

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

FINANCE & PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY

29 JANUARY 2018 AT 6.30 PM

PRESENT: Mr KWP Lynch - Chairman

Mrs R Camamile, Mr DS Cope, Mr DW MacDonald, Mrs H Smith, Mr R Ward and Mr HG Williams

Members in attendance: Councillors Mr MA Hall and Mr K Morrell

Officers in attendance: Ilyas Bham, Julie Kenny, Steven Merry, Rebecca Owen and Simon Smith

296 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED – the minutes of the meeting held on 6 November 2017 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

297 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared at this stage.

298 FRONT LINE SERVICE REVIEW - ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Members received a report about the food hygiene rating scheme and pest control services as part of the programme of frontline service reviews. In response to members' questions, the following points were noted:

- 94.3% of businesses were inspected in 2016/17
- The time taken to inspect a new business was dependent upon whether or not they approached the council for advice prior to commencing operation
- Officers worked closely with those food businesses achieving less than a level 3
- The pest control service focussed on pests that had a public health significance
- Fees for certain pest control services were reduced or waived for those on some benefits
- Our pest control contractor carried out three visits as a general rule, and after those visits may refer the matter back to the council to investigate whether there was a wider issue.

It was requested that other areas of the Environmental Health service be reviewed in future, for example noise and pollution.

299 PERFORMANCE AND RISK QUARTER 3 2017/18

The performance and risk management third quarter summary was presented to members. It was noted that 13 of the 56 indicators were not on target. During discussion and in response to members' questions, the following points were raised:

- The improvement in the number of lost calls, which members were pleased to see
- The need to include in the report actions to be taken to address those areas where performance had not met the target

- The suggestion of benchmarking sickness absence against the private sector. It was agreed that this could be benchmarked at the year end. It was also suggested that reasons for any differences be explored
- The problem of recruitment and retention in the Building Control service which resulted in a business case for a shared service now being worked on.

300 TREASURY MANAGEMENT Q3 2017-18

The treasury management activity for the third quarter of 2017/18 was presented. Discussion ensued on the historic situation in relation to the HRA buyout.

301 SUNDRY DEBTS - QUARTER 3 2017/18

Members were updated on the position in relation to sundry debts as at 31 December 2017. In response to a member's question, it was noted that each case was considered on its own merits.

302 BUSINESS RATES RETENTION AND POOLING ARRANGEMENTS

The quarterly business rates and pooling update was presented to members. The need to set budget aside for pending appeals was discussed.

303 FINANCE & PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

Consideration was given to the work programme. It was noted that the Customer Services review would be brought to the March meeting.

(The Meeting closed at 7.30 pm)

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CHAIRMAN