

STRATEGY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

24 May 2018

7.03 pm – 9.08 pm
 Council Chamber, Ebley Mill, Stroud

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Minutes

Membership:

Councillor Doina Cornell (Chair)	P	Councillor Mattie Ross	P
Councillor Nigel Cooper	P	Councillor Tom Skinner	P
Councillor Stephen Davies	P	Councillor Chas Townley	P
Councillor Colin Fryer (Vice-Chair)	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

Officers Present:

Chief Executive	Canal Manager
Accountancy Manager	Democratic Services Officer
Principal Accountant	

The Chair thanked Councillors Lydon and Robinson for their work on the Committee and welcomed Councillor Fryer, who had been appointed Vice-Chair, Councillor Townley who had been appointed Chair of Housing Committee and Councillor Ross had been appointed Chair of Community Services and Licensing Committee.

In view of the Chief Executive's pending retirement in October 2018, the Leader advised that an appointment panel comprising the four group leaders would be established.

At Committee on 14 June 2018, 1 minute silence will be observed for the victims of the Grenfell Fire disaster. Fire broke out in the tower on 14 June 2017.

SRC.001 APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Pickering.

SRC.002 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

SRC.003 MINUTES

RESOLVED To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 12 April 2018.

SRC.004 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were none.

SRC.005 **APPOINTMENTS**

- a) Performance Monitoring Representatives – this will be discussed at Committee on 14 June 2018.
- b) Investment and Development Panel – Councillor Dewey will replace Councillor Edmunds on this panel.

SRC.006 **FINANCIAL REPORTS**a) **Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Outturn 2017/18 – Summary of Variances**

The Accountancy Manager presented this report. This was the final outturn position for the 2017/18 financial year and explained that this was the level of balances held by the HRA as a result of closing the account for the year. A report will be presented to Housing Committee showing the HRA from the beginning of the financial year 2018/19.

Councillor Townley, Chair of Housing Committee, thanked Cllr Ross for her hard work on Housing Committee over the years and updated Committee on issues relating to the HRA.

Members asked questions and debated this item.

- RESOLVED**
- a) **To note the Housing Revenue Account revenue and capital outturn for 2017/18, as shown in Table 1 and Table 4.**
 - b) **To approve the transfers to and from earmarked reserves for the year, as set out in Table 2.**
 - c) **To approve the reprofiling of the 2018/19 New Build Programme budget as set out in Table 6.**

b) **General Fund Revenue Outturn Report 2017/18**

The Accountancy Manager provided Committee with a more detailed explanation of the performance against the budget. He explained that this report highlighted a good outturn position, but the budget is facing significant pressures, with the Council faced with paying back to Government £549,000 revenue support grant in 2019/20.

Members were concerned with cuts that were being made across the district, including grass cutting and street cleaning. They were also concerned with issues surrounding the Multi Waste and Recycling Contract in relation to the incinerator.

- RESOLVED**
- a) **To note the General Fund Revenue Outturn for 2017/18, as shown in Table 1 and Table 2.**
 - b) **To approve the transfers to and from earmarked reserves for the year, as set out in table 6.**
 - c) **To approve the budgets to be carried forward to 2018/19, as set out in Table 3.**

c) **Capital Outturn Report 2017/18**

The Accountancy Manager highlighted changes in the Capital Budget relating to Merrywalks, Brimscombe Port and ICT. These programmes will be kept under review and updates will be provided to Members throughout the year.

- RESOLVED**
- a) That the capital expenditure outturn statement for 2017/2018 is approved.
 - b) That carry forward budgets identified in Appendix A, together with the sources of finance, are approved and added to the 2018/19 capital programme.
 - c) The revised capital programme and funding for 2018/19 is agreed.

SRC.007 STROUDWATER NAVIGATION CONNECTED – REGENERATING CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE FOR EVERYONE

The Canal Manager presented this report and explained that the canal is now navigable from Stonehouse to Thrupp. All work was completed to the satisfaction of the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and £1.1m, which had been retained by the HLF, had now been paid. Phase 1a had been delivered on budget and development funding has been awarded by the HLF for Stroudwater Navigation Connected to restore the canal from Stonehouse to Saul Junction. A Round 2 bid will need to be made to the HLF for funding of £9m and a report will be presented to Committee in the autumn of 2019 for further funding. Environment Committee will be updated on progress at the development stage.

Following discussion Councillor Whiteside proposed an amendment to the resolution adding a paragraph between no. 1 and 2 to approve £438,000 as the Council's contribution at this stage (in line with the allocation included in the Council's capital programme). This was not seconded or voted on.

Following discussion and debate Members considered it was essential that the Canal Manager report back to Committee for funding.

- RESOLVED**
- a) To accept the Heritage Lottery Fund's offer of £842,800 for the Development Stage of *Stroudwater Connected* on the terms set out in the offer.
 - b) To agree the establishment of a Council-led Canal Project Board, as outlined at Section 4 of this committee report.
 - c) Delegate authority to the Canal Manager in consultation with the Head of Legal Services to review and agree terms for a partnership agreement with the Council's project partners to progress the project through the development stage.
 - d) Delegate authority to the Canal Manager in consultation with the Leader of the Council to make decisions on behalf of the Council in order to progress the Development Stage of the project subject to the approval of the Chief Executive to any decision involving capital expenditure or anticipated capital expenditure in excess of £75,000 and provided that any expenditure is within the Council's approved budget for the project.

SRC.008 MEMBER QUESTIONS

There were none.

The meeting closed at 9.08 pm.

Chair