

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY RESOURCES - INFORMAL CONSULTATION ON DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN AND BUDGET PROPOSALS

Notes of meeting - 7 February 2008

Present: Cllr. Peter Armstrong (Chair)
Cllr. Keith Bing
Cllr. Anne Bird
Cllr. Andrew Cartwright
Cllr. Robert Cooke
Cllr. Dominic Sabetian
Cllr. Terry Soan

In attendance: Cllr. Matthew Beaver
Neil Dart (ND)
Brian Haydon (BH)
Jane Hartnell (JH)
Graham Belchamber (GB)
Natasha Thayre (NT)

Apologies: Cllr. Peter Pragnell

1. **Declarations of Interest**

The following councillors declared an interest in the notes of the meeting as follows:

- Cllr Stevens (in the public gallery) declared a personal interest in note 2, in relation to any discussion involving 1066 Housing Association, as he is an employee;
- Cllr Stevens declared a personal interest in notes 2 and 3, as a Cabinet Member;
- Cllrs Bird and Webb declared a prejudicial interest in note 3, in relation to discussion around the Foreshore Trust, as trustees (both members left the Chamber while the discussion took place).

2. **Draft Corporate Plan 2008/09-2010/11**

JH gave a brief introduction of the draft Corporate Plan which set out the proposed priority areas of activity and investment for 2008/09 to 2010/11. Members were invited to comment on the draft Plan and related budget proposals.

Cllr Sabetian endorsed the amendment put to Cabinet on 21 January, as detailed in paragraph 1.5 of the report. He thought this was

especially relevant considering the recent announcement from the Jerwood Foundation.

Cllr Cartwright asked if Target 1 for Personnel and Organisational Development could be made more precise. NT replied that there was still much work to be done in relation to achieving Level 3 of the Equalities Standard for Local Government, but would note the comment made.

Cllr Bird commented on Target 7 for Personnel and Organisational Development, saying she would like to see more inclusion of all sickness absence, not just stress and stress-related problems. NT replied that a general target was already in place for this year and the department was on course to achieve; stress was a particular issue however and this was why the specific target had been proposed. However, sickness absence in general was still a high was still a high priority.

Members also raised general comments on other areas of the draft Corporate Plan relating to their particular committee's remit.

Action: Members' comments to be referred back to Cabinet on 20 February 2008 (JH)

3. Consultation on Revenue Budget 2007-08 Revised and 2008-09, Capital Programme 2007-08 to 2010-2011

BH gave a brief introduction on the Revenue Budget and Capital Programme as part of the public consultation process. Members were invited to submit their comments on the budget proposals.

There was much discussion around the Working Neighbourhoods Fund; particularly in relation to the amount of money this Council had been allocated, together with the timing of the announcement. This also led to a discussion on the Working Neighbourhoods Fund Conference scheduled for 16 February 2008. This was a chance for all stakeholders to be involved in consultation on dispersal of the monies.

Cllr Sabetian endorsed an amendment made at Cabinet on 21 January, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report.

Cllr Cartwright asked that all officers involved in preparing the budget proposals be thanked for their work. Cllr Beaver endorsed this and extended thanks to BH, as this would be his last budget, due to leaving HBC in the near future.

Action: Members' comments to be referred back to Cabinet on 20 February 2008 (BH)

Meeting closed: 19.15hrs.