

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 4 FEBRUARY 2015 AT THE KENNET ROOM - COUNTY HALL, TROWBRIDGE BA14 8JN.

Present:

Cllr Simon Killane (Chairman), Cllr Alan Hill (Vice Chairman), Cllr Christine Crisp, Cllr Stewart Dobson, Cllr Peter Edge, Cllr Jon Hubbard, Cllr Gordon King, Cllr Jacqui Lay, Cllr Jeff Osborn, Cllr Pip Ridout, Cllr Ian Thorn, Cllr John Walsh, Cllr Bridget Wayman, Cllr Philip Whalley and Cllr Paul Oatway QPM (Substitute)

Also Present:

Cllr Glenis Ansell, Cllr Mollie Groom, Cllr Keith Humphries, Cllr Laura Mayes, Cllr Fleur de Rhé-Philipe, Cllr Jane Scott OBE, Cllr Jonathon Seed, Cllr John Thomson, Cllr Dick Tonge, Cllr Roy While and Cllr Philip Whitehead

14 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor John Noeken, who was substituted by Councillor Paul Oatway QPM.

15 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations.

16 Chairman's Announcements

There were no announcements.

17 Public Participation

There were no statements or questions submitted.

18 Purpose of Meeting

Members noted and approved the proposed meeting structure.

19 Wiltshire Council's Financial Plan Update 2015/16

The draft Wiltshire Council Financial Plan Update for 2015/16 was presented by Councillor Dick Tonge, Cabinet Member for Finance, Performance and Risk and the Associate Director (Finance) ahead of its submission to Cabinet on 10 February and Full Council on 24 February 2015.

Details of proposed investments and savings were outlined within the context of continued reductions in the government revenue support grant to the council and the freeze on council tax being extended, as well as the impact of the savings implemented through previous budgets.

The Committee, along with other members in attendance including the Chairman of the Financial Planning Task Group and members of the Executive, discussed the proposed budget, and clarification was sought on several issues from the attending Cabinet Members and Corporate Leadership Team, with full details contained in the report as appended to these minutes. Particular focus was given to strategic savings, service budget proposals, risks and the emphasis in relation to the council's business plan and key actions.

Areas of discussion included analysing areas of overspend for solutions, awaiting publication of the staff survey to determine the impact upon staffing resources, whether savings could be delivered while still protecting the vulnerable and other demands on the council, and how to manage increasingly numerous and complex demands upon services. Proposed strategic savings including with regards music provision and charging for garden waste collection were assessed, along with other topics as detailed in the appended report.

At the conclusion of debate, it was,

Resolved:

- 1) To thank the Financial Planning Scrutiny Task Group for their work in monitoring the progress and management of the current budget and the creation of the draft budget for 2015/16; to acknowledge the dedication and zeal that has gone into the process on behalf of this Committee.**

- 2) That the Overview and Management Committee believes that the draft budget has been properly and appropriately scrutinised.**

20 Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Friday 13 February 2015 to scrutinise opposition group amendments to the budget, followed by an ordinary meeting on Tuesday 3 March 2015.

21 Urgent Items

There were no urgent items.

(Duration of meeting: 10.30 am - 12.30 pm)

The Officer who has produced these minutes is Kieran Elliott (Senior Democratic Services Officer) of Democratic Services, direct line (01225) 718504, e-mail kieran.elliott@wiltshire.gov.uk

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