

STRATEGY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

3 March 2016

7.00 pm – 9.07 pm
Council Chamber, Ebley Mill, Stroud

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Minutes

Membership:

Councillor Geoff Wheeler (Chair)	P	Councillor Haydn Jones	P
Councillor Steve Lydon (Vice-Chair)	P	Councillor Keith Pearson	P
Councillor Chris Brine	P	Councillor Simon Pickering	A
Councillor Nigel Cooper	P	Councillor Mattie Ross	P
Councillor Paul Hemming	P	Councillor Martin Whiteside	P
Councillor Nick Hurst	P	Councillor Rhiannon Wigzell	P
Councillor Julie Job	P		

P = Present A = Absent

Other Councillors Present:

Councillor Nigel Studdert-Kennedy

Officers Present:

Chief Executive	Accountancy Manager
Strategic Head (Development Services)	Principal Planning Officer

SRC.057

APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Simon Pickering.

SRC.058

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received.

SRC.059

MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 7 January 2016 were approved and signed as a correct record.

SRC.060

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

None received.

SRC.061 **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Committee agreed the Work Programme for the meeting which is due to take place on 7 April 2016.

RESOLVED **To note the Work Programme.**

SRC.062 **MEMBER REPORTS**

- (a) Performance Monitoring – An update from Councillors Pearson and Wigzell had been circulated previously, the Chair and Councillor Ross thanked the Members for their report.
- (b) Stroud Concordat – An update from Councillor Pickering had been circulated previously. Members commented on the new ticket machines in the Council's car parks and thanked the Community and Facilities Manager for the work on this project.
- (c) Planning Review Panel – An update from Councillor Lydon had been circulated previously. Members wanted to record their thanks to officers for the work on the Local Plan. Officers commented that it was invaluable to get Members views on the issues involved, not only on the Local Plan but issues such as the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), DC call in procedures. The future of the review panel was briefly discussed and it was felt that a five year review of the Local Plan should be undertaken by the panel.
- (d) Housing and Development Panel – Councillor Geoff Wheeler gave an update on the work of the panel, which had been set up to look at general development sites such as Brimscombe and Littlecombe.

SRC.063 **JOBS AND GROWTH PLAN 2015-18**

- (a) Future Role and Function of Town Centres – the Strategic Head (Development Services) updated Committee. Discussions with consultants were ongoing to deliver a report on this issue. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) had brought changes in relation to town centres. Discussion took place and Members awaited the report.
- (b) Stroud Valleys Initiative – the Strategic Head (Development Services) updated Committee upon the work being carried out which is looking at flood risks along the Frome Valley and Chalford. Discussion took place on various different methods of construction used in other cities with similar issues and Members awaited the result of the work.
- (c) Infrastructure Investment – Councillor Wheeler explained that he had been invited to an away day by the Local Enterprise Partnership. Infrastructure developments would come from planning applications arising from the Local Plan, which could include connection to broadband, road investment and other major investments such as Phase 1b of the Canal project. Discussion took place and the Strategic Head (Development Services) confirmed that a change in Building Regulations was being considered to force developers to make connections to broadband in new housing.

Councillor Hurst left the meeting.

Councillor Wheeler explained that several of the Members had sent reports of their visits to local businesses. These had been circulated to Members.

SRC.064 **REVIEW OF CORPORATE DELIVERY PLAN 2015-19**

The Chief Executive outlined the successes during the year in delivering the CDP. Work such as; satisfaction survey results, adoption of the Local Plan, work experience charter, the rural suds scheme, the new homes programme, regeneration of the canal, achieving carbon neutral status and Littlecombe had all contributed to this achievement.

RESOLVED **To acknowledge progress being made in delivering the Corporate Delivery Plan 2015-19.**

SRC.065 **BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2015/16 Q3**

The Accountancy Manager outlined his report, explaining that this would be the final report of the financial year. He highlighted:

- Table one on page 13 of the report which predicted an underspend of £209k.
- Business Rates Pool income – Highlights a potential risk to the Business Rates pool in future years by NHS Trust application for Mandatory relief.
- Youth Services - £25k to carry forward – the Accountancy Manager updated Committee that this money, as of the date of Committee, had been allocated so did not need to be carried forward into the next financial year.
- Careline – Members felt that a review of Careline was needed as there are 3 different providers.
- HRA Capital spend – Members highlighted that HRA needs to spend a significant amount in final few weeks of the year to achieve outturn forecast.

Members discussed the report and it was carried unanimously.

RESOLVED **(a) To note the outturn forecast for the General Fund revenue budget and the capital programme for 2015.**
(b) To approve the provisional carry forward as detailed in paragraph 8 of the report.

SRC.066 **DEVOLUTION UPDATE**

Councillor Geoff Wheeler gave an update and explained that Leadership Gloucestershire had heard from Cotswold District Council that they were intending to form a unitary council with West Oxfordshire District Council and other Councils in Oxfordshire. This left questions for devolution for Gloucestershire as a whole. The Leader of the County Council had met with the Secretary of State to discuss the issue.

SRC.067 **MEMBERS' QUESTIONS**

None received.

The meeting closed at 9.07 pm.