



Rutland County Council

Catmose Oakham Rutland LE15 6HP

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Minutes of a meeting of the **RESOURCES SCRUTINY PANEL** held in the Council Chamber, Catmose, Oakham, at 7.00 pm Thursday 16 February 2012

PRESENT: Mr B W Roper - Chairman (in the Chair)
Mrs L I Stephenson
Mr J M Lammie
Mr C A Parsons
Mr D L Richardson
Miss G Waller
Mr A S Walters
Mr R J Gale

In attendance: Mr T C King Portfolio Holder for Finance and Asset Management
Mr M Pocock Portfolio Holder for Resources

Officers present: Mrs D Mogg Strategic Director for Resources
Ms S Dring Head of Business Support - Resources
Miss M G Gamston Democratic Services Officer

Non-Panel Members Present: Mr J T Dale (for part of the meeting)

Apologies: Mr Baines, Mr Cross, Mr N M Wainwright, Mr D C Hollis

742 RECORD OF MEETING

The Record of the Resources Scrutiny Panel held on 24 November 2011, copies of which had been previously circulated, was confirmed and signed by the Chairman. It was noted that Mrs Vernon had declared a personal but not prejudicial interest in Item 8, Financial Management Report 2011/12 Quarter 2, as the employee of an education recruitment firm and that this had not been reflected in the minutes.

The Record of the Special Resources Scrutiny Panel held on 19 January 2012, copies of which had been previously circulated, was confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

743 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared.

744 PETITIONS, DEPUTATIONS AND QUESTIONS

No petitions, deputations or questions had been received from members of the public.

745 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS

No questions had been received from members.

746 NOTICES OF MOTION FROM MEMBERS

No Notices of Motion had been received from members.

747 CONSIDERATION OF ANY MATTER REFERRED TO THE PANEL FOR A DECISION IN RELATION TO A CALL IN OF A DECISION

No matter was referred to the Panel for a decision in relation to call in of a decision in accordance with Procedure Rule 206.

SCRUTINY

748 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2012/13

Report No. 24/2012 from the Strategic Director for Resources was received. The report outlined the Council's Prudential Indicators for 2012/13 to 2014/15 and set out the expected treasury operations for that period. The Strategic Director for Resources, Mrs Mogg introduced the report and explained that as the report had been discussed at Council on 13 February 2012 she would not go into detail on the information contained within the report but would take questions from the Panel.

The following points were noted during the discussion:

- i) Concern that the report incorporated Capital Receipts expectations but not Capital Expenditure. Mrs Mogg advised Members that an estimate of Capital Receipts was always included in the Treasury Management Strategy report and that it was not appropriate to anticipate Capital Expenditure at this time but the financial position would be revised and reported on during the year;
- ii) Concern that the Panel had not been able to scrutinise the report prior to it going to Council. It was noted that following publication of the report on 24 January 2012 there had not been any questions submitted by Members.

AGREED

The contents of report no. 24/2012 be noted.

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7.05 pm Mr Dale joined the meeting.

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749 Q3 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT REPORT 2011/12

Report No. 25/2012 from the Strategic Director for Resources was received. The report showed how the Council was performing against its revenue and capital budgets and reported a forecast year end outturn position as at 31 December 2011. The Strategic Director for Resources, Mrs Mogg introduced the report and explained that this report was to go to Cabinet on 21 February 2012.

The report summarised the overall position of the Council but for the purposes of this Panel Appendices A3 and C3, both relating to the Resources Directorate were considered.

AGREED

That recommendations 2.1 to 2.3.5 be recommended.

750 Q3 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT 2011/12

Report No. 41/2012 from the Chief Executive was received and introduced by the Strategic Director for Resources, Mrs Mogg. The purpose of the report was to report to Cabinet on the Council's Performance for the quarter ending 31 December 2011.

During discussion it was noted that:

- i) Days lost due to sickness had increased slightly on the previous two quarters of the year, predominantly due to an increase in long term sick;
- ii) Short term sickness – need to analysis why this had increased from quarter 2;
- iii) Following the recent change in terms and conditions for council employees it was too early to assess the impact on days lost to sickness;
- iv) Mrs Mogg undertook to supply Members with the cost of sickness pay as an average for one day;
- v) Delivering and Supporting Existing Services/Cross Cutting Themes - aligned to the Council's revised strategic aims. The priority was to look at debt recovery procedures for sundry debts, these being any debt other than council tax;
- vi) Freedom of Information requests – there had been an increase in the number of requests and the Council was looking at this. Mrs Mogg undertook to supply further information to Members. Mr Pocock, Portfolio Holder for Resources commented that although some of the requests received asked important questions some were for commercial reasons;
- vii) The Council was considering publishing Frequently Asked Questions on the website;
- viii) Members' Declarations of Interest were published on websites by some local authorities.

PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS AND TOPICS

751 REVIEW OF FORWARD PLAN

The Forward Plan of Key Decisions was noted.

Particular attention was drawn to the following reports due:

- i) Pay Policy Statement – result of the Localism Bill;
- ii) Write Off – ongoing problem of non payment of national non domestic rates (NNDR). Mr King, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Asset Management informed Members that in the future this would impact on the Council's ability to raise revenue and that he would welcome comments from Scrutiny. Mr Roper, Chair agreed to look at on the work programme to be decided by the Scrutiny Commission.

752 ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

No other business had been previously noted to the person presiding.

753 DATE AND PREVIEW OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 26 April 2012

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The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.35 pm

Chairman