 2013 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

4.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND QUESTIONS UNDER PROCEDURE RULE 10.3

4.1 There were no interests declared or questions submitted under Procedure Rule 10.3.

5.0 TREASURY MANAGEMENT REPORT - QUARTER 1 2013/14

5.1 The Chief Finance Officer presented a report to the Sub-Committee which provided an update on the activity of the Treasury Management function for the first quarter of 2013/14. The report also set out the likely performance for the remainder of the financial year.

5.2 The Sub-Committee noted that the 2013/14 Treasury Management Strategy had been approved as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy in February 2013 and was underpinned by the adoption of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's Code of Practice. The Code recommended that members be informed of treasury management activities at least twice a year.

5.3 The Chief Finance Officer confirmed that the money received from the mediation settlement in respect of the Nene Centre roof would be allocated to revenue reserves initially to offset any revenue cost, with the balance allocated to capital reserves.

RESOLVED:

That the Treasury Management performance for Quarter 1 2013/14 be noted

(Reason – in accordance with CIPFA guidance and best practice in Treasury Management)

6.0 BUDGET MONITORING - QUARTER 1 2013/14

- 6.1 The Chief Finance Officer presented a report to the Sub-Committee detailing the Council's expenditure to the end of quarter 1 (30 June 2013) against the approved revenue and capital budgets for 2013/14. The report highlighted any significant under or overspend greater than £10,000 and identified the impact on the end of year position.
- 6.2 Since the setting of the Council's budget in February 2013, the total budget had been revised to £10,164,857. The estimated outturn for the year was an under-spend of £102,000.
- 6.3 The Sub-Committee was apprised on the current position regarding the disposal of the Rushden Depot and Recycling Centre and the National Non-Domestic Rates the Council was incurring for the buildings located on the site. The options available to address this were outlined, with demolition of the existing buildings being the favoured option.
- 6.4 The Chief Finance Officer informed the Sub-Committee that future budget monitoring reports would provide details on the funds spent on the Nene Centre and the Pemberton Centre.

RESOLVED:

- i) That the current budget monitoring position be noted.

(Reason – this is an information / monitoring report – no decision required)

- ii) That the capital programme be varied by up to £80,000 for the estimated cost of demolition of the Rushden Depot and Recycling Centre, expected to be funded by an increase in the value of the subsequent capital receipt receivable in the future.

(Reason – to reduce the risks the Council is exposed to and reduce NNDR payable)

- iii) That, subject to confirmation of the actual cost of the demolition of the Rushden Depot and Recycling Centre being within the overall capital budget approved, delegated authority be given to the Chief Finance Officer, in consultation with the Chairman of Finance Sub-Committee, to progress the scheme.

(Reason – to prevent delays in works being undertaken to reduce risk exposure)

7.0 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED:

That the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business because exempt information, as defined under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12a of the Local Government Act 1972, may be disclosed.

8.0 SPLASH LEISURE POOL

- 8.1 The Head of Resources and Organisational Development presented a report providing the Sub-Committee with an update of costs and additional risks identified since the last meeting of the Sub-Committee when the Splash Leisure Pool had been considered.
- 8.2 Two quotes had been received for the survey work agreed at the last meeting of the Sub-Committee and quotes were being sought for work to rectify the fire detection system, although it was hoped to meet these costs from the existing maintenance budget. Enquiries were on-going to establish whether the current insurance policy provided cover in the event that the fire detection system failed. Whilst a final response was awaited, indications were that cover would continue to be provided.
- 8.3 Members were of the view that the Council should be given the opportunity to debate the wider issues surrounding the condition of the facility and financing by the Council. The Chief Executive informed the Sub-Committee that the Council's leisure contract was due for renewal in August 2016 and any issues would need to be considered in a timeframe to fit in with the contract letting process.

RESOLVED:

- i) That the content of the report be noted, in particular, the new risks and quotes received to date.
- ii) That a further report be submitted to Council to:
 - a) approve a budget to undertake work to replace the air handling units and ducting as soon as a budget figure has been determined, and
 - b) address the wider issues associated with the Splash Leisure Pool, including the condition of the facility and ENC funding.

9.0 ASSET MANAGEMENT – SALE OF LAND AND BUILDINGS PROGRESS UPDATE

- 9.1 The Head of Resources and Organisational Development provided the Sub-Committee with an update on progress made in relation to the sale of Council owned land and buildings.

RESOLVED:

- That the report be noted.

Chairman

