

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

SCRUTINY COMMISSION

30 JANUARY 2012 AT 6.30 PM

PRESENT: Mr MR Lay - Chairman
Mr PAS Hall and Mr C Ladkin – Vice-Chairman

Mr PR Batty, Mrs WA Hall, Mrs L Hodgkins, Mr DW Inman, Mr K Morrell, Mr K Nichols, Mrs S Sprason and Miss DM Taylor

Also in attendance: Councillor DM Gould, Councillor MS Hulbert and Councillor JS Moore

Officers in attendance: Steve Atkinson, Ilyas Bham, David Bunker, Bill Cullen and Sanjiv Kohli

360 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared at this stage.

361 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY

The Deputy Chief Executive (Corporate Direction) presented the report to Members. With the uncertainty concerning funding levels from Central Government the strategy reported the projected financial settlement at different levels of funding.

It was noted that the changes to the council tax benefit funding would significantly impact on the Council.

Mr Ladkin entered the meeting at 7.15pm.

A question was asked as to the distribution of Section 106 monies. The Committee was informed that the Council was leading discussions with other Councils in Leicestershire to put together a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) for all councils to use and this would take up to 18 months to put into place.

Mr Inman congratulated the Deputy Chief Executive (Corporate Direction) and his team on its presentation and delivery of the report.

During the period of this MTFS the Council would be working towards delivering a number of key major projects. These included: the refurbishment/relocation of the Leisure Centre; the construction of the Hinckley Hub; and the regeneration of the Argents Mead site and Members sought clarification on each of these developments.

Members asked if the estimated costing for demolition of the Council building would be realised and the likelihood of the works exceeding this figure. Members were informed that the Estates and Asset Manager would prepare a report for Members and this would be brought to the Scrutiny Commission outlining the options and costings.

RESOLVED – the report be noted.

362 HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT ESTIMATES

Members received a report which outlined the proposed budget for 2012/13 in respect of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and recommended an average 9.3% rent increase. Tenants had been consulted on this increase and had taken a very supportive stance in response.

This was a one-off holding budget due to changes in Central Government legislation and unknown impacts of the right to buy scheme. Ongoing work would be undertaken and presented to the Scrutiny Commission upon completion.

RECOMMENDED –

- (i) the Committee endorse the recommendations to Council;
- (ii) the budgets presented in annexes A, B and C to the report be approved.

363 GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET 2012/13

The General Fund Revenue Budgets were presented to the Commission and had been prepared taking into account the Capital and HRA budgets.

RECOMMENDED

- (i) the General Fund service expenditure be approved;
- (ii) the Special Expenses area expenditure be approved;
- (iii) the total General Fund service expenditure for the Council be approved; and
- (iv) the proposed movement of General Fund Reserves be approved.

364 PRUDENTIAL CODE FOR CAPITAL FINANCE - SETTING OF PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS AND TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The Accountancy Manager presented the report outlining the four key legislative requirements which provided an approved framework within which day to day capital and treasury activities take place.

RECOMMENDED – Members note the key elements of the report.

365 CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2011/12 TO 2014/15

The Deputy Chief Executive (Corporate Direction) presented the Capital Programme In conjunction with the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

RECOMMENDED – the report be noted.

(The Meeting closed at 8.45 pm)

CHAIRMAN