

BUDGET SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Budget Scrutiny Committee held in the Council Chamber, The Arc, Clowne on Wednesday 31st May 2017 at 1400 hours.

PRESENT:-

Members:-

Councillor S. Peake in the Chair

Councillors T. Alexander (from Minute No. 0030), P.M. Bowmer, D. Bullock, J.A. Clifton, T.J. Connerton, C.P. Cooper, P.A. Cooper, H.J. Gilmour, D. McGregor, C.R. Moesby, S. Peake, J.E. Smith, P. Smith, R. Turner, K.F. Walker, D.S. Watson and J. Wilson

Officers:-

B. Mason (Executive Director – Operations), D. Clarke (Assistant Director – Finance and Revenues & Benefits), C. Millington (Scrutiny Officer) and A. Brownsword (Senior Governance Officer)

0026. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A. Anderson, G. Buxton, T. Cannon, A. Joesbury, T. Munro and E. Stevenson

0027. URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

There were no urgent items of business.

0028. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

0029. MINUTES – 19TH JANUARY 2017 AND 27TH JANUARY 2017

Moved by Councillor R. Bowler and seconded by Councillor J. Wilson

RESOLVED that (1) the minutes of an adjourned meeting held on 19th January 2017 be approved as a true and correct record.

(2) the minutes of an adjourned meeting held on 27th January 2017 be approved as a true and correct record.

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Councillor T. Alexander entered the meeting

0030. UPDATE FROM SCRUTINY CHAIRS

There were no updates from the Scrutiny Chairs.

0031. INTRODUCTION TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE

OUTLINE OF THE FINANCIAL OUTTURN POSITION IN RESPECT OF 2016/17

The Executive Director – Operations gave Members a presentation which contained information on an introduction to local government finance and an outline of the financial outturn position in respect of 2016/17.

The presentation looked at:

- Budget Objectives
- Budget Process
- Expenditure Budgets
- Where the Council spends
- Income Streams 2017/18
- Volatility of Income Streams
- Localisation of Business Rates
- Housing Revenue Account (HRA)
- Capital Programme
- Financial Challenges Facing BDC
- Outturn Position
- How the Council Meets the Shortfall

A question was asked regarding which account the money from the sale of Council houses went in to. The Executive Director – Operations explained that the money was put back in to the HRA, after the Government had taken a share.

Members asked whether Council Tax write offs were passed on to the Police authority and County Council, in proportion to their share. It was explained that the shortfall was distributed in the relevant proportion.

Members congratulated the Executive Director – Operations on an easy to understand presentation and felt that the Officer had presented the information in a way that was competent, clear and concise which was important to new Members. It

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was noted that the Council was in a good financial position to tackle the future. It was important to remember that Officers were accountable to Members.

It was noted that there was no clear direction from the Government regarding Business Rate reform.

Members noted that during the tenure of the current Executive Director – Operations, the Council had never had an unbalanced budget and there had been significant progress including the building of new Council houses, The Tangent and The Arc Leisure Centre which were all major achievements for the Council. These supported the view that the Council's arrangements had operated well during this period of time, and that the Director had worked well as part of the wider team with both Elected Members and other Officers in order to ensure that the Council's priorities for local people were delivered.

The Executive Director – Operations thanked Members for their support over the years and noted that he had been able to build on the good foundations already in place when he joined the Council.

The Chair thanked the Executive Director – Operations for the presentation and wished him well in future endeavours.

Moved by Councillor S. Peake and seconded by Councillor R. Bowler
RESOLVED that the presentation be noted.

The meeting concluded at 1504 hours.