

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

FINANCE & PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY

16 JULY 2018 AT 6.30 PM

PRESENT: Mr HG Williams (Vice-Chair, in the Chair)

Mr HG Williams (Vice-Chair, in the Chair), Mrs R Camamile, Mr DW MacDonald and Mrs H Smith

Officers in attendance: Ilyas Bham, Julie Kenny and Simon Smith

111 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was moved by Councillor Camamile, seconded by Councillor Smith and

RESOLVED – the minutes of the meeting held on 21 May 2018 be confirmed and signed by the chairman.

112 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared at this stage.

113 FRONTLINE SERVICE REVIEW: NOISE & NUISANCE

The frontline service report for noise and nuisance was presented to the meeting. Members welcomed the comprehensive report and the following points were noted:

- Informal methods were always used to try to resolve issues before moving to formal measures
- The Environmental Health service worked closely with the police and other partners in dealing with statutory nuisance to join up working as much as possible
- There was an increasing trend of customers feeling reluctant to raise issues themselves with neighbours and looking to the council to help instead. This was often due to the fear of an adverse response
- There had been a steady 8% increase in complaints over the previous six years
- Compared to other local authorities in the East Midlands, a high number of noise complaints were received by HBBC. Members sought assurance that this wasn't because we weren't overly lenient. Members were reassured that complaints were generally resolved to the complainant's satisfaction and that very few complaints were received about the service itself
- Members asked that more work be undertaken to understand the reasons for the high number of nuisance complaints generally and to try to reduce this if possible.

Members thanked the team for their good work in this area.

RESOLVED – the report be noted.

114 TREASURY MANAGEMENT QUARTER 1 2018/19

A report on the council's treasury management activity in the first quarter of 2018/19 was presented.

RESOLVED – the report be noted.

115 SUNDRY DEBTS QUARTER 1 2018/19

Members were informed of the position on sundry debts as at the end of June 2018. Members expressed concern about the growth in debt for our commercial estate and asked that this be addressed. It was, however, noted that the level of debt did not impact upon the cash flow for the council.

RESOLVED – the report be noted.

116 BUSINESS RATES RETENTION QUARTER 4 2017/18

Members received an update on the business rates performance for the last quarter of 2017/18 and a summary of how the pooling arrangements were operating. It was acknowledged that business rates income forecasting was more uncertain in future years until more government announcements were made.

RESOLVED – the report be noted.

117 FINANCE & PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

The work programme was noted.

(The Meeting closed at 7.12 pm)

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CHAIRMAN