

STRATEGY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

7 July 2016

7.00 pm – 9.20 pm
 Council Chamber, Ebley Mill, Stroud

3

Minutes

Membership:

Councillor Steve Lydon(Chair)	P	Councillor Steve Robinson	A
Councillor Doina Cornell (Vice-Chair)	P	Councillor Mattie Ross	P
Councillor Nigel Cooper	P	Councillor Tom Skinner	P
Councillor Stephen Davies	P	Councillor Ken Tucker	P
Councillor Nick Hurst	P	Councillor Martin Whiteside	P
Councillor Keith Pearson	P	Councillor Debbie Young	P
Councillor Simon Pickering	A		

P = Present A = Absent

Other Members in attendance:

Councillor Nigel Studdert-Kennedy

Officers Present:

Chief Executive	Property Manager
Head of Asset Management	Planning Strategy Manager
Accountancy Manager	Principal Policy Officer

SRC.011

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Steve Robinson and Simon Pickering and the ICT Delivery Manager.

SRC.012

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

SRC.013

MINUTES

Amendment to minutes:

SRC.006d – Add Councillor Ken Tucker to the Housing & Development Panel.

RESOLVED

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 15 June 2016.

SRC.014 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

No questions were received.

SRC.015 **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Chair reminded members that this was an evolving programme and invited additions to the work programme as they arose throughout the year.

RESOLVED **To AGREE the Committee's Work Programme 2016/17 (Version 1).**

SRC.016 **MEMBER REPORTS****(a) Performance Monitoring Representatives**

First quarterly meeting arranged for 26 July 2016.

(b) Stroud Concordat

Cllr Simon Pickering had circulated his report to the Committee.

(c) Planning Review Panel

The Panel only met to consider substantive planning issues and had been heavily involved in reviewing the community infrastructure levy.

(d) Housing and Development Panel

The notes from the Panel's first meeting had been circulated.

(e) Member Development Task and Finish Group

Meeting dates to be confirmed.

(f) Constitution Working Group

The Group had its first meeting scheduled for 11 July 2016.

SRC.017 **CORPORATE ASSET MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**

The Property Manager outlined the report, stating that when brought before Housing Committee, members had commented that energy efficiency and passive housing should feature more prominently. A further report will be brought to Committee in October for decisions and updates on assets currently being reviewed. The Housing and Development Panel will be involved in reviewing the strategy and considering any potential changes in use of buildings/land.

RESOLVED **To approve the Corporate Asset Management Strategy.**

SRC.0018**ICT - INVESTMENT REQUIREMENT FOR 2016/17**

The Chief Executive presented the report on behalf of the ICT Delivery Manager, explaining the investment required in ICT software, licenses and infrastructure to meet future service needs. Members expressed concern that this had not been brought before Committee sooner. The ICT Manager had published a roadmap/investment plan last August, which was available on the Council's intranet, but this had been omitted from the capital programme. An updated investment plan will be brought to Committee in October. Members also discussed the recent notice that had been sent to those Parish and Town Councils whose websites the IT team still supported, informing them that the service would be withdrawn from December 2016. Provision had been made to help these Councils make alternative arrangements.

RESOLVED

- a) **To approve investment for the upgrade of the current Microsoft Office suite at an annual cost in the region of £106,000.**
- b) **To fund over the Medium Term Financial Plan period (2016-2020) 50% of this annual cost from the ICT reserve and the other 50% to be met on a per capita basis from service budgets.**
- c) **Use £100,000 of the Invest to Save reserve to finance necessary ICT infrastructure work associated with a) above.**

SRC.019**COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL) DRAFT CHARGING SCHEDULE**

The Planning Strategy Manager outlined the report together with the consultation responses (Appendix B) and the draft charging schedule (Appendix A). He was confident that the correct CIL rate had been set and stated the importance of engaging with the County, Parish and Town Councils throughout the implementation process.

The officer had contacted the 4 Councils in Stroud's CIPFA benchmarking group that had already adopted CIL. He stressed that having the correct administrative, including IT, and governance arrangements in place was essential when CIL is implemented during 2017. There would however be a long transition from the current system and income levels were expected to only gradually increase over the next 4-5 years.

RESOLVED

To approve the Draft CIL Charging Schedule set out in Appendix A for submission to examination.

SRC.020**GENERAL FUND REVENUE OUTTURN REPORT 2015/16**

The Accountancy Manager presented the report, highlighting the significant under and overspends. Income surpluses had been generated by a better than expected performance of business rates and at Dursley Pool. Members raised particular questions around the canal, car parks, ICT and the sale of Icelandic Krona.

RESOLVED

To note the General Fund Revenue Outturn for 2015/16, as shown in Table 1 and Table 4.

SRC.021**CAPITAL OUTTURN REPORT 2015/16**

The Accountancy Manager presented the report, setting out the capital expenditure outturn for 2015/16 and budget carry forwards to be included in the 2016/17 programme. The Committee discussed options for buying vehicles for the new waste contract, the number of council house sales and that a final decision on the Ebley Mill hydro should be expected by the end of the year.

RESOLVED

- a) That the capital expenditure outturn statement for 2015/2016 is approved.
- b) That carry forward budgets identified in Appendix A, together with the sources of finance, are approved and added to the 2016/17 capital programme.
- c) The revised capital programme and funding for 2016/17 is agreed.

SRC.012**HRA BUSINESS PLAN OPTIONS UPDATE**

The Chief Executive updated members, explaining that work was still ongoing in the preparation of a final report, which would be presented to Housing Committee in September. The process of re-profiling the Housing Revenue Account was being led by the Strategic Head Tenant and Corporate Services, requiring an adjustment to spending programmes and the consideration of all options for optimising income and minimising expenditure. Whilst the Chief Executive understood that Members wanted an urgent resolution, he stressed that any proposals should be practical, realistic and above all deliverable.

RESOLVED

To note the HRA Business Plan options.

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

There were none received.

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm.

Chair