

Time Commenced – 6.00 pm
Time Finished – 6.27 pm

Planning, Housing and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Board

2 December 2013

Present: Councillor Pegg (Chair)
Councillors Dhindsa, Holmes, Jackson, J Khan, Troup, and Wood

In attendance – Councillor Repton.

47/13 Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was received from Councillor MacDonald.

48/13 Late Items

There were no late items.

49/13 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

50/13 Call-in

There were no items

51/13 Planning Housing and Leisure Board Revenue Budget Proposals 2014/15 – 2016/17

The Board considered a report which stated that the Council had published three year budget proposals for 2014/15 to 2016/17 for public consultation. The proposals were in line with the Council's budget strategy agreed by Council in September 2013. The consultation document previously circulated to members in late 2012 contained details of individual proposals for savings to meet the multi-million pound budget challenge facing the Council in 2014/15. It reflected the Council's position regarding the requirement from Government to make unprecedented levels of service reductions due to the Government's austerity programme.

The estimated levels of savings required to balance the budget, reported in the budget strategy in September 2013 was approximately £77 million over the next three years. The latest forecast required savings of £81m to balance the budget. This included £29m in 2014/15, £31m in 2015/16 and £21m in 2016/17.

The Planning, Housing and Leisure Board had a scrutiny responsibility for elements of the proposed revenue budgets of both the Neighbourhoods Directorate and the Adults, Health and Housing Directorate. The purpose of the report was to present

these Revenue Budget Proposals for 2014/15 and to allow members to scrutinise and be engaged in consultation on these proposals.

Summaries of the Revenue Budget proposals 2014/15- 2016/17 by Directorate were covered on pages 11-15 of the budget document.

Proposals for Housing and Advice were covered on pages 19-30 of the document, however, these also included the proposals for Adults and Health, which were currently within the remit of the Adults and Public Health Board. The document showed that the Adults, Health and Housing Directorate had proposed savings of £9.291m in 2014/2015, representing 12% of the net budget. This equated to a reduction of 95.5 FTE's. There were no further budget pressures or savings identified for 2014/2015 for Housing and Advice in the document on top of those identified and agreed under the Revenue Budget Proposals 2013/14 – 2015/16.

Proposals for Planning, Environment and Public Protection and Leisure and Culture fell within the Neighbourhoods Directorate and were covered on pages 41-48 of the document. However, these also included proposals for Neighbourhoods and Streetpride, which were currently within the remit of the Neighbourhoods Board. The document showed that the Neighbourhoods Directorate had proposed savings of £6.391m in 2014/2015, £4,948m of which were savings identified and agreed for under the Revenue Budget Proposals 2013/14 – 2015/16. Of the additional £1.443m savings identified in Revenue Budget proposals 2014/15- 2016/17, £503,000 savings and a reduction of 14 FTE relate to services which fell under the remit of the Planning, Housing and Leisure Board. The budget savings identified as falling within the remit of the board were included separately under Appendix 2 of the document. There were no further budget pressures identified for 2014/2015 within the PHL Board remit on top of those identified and agreed under the Revenue Budget Proposals 2013/14 – 2015/16.

Outcomes from the public consultation and recommendations from overview and scrutiny boards would be considered by Council Cabinet on 22 January 2014 and presented to Council for approval on 29 January 2014.

It was noted that the review of lease/grants of cultural partners savings of an additional £53,000 were no longer required in 2014/15.

In respect of festive lights, officers were looking at ways of generating income to replace the funding. Members of the Board asked if anyone had come forward to sponsor festive lights. It was reported that sponsorship would be considered by the Vibrant City Group. It was noted that there were examples where festive lights were sponsored both in the UK and abroad. Local good examples were Normanton and Spondon.

Resolved

- 1. To request that officers pursue alternative options for funding festive lighting and investigate examples of good practice, including the contribution by local businesses to festive lighting in Normanton and Spondon.**

2. To request a report back to the Board on the future options for the sponsorship of festive lighting.

MINUTES END