

Minutes of Community Services Committee

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 14 January 2014, starting at 6.30pm
Present: Councillor R J Thompson (Chairman)

Councillors:

J E Alcock	M Robinson
R Bennett	I Sayers
S Brunskill	G Scott
S Carefoot	R Swarbrick
J Hill	J White
A M Knox	
R Newmark	

In attendance: Director of Community Services, Head of Engineering Services, Director of Resources, Head of Environmental Health Services, Solicitor.

498 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors G Mirfin, and L Rimmer.

499 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 October 2013 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

500 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest at the meeting.

501 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

502 REVISED CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2013/14

The Director of Resources submitted a report requesting Committee's approval of the revised capital programme for the current financial year for this Committee. The original capital programme for 2013/14 had been approved by Policy and Finance Committee in February 2013 and since then regular reports had been presented quarterly to this Committee on progress with the capital programme. The original capital programme had included schemes at a total estimated cost of £593,000. In addition there had been slippage totalling £56,390 and further approvals of £254,230. Each of the schemes in the capital programme had been discussed in detail with budget holders and a revised programme had been formulated to reflect the likely expenditure this year. All capital evaluation forms had been completed by the responsible officers. There had been a slight decrease to the revised estimate from the previously approved capital budget for

this Committee and it was anticipated that all the capital schemes would be completed by the end of the financial year.

RESOLVED: That Committee approve the revised capital programme for 2013/14 as set out in the report.

503 PROPOSED CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2014/17

The Director of Resources submitted a report seeking Committee's approval for the proposed future 3 year capital programme (2014/15 to 2016/17) for this Committee. The report reviewed the draft programme of schemes to be carried out in the following 3 years based on the bids that has been received from Heads of Service. The scheme bids for this Committee were outlined in detail showing how each particular scheme linked to the Council's ambitions. It was noted that at this stage these were only potential bids that would require further consideration by the Budget Working Group and by Policy and Finance Committee who would want to ensure that the budget was affordable both in capital and revenue terms. It was also noted that the bids contained in this report only represented those submitted with regard to this Committee's services and that they would be considered alongside other bids received from other Committees.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. approve the future 3 year programme for 2014/15 to 2016/17 as outlined in the report; and
2. recommend to Policy and Finance Committee the programme as outlined for this Committee's services.

504 REVISED REVENUE BUDGET 2013/14

The Director of Resources submitted a report asking Committee to agree a revised revenue budget for 2013/14 for consideration at Special Policy and Finance Committee. The original estimate for this current financial year had been set in March 2013. To allow a better comparison of the budget to the revised estimate the original budget had now been restated and was outlined in table format for Committee's information.

The Director of Resources highlighted the main changes to the budget which included a supplementary estimate to facilitate the provision of the collection of waste paper and card in-house and virements with regard to community safety and sports and recreation.

All the reasons for variations were outlined for Committee's information. The conclusion being that the difference between the revised and restated original estimate was decrease in net expenditure of £6,070 after allowing for transfers to and from earmarked reserves.

RESOLVED: That Committee approve the revised revenue budget for 2013/14 and submit it to the Special Policy and Finance Committee subject to any further consideration by the Budget Working Group.

505 ORIGINAL REVENUE BUDGET 2014/15

The Director of Resources submitted a report asking Committee to agree the draft revenue budget for 2014/15 for consideration at Special Policy and Finance Committee. She reminded Committee that the three year forecast to Policy and Finance Committee in September showed that significant reductions to the budget would be necessary based on our indicative grant allocation from the Government. A provisional settlement funding assessment had now been received and this represented a reduction of 12% and 26% respectively for 2014/15 and 2015/16. However the Government compare spending power which includes income from Council Tax payers, new homes bonus and other grants when quoting our funding allocations, so according to the Government, we would only face a reduction of 2.3% and 3.6% respectively.

The Budget Working Group had been meeting regularly to consider the Council's budget and had suggested four options to address any shortfall:

- Whether the Council Tax should be increased for 2014/15.
- Examination in detail of underspends and overspends to ensure the base budget is accurate.
- Consider increasing the amount of new homes bonus used to finance the revenue budget.
- Examination of how much business rates growth can realistically expect to be relied upon.

With regard to the draft revenue budget for 2014/15 the estimates had been prepared on the current levels of service allowing for price increases of 2.75%. A provision for a 1% pay award had also been included.

Individual budget areas for this Committee were shown in detail including reasons for main variances. The Director of Resources highlighted some of these.

The report also showed the draft budget summarised both objectively and subjectively for Committee's information as well as giving the reasons why net costs for this Committee would increase by £163,930. A list of subscriptions for which Committee was responsible was also included for Committee's information.

The Director of Resources reminded Committee that they had agreed the increase of fees and charges by an average of 2.75% with the exception of car park charges which would be maintained at their current level. These would be applicable from 1 April 2014.

RESOLVED: That Committee agree the revenue budget for 2014/15 to be submitted to the Special Policy and Finance Committee subject to any further consideration by the Budget Working Group.

506 DOG CONTROL ORDERS

The Director of Community Services submitted a report asking Committee to consider the Dog Control Orders proposed for consultation under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005.

The report included specific wording with regard to five Dog Control Orders and the draft Notice of Proposed Order. The Dog Control Orders included were the:

- Fouling of Land by Dogs (Ribble Valley) Order 2014;
- Dogs on Leads (Ribble Valley) Order 2014;
- Dogs on Leads by Direction (Ribble Valley) Order 2014;
- Dogs Exclusion (Ribble Valley) Order 2014;
- Dogs (Specified Maximum) (Ribble Valley) Order 2014.

Committee considered the wording in each of the Orders and made various amendments.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. approve the introduction of the five Dog Control Orders as follows:
 - a) the Fouling of Land by Dogs (Ribble Valley) Order 2014: approved as outlined in the report.
 - b) the Dogs on Leads (Ribble Valley) Order 2014: approved as outlined in the report with the deletion of "Clitheroe Castle Grounds and the reference to any other land in the Schedule";
 - c) the Dogs on Leads by Direction (Ribble Valley) Order 2014: approved as outlined in the report;
 - d) the Dogs Exclusion (Ribble Valley) Order 2014: approved as in the report, with the Schedule to read as follows: "This Order applies to any land within the administrative area of Ribble Valley which comprises of any enclosed children's play area, skate park, tennis court, basketball court, bowling green, putting green, sports pitch(es) and/or any other recreational facility"; and
 - e) the Dogs (Specified Maximum) (Ribble Valley) Order 2014: as outlined in the report.
2. Approve the Notice of Proposed Order as set out in the report and to reflect the wording of the Orders approved by Committee with the inclusion that maps can be inspected free of charge.

3. Authorise the Head of Environmental Health Services to carry out a consultation on the Dog Control Orders as required by the Order.
4. Request that the outcome of the consultation be reported back to Committee in due course.

507 GENERAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Director of Community Services submitted a report informing Committee of the progress with regard to waste management and culture and leisure activities. Guidance on weekly rubbish collections recently produced by the Department for Communities and Local Government was also circulated for Committee's information as it outlined Ribble Valley Borough Council as a good example.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

508 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

That by virtue of the fact that the following item of business be Exempt Information under Category 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be now excluded from the meeting.

509 REVIEW OF WASTE PAPER COLLECTION

The Director of Community Services submitted a report for Committee's consideration on the performance and future direction of the in-house paper and cardboard collection service.

Committee were reminded that in May 2013 they had resolved that the operation of the paper and cardboard collection service, which at the time was operated by an external contractor on behalf of the Council, should be taken in-house. The report outlined the issues surrounding this service having been taken in-house with regard to collection tonnages, staffing and waste management issues with Lancashire County Council. The report also outlined options for the service in the future which included how to develop the in-house collection in order to improve the success of the service.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. approve the continued operation and development of the in-house paper and cardboard collection service, including the round synchronisation; and
2. request that a further report on the operation be presented to Committee in 12 months' time, unless circumstances change.

The meeting closed at 8.05pm.

If you have any queries on these minutes please contact John Heap (414461).