

ITEM 4

Commenced: 6.00 pm

Concluded: 7.38 pm

PLANNING, HOUSING AND LEISURE BOARD

7 January 2013

Present: Councillor Redfern (Chair)
Councillors Hillier, Holmes, Ingall, Jackson, Nawaz and Troup

46/12 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor S. Khan.

47/12 Late Items Introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

48/12 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

49/12 Minutes of the Meeting held on 13 November 2012

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 November 2012 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

50/12 Call-in

There were no items.

51/12 Revenue Budget Proposals 2013/14 – 2015/16 for Scrutiny by the Planning, Housing and Leisure Board

The board received a report from the Strategic Director of Resources regarding the proposed three year budget plans for 2013/14 to 2015/16. The Head of Finance for Neighbourhoods gave a presentation, outlining the budget consultation process, the projected financial position and changes to savings targets. The board was informed of the headline figures including the estimated level of savings required to balance the budget, together with the estimated number of voluntary redundancies.

The board considered the revenue budget proposals document and gave particular regard to the detailed proposals relating to the Neighbourhoods Directorate and the Adults, Health and Housing Directorate. The report confirmed that the proposals met the statutory requirement to provide a balanced budget for the next financial year and exceeded the requirement by projecting the subsequent two years.

Resolved:

- 1. to request, with respect to the proposed budget changes to make staffing savings within Environment and Regulatory Services, that the Strategic Director for Neighbourhoods report to a future board meeting on the progress achieved through implementation of the new ways of working. The board would like the report to include statistical data to demonstrate the effectiveness of the new arrangements.**
- 2. to request the Cabinet Member for Planning, Environment and Public Protection, together with the Strategic Director of Resources, to investigate and report (at a future board meeting) the possibility of creating a centralised enforcement team, with particular regard to strengthening resources attributed to planning and conservation area enforcement.**
- 3. to recommend, in relation to the proposed charges for all adult borrowers requesting books not immediately available, that the Cabinet Member for Leisure and Culture further investigate alternative measures. The board is concerned that the impact of the proposed change, together with the recent reductions to library opening hours, would unreasonably affect service users.**
- 4. to request that the Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods ensures that the review of the council property portfolio, together with associated proposals for disposal of buildings, are reported to a future board meeting.**
- 5. to recommend that the Cabinet Member for Planning, Environment and Public Protection reconsider the proposed cessation of support for the Wild Derby Project. The board recommends that the possibility of retention of officer support is given further consideration and that the provision of indemnity insurance and access to sites for volunteers operating under the project is provided. The board notes the cabinet member's commitment to investigating how the work of the Wild Derby project can continue with the council's assistance and requests that the exploration of alternative options is reflected in Council Cabinet's recommendations to Council.**
- 6. to recommend that the Cabinet Member for Housing and Advice reconsider the budget proposals to end housing discretionary funding. The board recommends that the cabinet member investigates the level of income currently generated by the service and the possibility of increased income generation through maximised investment. The board is concerned that the loss of income generated through the work of the Housing Service will outweigh the projected savings.**

MINUTES END