



Finance Sub-Committee

Minutes of a meeting held on Monday 8 February 2016 at 7.00pm, East Northamptonshire House, Thrapston

Present: Councillors: Steven North (Chairman)
David Brackenbury
Val Carter
Roger Glithero
Glenvil Greenwood-Smith
Glenn Harwood MBE

Richard Lewis

Officers: David Oliver (Chief Executive)
Glenn Hammons (Chief Finance Officer)
Michelle Drewery (Finance Manager)

1.0 MINUTES

1.1 The minutes of the meeting of the Finance Sub-Committee held on 22 December 2015 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

2.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2.1 No apologies for absence had been received.

3.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3.1 No declarations of interest were made.

4.0 QUESTIONS UNDER PROCEDURE RULE 10.3

4.1 There were no questions submitted under Procedure Rule 10.3.

5.0 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY

5.1 The Chief Finance Officer presented a report setting out the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and Plan (MTFP) 2016/17 to 2019/20, and outlining the Revenue Budget 2016/17, Capital Programme 2016/17 to 2025/26 and Treasury Management Strategy 2016/17.

5.2 The report refreshed the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2015/16 to 2018/19 which had been approved by Council in February 2015 and updated by the Finance Sub-Committee in December 2015.

- 5.3 It was noted that the figures contained in the report had been based on the draft financial settlement. The final settlement had been announced earlier in the day and any changes to the report arising from the final settlement would be distributed to members of the Sub-Committee and then reported to the Policy and Resources Committee on 15 February 2016. An initial review of the final settlement had not identified any significant changes to the draft settlement.

RESOLVED: That

- i. the content of the report be noted, including paragraph 4.2.2 regarding the efficiency plan.
- ii. the report be referred to the Policy and Resources Committee for consideration at its meeting on 15 February 2016.

(Reason: To ensure that the Sub-Committee is aware of the forecast financial position; so that in due course the Council complies with its constitution in setting its budget)

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE:

That the Committee recommend Full Council to invite the Leader of the Council to propose the approval of the following as part of the budget setting process:

- Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS)
- Revenue Budget 2016/17
- Approved Capital Programme for 2016/17 (Development Pool items are subject to the review set out within the report)
- Minimum level of Reserves and Earmarked Reserves
- Treasury Management Strategy
- Fees and Charges
- Delegated authority be given to the Chief Finance Officer, Leader of the Council and Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee to develop an efficiency plan to allow the Council to take advantage of the four year settlement proposal offered by central government

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL:

That, subject to the determination of the level of Council Tax for the 2016-17 financial year, Council approves the following as part of the budget setting process:

- Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS)
- Revenue Budget 2016/17
- Approved Capital Programme for 2016/17 (Development Pool items are subject to the review set out within the report)
- Minimum level of Reserves and Earmarked Reserves
- Treasury Management Strategy
- Fees and Charges

- Delegated authority be given to the Chief Finance Officer, Leader of the Council and Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee to develop an efficiency plan to allow the Council to take advantage of the four year settlement proposal offered by central government

(Reason: to ensure that in due course the Council complies with its constitution in setting its budget)

6.0 BUDGET MONITORING TO 31 DECEMBER 2015

- 6.1 The Finance Manager presented a report providing an update on the forecast Revenue and Capital positions against the approved budgets for the period ended 31 December 2015. It was noted that the estimated services outturn for the year was an underspend of approximately £257,000, with a revised contribution to reserves in 2015/16 of £777,000.
- 6.2 Members considered that the provision of £18,000 for uncharged tax on Members' mileage should not be included in the variances as, nationally, Councillors disagreed with the HMRC position on this issue and discussions were ongoing. It would be more appropriate to treat the provision as a contingent liability.

RESOLVED: That,

- subject to the deletion of the provision of £18,000 for uncharged tax on Members' mileage, the latest revenue, capital and reserves positions for 2015/16 be noted
- the change of use of the Approved Capital Programme budget of £90,000 to be directed towards resolving compliance issues be approved.
(paragraph 3.8 of the report refers)
- the transfer of £70,000 from the Development Pool into the Approved Capital Programme in respect of the upgrade or replacement of the Customer Relationship Management system be approved.
(paragraph 3.8 of the report, as amended, refers)
- the transfer of £7,000 from the Development Pool into the Approved Capital Programme in respect of works to the footpath on Kingsmead Industrial Estate be approved
(paragraph 3.9 of the report refers).

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL:

That the increase to the Approved Capital Programme budget in respect of an increase of £30,000 for the purchase of additional wheeled bins, to be funded through an additional revenue contribution to capital be approved.
(paragraph 3.7 of the report refers).

(Reason: To follow the formal process for approval of the amendment to the Capital Programme Budget for 2015/16.)

7.0 TREASURY MANAGEMENT REPORT TO 31 DECEMBER 2015

- 7.1 The Finance Manager presented a report setting out the current position for Treasury Management for the period to 31 December 2015.

RESOLVED:

That the Treasury Management performance for the period to 31 December 2015 be noted.

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

8.0 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

- 8.1 **RESOLVED:**

That the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item 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.

9.0 ASSET MANAGEMENT – SALE OF LAND AND BUILDINGS PROGRESS UPDATE

- 9.1 The Chief Executive presented a report providing the Sub-Committee with an update on progress made in relation to the sale of Council owned land and buildings.

RESOLVED:

That the contents of the report be noted.

(Reason: To note the progress on the sale of assets)

Chairman