

STRATEGY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

18 January 2018

7.00 pm – 9.55 pm
 Council Chamber, Ebley Mill, Stroud

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Minutes

Membership:

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

P = Present A = Absent

Officers Present:

Chief Executive	Accountancy Manager
Director of Tenant & Corporate Services	New Homes & Regeneration Manager
Director of Development Services	Head of Business Service Planning
HR Manager	Democratic Service Officer

Members also Present:

Councillors Rachel Curley, Norman Kay, John Marjoram and Nigel Studdert-Kennedy.

Announcement from Councillor Doina Cornell

Councillor Steve Lydon has stepped down from being Chair of Strategy and Resources Committee and Leader of the Council, on 25 January 2018 full Council will be asked to appoint a replacement. Councillor Lydon will remain as a member of the Committee.

SRC.047

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Stephen Davis and Debbie Young.

SRC.048

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

SRC.049

MINUTES

Councillor Cornell confirmed that paragraph 4.(iii) on page 7 of the minutes stated that “any additional consultation to be concluded by the end of February 2018”. The

consultation will now be taking place in March and Councillor Whiteside will provide more information in his update.

RESOLVED **To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 5 December 2017.**

SRC.050 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were none.

SRC.051 **WORK PROGRAMME**

The work programme was noted.

SRC.052 **MEMBER REPORTS**

a) Performance Monitoring

The report had been circulated to committee prior to the meeting.

b) Investment and Development Panel

- Brimscombe Port – The project is moving forward. Various bids had been submitted for funding and the outcomes would be known by the end of February.
- Merrywalks – Discussions had taken place with Dransfield Properties Ltd. They have applied to GFirst for a capital grant of £4m to redevelop the site. More will be known by late February.
- Homes for Rent - £8m was allocated, priority provision for the homeless and potential of buying properties in the future. Various avenues are being explored.
- May Lane, Dursley – This is a complicated site which is partly owned by the Council. Options are currently being explored.
- Tricorn House, Cainscross – Discussions for developing the site into small apartments have taken place.

Members will be updated on the progress of above projects.

c) Subscription Rooms Task and Finish Group (T&FG)

Councillor Whiteside confirmed that the T&FG had met 4 times since mid-December and was made up of the 4 party leaders (or their nominee if they were unable to attend). The notes and bid pack will be published on the Council's website. In early January the site was advertised for lease. The timetable for the process will be agreed and published on the website and continually updated.

Dates to be noted:-

- 1 February - prospective bidders can ask the T&FG questions.
- 5 March - closing date for bids.
- 7 March - bids will be published on the website.
- 12 March - consultation will take place with staff at the Subscription Rooms.
- 13 March - the T&FG will interview bidders.
- 14 March at 6.00-7.30 pm - members information evening.
- 17 March - public consultation in the George Rooms at the Subscription Rooms.
- 12 April – report will be presented to Committee.

The T&FG are currently working on a scoring matrix for the bids.

SRC.053**CAPITAL PROJECT MONITORING**

- a) Littlecombe Business Units, Dursley
Completion is due in April 2018.
- b) Brimscombe Port Development
Work is ongoing on a solution to the engineering works for the canal, basin, road and bridge works and it is anticipated that a planning application will be submitted in April 2018 for the infrastructure across the whole site.
- c) Homes for Rent
The Council's stock is currently being reviewed for possible development opportunities throughout the district. The option of possibly buying properties, making them fit for let and then placing them into the hands of a registered management company was being explored. Monies currently used for B&B could be redirected into such projects in the future. Accommodation was needed for the homeless and young vulnerable people.
- d) ICT Investment
An update was provided and anticipated expenditure had been included into the financial reports.

RESOLVED**To note the reports.****SRC.054****FINANCIAL REPORTS**

- a) Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget 2018/19 and Medium Term Financial Plan 2018/19-2021/22

Councillor Mattie Ross was pleased to announce that a deal had recently been agreed for 24 affordable houses to be built in Wotton-under-Edge using RTB monies. The Accountancy Manager confirmed that the only amendment to the report that had been agreed by Housing Committee was the figure in paragraph 5.2. There were no significant changes in the overall position of the HRA.

RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL

1. **The revised HRA budget for 2017/18 and original budget for 2018/19 are approved; and**
2. **The movement to and from balances and capital reserves as detailed in Appendices B and C are approved; and**
3. **That from 1 April 2018:**
 - i) **Social rents and affordable rents are decreased by 1% (equivalent to 81p at the average rent level), as calculated in accordance with legislation**
 - ii) **Garage rents are increased by 3%**
 - iii) **Landlord sheltered housing service charges are increased by 3%**
 - iv) **Other landlord service charges are increased by 3%; and**
4. **That the HRA Capital Programme for 2017/18 to 2021/22, as detailed in Appendix C, are included in the Council's Capital Programme.**

b) General Fund Revenue Estimates – Revised 2017/18 and Original 2018/19

The Accountancy Manager highlighted various aspects of the above report. Confirming that if there were any financial changes to the estimates these would be reported at future meetings. During debate several members confirmed that they could not support the recommendation.

RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL The estimates set out in the report be considered and approved for inclusion in the General Fund Revenue Budget 2018/19 and Medium Term Financial Plan report to Council elsewhere on this agenda.

c) The General Fund Budget 2018/19, Capital Programme and Medium Term Financial Plan

The Accountancy Manager outlined the above report. Members raised concern regarding increasing car parking charges and the impact this would have on the economy of local towns. Members wanted a better understanding of how the rate support grant was calibrated and it was suggested that all parties would work together on this very complex topic.

RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL (and subject to the Government's final settlement announcements):

1. To approve the service revenue estimates as set out in Appendix A;
2. To approve the ICT and Invest to Save contingency for 2018/19 and subsequent years as set out in paragraph 4.5 as part of a balanced budget;
3. To increase the council tax by 2.99% to £201.50 at Band D, an increase of less than 12p per week for the services provided by Stroud District Council;
4. To approve the updated Medium Term Financial Plan as set out in Appendix B;
5. To approve the Capital Programme, as set out in Appendix C and the Capital Financing Statement as shown in Appendix D;
6. To approve the changes to the reserves as set out in paragraph 5.16 of the report and Appendix E.

SRC.055**TASK AND FINISH GROUP REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT**

Councillor Rachel Curley, Chaired the Task and Finish Group and outlined their report and recommendations. Committee were very supportive of the recommendations and recognised the importance of the scrutiny function carried out by the Performance Monitors. An update would be provided at a future meeting.

RESOLVED

1. To accept the recommendations of this report.
2. To ask all committees to table this report for discussion at forthcoming meetings.

SRC.056

**THE FAIR PAY AND SENIOR PAY POLICY STATEMENT
2018/19**

The HR Manager outlined the above report highlighting the main issues.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL That the statement is approved.

SRC.057

LEADERSHIP GLOUCESTERSHIRE UPDATE

The Chief Executive gave an oral update on Leadership Gloucestershire and reminded members of the members' information evening on 23 January and the seminar at Cheltenham Racecourse on 1 February.

SRC.058

MEMBER QUESTIONS

There were none.

The meeting closed at 9.55 pm.

Chair