

Minutes of Emergency Committee

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 20 August 2019, starting at 3.00pm
Present: Councillor S Atkinson (Chairman)

Councillors:

A Brown
S Hore
A Knox

In attendance: Chief Executive, Director of Resources, Director of Community Services, Director of Economic Development and Planning, Head of Legal and Democratic Services, Head of Regeneration and Housing.

162 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence from the meeting.

163 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That by virtue of the fact that the following item of business being exempt information under Category 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be now excluded from the meeting.

164 REFERENCE FROM PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – HOUSING EVIDENCE: STRATEGIC HOUSING AND ECONOMIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The Chief Executive submitted a report asking Committee to consider a request from Planning and Development Committee to agree to the approval of additional revenue budget of £20,000 in 2019/20 for the appointment of appropriate consultancy support to undertake a strategic housing and economic needs assessment.

Planning and Development Committee had considered a report submitted by the Director of Economic Development and Planning at their meeting on 1 August 2019 which gave details of a request for additional revenue budget of £20,000 for 2019/20. This was in respect of the appointment of appropriate consultancy support to undertake a strategic housing and economic needs assessment in line with the commitment set out in the Core Strategy.

Planning and Development Committee had approved the request and recommended to Policy and Finance Committee that they approve the necessary budget funded from earmarked reserves in order to carry out this work. It was noted that in the light of the urgency of the work an Emergency Committee may need to have been convened.

The Director of Resources reported that the additional funds requested could be funded from the Planning Earmarked Reserve.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. approve the request for the additional revenue budget of £20,000; and
2. approve the use of the planning reserve to fund the additional revenue budget approval.

The Head of Regeneration and Housing left the meeting.

165 COMPLAINT RELATING TO A BREACH OF THE COUNCIL'S CODE OF CONDUCT

The Chief Executive raised an urgent item. He reminded Members that at the last Accounts and Audit Committee they had resolved that in the public interest, no further action should be taken in relation to this complaint.

He now reported that following that decision, the Subject Member had continued to put inaccurate statements both in the press and on his own website/Facebook account.

There had also been a number of Freedom of Information requests received that would require responses that would mean the details of the complaint would be in the public arena.

A further issue of one of the Independent Person's suffering undue harassment was also discussed.

The Chief Executive informed Committee that the reputation of the Council was of paramount importance and the need for the current Council Members and officers to continue to maintain the highest standards of behaviour was imperative.

Committee reiterated their support of officers in dealing with this matter.

RESOLVED: That the Leader, on behalf of the Council, write a letter of support to the Independent Person affected.

The meeting closed at 4.00pm.

If you have any queries on these minutes please contact Marshal Scott (414400).