

HARBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCE AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY PANEL

Held in the Council Chamber, The Symington Building,

Adam and Eve Street, Market Harborough

21st January 2016

Commencing at 6.30p.m.

Present:

Councillor Mrs. Ackerley, Chairman.

Councillors (panellists): Bilbie, Dann (ex officio), Evans, Dr Hill, Knowles, Modha, Nunn and Mrs Robinson.

Councillors (guests): Bannister, Mrs Burrell, Elliott, Galton, Hallam, Johnson, King, Liquorish, Mrs Page, Pain, Rickman and Rook.

Officers: A. M. Hawkins, B. Jolly, G. Keeping, S. Riley and V. Wenham.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NOTIFICATIONS OF SUBSTITUTION

Apologies for absence were received from:

Panellists: Councillor Beesley-Reynolds, Graves, Hadkiss and Spendlove-Mason.

Councillor Nunn substituted for Councillor Hadkiss and Councillor Mrs Robinson substituted for Councillor Spendlove-Mason.

MINUTES

RESOLVED that: the Minutes of the Meeting of the Resource and Performance Scrutiny Panel held on 10th December 2015 be taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

None reported.

COUNCIL BUDGET 2016/17

Members considered draft Budget proposals for the 2016/17 year. S. Riley, Section 151 Officer, outlined the main aspects of the revenue and budget funding proposals for the 2016/17 year. The Chairman invited questions and comments from those present, to be presented to the Executive at its Meeting on 8th February 2016.

The following questions and comments were recorded:

Question/ Comment	Response
Apprenticeships	£40k has been allocated for Apprenticeships. It is

<p>(i) How much of the £200k identified in the table on the Utilisation of the Business Rate Retention Reserve for Business Support Initiatives / Apprenticeships is intended for Apprenticeships?</p> <p>(ii) How will this be targeted, given the low levels of unemployment within the District?</p>	<p>intended that grants of up to £750 will be made available to encourage businesses to take on residents of Harborough District, particularly young people. The Government has indicated that an apprenticeship levy will be introduced in 2017, so the Council's own scheme will only run up to that date.</p>
<p><u>Garage Site Redevelopment</u> In the Proposed Capital Programme (Appendix E to the report), Garage Site Redevelopment appears in two places: 'Investing for the Future' and 'External Funding'. Why is this?</p>	<p>The 'Investing for the Future' figures refers to the anticipated costs of the development of housing on these sites, while the 'External Funding' figures refer to anticipated capital receipts upon the sale of houses.</p> <p>The figures included at this stage are considered to be prudent and it may be possible to generate greater profit from the schemes than those indicated in Appendix E.</p>
<p><u>Developer Commuted Contributions</u> How is the income from Commuted Sums identified in Appendix D to the report fed back into the budget for grounds maintenance?</p>	<p>The reserve is potentially overstated because no draw down has been made yet. A review will be conducted during the forthcoming year to clarify the funding flow for past and current agreements and the draw-down from the reserve that will be needed to fund on-going maintenance liabilities.</p>
<p><u>New Homes Bonus</u></p> <p>(i) Is it the intention that in future there will be a single pot of £75k for grants to communities and that no separate money will be available from the New Homes Bonus (NHB) to support areas where development is taking place?</p> <p>(ii) If so, does this mean that areas where there is no development will be able to bid for funding from the community grant scheme on an equal basis to those where development is taking place?</p>	<p>The Council does not propose in future to pass any money direct to parishes. The NHB Community Grants stream is being reduced by £75k from £277k to £202k (Appendix D to the report) to fund the community grants scheme in 2016/17. The remit of the scheme will remain unaltered in order to maximise opportunities for all communities.</p>

The Panel RESOLVED that the report be forwarded to the Executive with these Minutes attached, for information.

The Chairman thanked guest members and members of The Executive for their attendance at the meeting.

CORPORATE PLAN AND CORPORATE DELIVERY PLAN

B. Jolly, Corporate Director – Resources, presented the Panel with draft versions of the Council's Corporate Plan, Corporate Delivery Plan and Strategic Performance Dashboard for the 2016-17 period. Following this meeting, the documents were due to be considered by the Executive on 8th February 2016.

The Panel NOTED that:

- (i) the Corporate Plan and Corporate Delivery Plan outline the Council's vision, priorities, Critical Outcomes and the Key Activities to deliver them. Both documents are underpinned by the

Council's vision, which is: 'Working with communities in a vibrant, safe and prosperous district.'

- (ii) Both the Corporate Plan and the Corporate Delivery Plan are structured around the delivery of the Council's four priorities:
- Working with communities to develop places in which to live and be happy.
 - Provide public services which are effective and deliver value for money.
 - Encourage a vibrant and sustainable business community intent on prosperity, employment and learning opportunities.
 - Support the vulnerable in the communities where they live.
- (iii) the Corporate Plan 2016/17 is the overarching public document which sets out the Council's vision for the district, its ambitions and priorities and how it will work with its partners and the community to ensure that living in, working in, and visiting the district is the best possible experience. It is based on information about the area and customer feedback and identifies how the Council will achieve its long-term vision.
- (iv) the Corporate Delivery Plan 2016/17 is the Council's annual high-level plan that sets out how it will deliver its vision and priorities through Critical Outcomes and Key Activities during the forthcoming financial year. There should be a clear 'golden thread' that links these two documents.
- (v) the Corporate Delivery Plan identifies high level Expected Outcomes of the Key Activities, which will add depth to what the Critical Outcomes will mean for communities in the District. It also contains the headline Performance Indicators and Risks connected to these Key Activities.
- (vi) the number of Key Activities proposed in the 2016/17 Corporate Delivery Plan is currently around 57, 4 more than in the 2015/16 Corporate Delivery Plan.
- (vii) the Corporate Delivery Plan is a dynamic document and the development of the Key Activities, performance indicators and risks is an iterative process. Reporting mechanisms for the Corporate Delivery Plan will remain the same during the 2016/17 year. The Strategic Performance Dashboard will continue to be produced on a monthly basis, and monthly scrutiny of performance will take place through the internal Performance Improvement Board. Performance Reports will be submitted to the Executive and Scrutiny on a quarterly basis.

The Chairman invited questions and comments from those present, to be presented to the Executive at its Meeting on 8th February 2016. The following questions and comments were recorded:

Question/ Comment	Response
The Corporate Plan does not appear to contain detailed information on the proposals for Business Support Initiatives and Apprenticeships.	The Plan is a high-level document, but is supported by the Corporate Delivery Plan, which will contain KIs relating to initiatives of this type.
The Corporate Plan was considered to be a clear public-facing document.	

The Panel RESOLVED that the report be forwarded to the Executive with these Minutes attached, for information.

PERFORMANCE AND MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

B. Jolly, Corporate Director – Resources, provided Members with an introduction to this report. The framework sets out the overall high-level approach that Harborough District Council will take to performance management. The aim of the framework is to provide a basis for consistency in the way performance is managed and joined-up across the Council – a 'one Council' approach, which will encourage Members, Officers and Partners to work together to deliver activities.

The first edition of the Performance Management Framework was approved by the Executive on 14th January 2013 and implemented on 1st April 2013. The latest version of the document was approved by the Executive on 9 February 2015.

The Panel raised no questions or comments in relation to the draft and RESOLVED that the report be forwarded to the Executive.

MATTERS OF SPECIAL URGENCY

None were reported.

The Meeting ended at 7.14p.m.