

## **BUDGET SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Minutes of a meeting of the Budget Scrutiny Committee of the Bolsover District Council held in the Council Chamber, The Arc, Clowne on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2018 at 1400 hours.

### **PRESENT:-**

Members:-

Councillor S. Peake in the Chair

Councillors R. Bowler, P.M. Bowmer, G. Buxton, T.J. Connerton, C.P. Cooper, P.A. Cooper, D. McGregor, C.R. Moesby, T. Munro, S. Peake, J.E. Smith, P. Smith, R. Turner, K.F. Walker, D.S. Watson and J. Wilson (from Minute No. 0559)

Officers:-

D. Clarke (Assistant Director – Finance and Revenues & Benefits), P. Campbell (Assistant Director – Community Safety and Head of Housing (BDC)), J. Wilson (Scrutiny and Elections Officer) and A. Brownsword (Senior Governance Officer)

### **0554. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A. Anderson, T. Cannon, J.A. Clifton, H.J. Gilmour, A. Joesbury

### **0555. URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

There were no urgent items of business.

### **0556. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **0557. MINUTES – 15<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2017**

Moved by Councillor R. Turner and seconded by Councillor J.E. Smith  
**RESOLVED** that the minutes of a meeting of the Budget Scrutiny Committee held on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2017 be approved as a true and correct record.

## BUDGET SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

### 0558. UPDATE FROM SCRUTINY CHAIRS

#### Customer Service and Transformation Scrutiny Committee

The Chair of the Customer Service and Transformation Scrutiny Committee informed the meeting that a survey had been sent to all Members requesting their opinion on the Strategic Alliance. It was important that as many Members as possible complete the survey. The deadline for returns was 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2018.

#### Healthy, Safe, Clean and Green Communities Scrutiny Committee

The Chair of the Healthy, Safe Clean and Green Communities Scrutiny Committee noted that a presentation on the Taxi Licensing Policy had been given at the last meeting which was well received and the policy had been discussed in detail.

#### Growth Scrutiny Committee

The Vice Chair of the Growth Scrutiny Committee noted that the Committee was focussing on three main areas:

1. Income Generation to try to identify income streams that the Council could improve.
2. Business/Employer needs including how to attract businesses into the Authority's area and skills.
3. High Street regeneration.

Moved by Councillor R. Turner and seconded by Councillor C.R. Moesby  
**RESOLVED** that the updates be noted.

Councillor J. Wilson entered the meeting.

### 0559. UPDATE ON THE BUSINESS RATES PILOT

The Assistant Director – Finance and Revenues & Benefits informed the Committee that the Council had been successful in its bid to be included in the Business Rate Pilot. Initial figures showed that the Council would benefit by £400,000 in the next financial year. As yet, only a one year settlement had been received, but it was hoped this would be extended.

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

## BUDGET SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

### 0560. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN

The Assistant Director – Finance and Revenues & Benefits and the Assistant Director – Community Safety and Head of Housing (BDC) gave a presentation on the Medium Term Financial Plan 2018/19 – 2021/22. The presentation looked at:

- Budget Objectives
- Budget Process
- Budget Overview
- General Fund
- General Fund Summary
- General Fund
- HRA – Fees and Charges including,
  - Garages
  - Service Charges
  - Heating Service Charge (added to rent)
  - Heating Charge (Separate Account)
  - Heating (Total)
- Capital Programme
- Treasury Management Strategy
- Summary

It was noted that the current settlement included New Homes Bonus and the Fair Funding Review was still ongoing. Planning Fees were increasing which was adding to the Transformation Budget.

Members asked questions regarding HRA loan repayments and it was noted that no repayments were being made in the first 10 years, but monies were being put aside to make those payments.

Questions were also asked regarding the percentage difference in interest rates between loans and reserves, and whether it would be more prudent to pay off loans. The Assistant Director – Finance and Revenues & Benefits noted that apart from the HRA loan, the authority was not currently borrowing. Exercises were regularly carried out to ensure that the Council was getting the best deal.

A question was asked regarding the decrease in heating charges and it was noted that the change was as a result of detailed discussions following a review by the Customer Service and Transformation Scrutiny Committee during the previous year.

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

The meeting concluded at 1501