



Rutland County Council

Catmose Oakham Rutland LE15 6HP
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Record of a **special** meeting of the **RESOURCES SCRUTINY PANEL** held in the Council Chamber, Catmose, Oakham at 7.30 pm on **Thursday 17 January 2013**.

PRESENT: Mr B W Roper (Chairman, in the Chair)
Mr D C Hollis
Mr J M Lammie
Mr J R Munton
Mr C A Parsons
Mr D L Richardson
Miss G Waller
Mr A S Walters

OFFICERS PRESENT: Mr S Della Rocca Strategic Director Resources
Mrs A Hawkins Accountant

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr R Begy Portfolio Holder for Museum & Castle Development and Housing.
Mr M Pocock Portfolio Holder for Resources and Places Operations

NON-PANEL MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr R J Gale

APOLOGIES: Mr W Cross
Mr B A Montgomery
Mrs C L Vernon

629 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

630 PETITIONS, DEPUTATIONS AND QUESTIONS

There were no petitions, deputations or questions received from members of the public.

631 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS

No questions with notice were received from members.

SCRUTINY

632 BUDGET 2013/14, MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME

Report No. 5/2013 from the Strategic Director for Resources was received.

The Portfolio Holder for Museum & Castle Development and Housing, Mr Begy, introduced the report and distributed a list of assumptions, risks, savings and pressures and future potential savings that had been used to inform the Budget figures for 2013/14 and the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) to 2018/19. The following points were highlighted:

- a) That the Council Tax Freeze grant would be applied for the next two years;
- b) That spending on Public Health would need to be reviewed together with the implications of increased demand for Adult Social Care;
- c) The New Homes bonus would be determined by the number of new homes built;
- d) Business rates collection determined by retention of businesses based in the county;
- e) That Pass Plus funding options were to be reviewed;
- f) That approximately £903,000 of savings had been identified and built into directorate budgets and a further £630,000 shown separately in the MTFP.

During discussion responses given to points raised included:

- (i) Council tax collection surplus – was recalculated for the 8th January Cabinet paper and was approximately £100,000 different from the previous year as a result of changes to charges, precepts and expenditure. The Council tax collection figure will be recalculated at 15th January in line with regulations and may again change. The use of the surplus was discussed and whether it was returned to taxpayers. The surplus is treated as income in the MTFP and is therefore factored into future spending decisions;
- (ii) Council Tax – included predictions for growth and new house completions. The Council tax figure is lower than prior year

because of the cost of the local council tax benefit scheme approved by Council;

- (iii) Service Pressures, Fees and Charges – listed as a pressure for the coming year as the present year's savings were not made as charges were not implemented;
- (iv) Pinewood – various rental options are being considered to relieve this budget pressure;
- (v) Shared Services – discussion around whether shared service options are being explored. The Authority does continue to look at options including how it can sell Rutland's services to other local authorities;
- (vi) Council Tax Freeze – Rutland would not increase its council tax in 2013/14 and would therefore receive the Council Tax freeze grant;
- (vii) Reduction in training budget – the Authority would seek to deliver more focused and relevant training for Members and officers;
- (viii) Inflation Contingency – salary increases were included in the Inflation Contingency line of the MTFP. Actual pay inflation was not yet known and will not be known until the national pay agreement is reached;
- (ix) Reserves- keeping a level of financial reserves assisted the Council in controlled decision making;
- (x) Use of reserves and public consultation – consultation was taking place with businesses, staff, Parish Councils and the public through on-line consultation, libraries etc. A public facing meeting, other than Scrutiny meetings, which the public can attend, were not being held as the council tax is not increasing and savings proposals had little public impact. Where they do, separate consultation would be held.
- (xi) Capital Receipts – as negotiations and opportunities for sales developed values for each year could change. The Resources Scrutiny Panel would be kept informed of any changes.

AGREED:

That all Panel Members would be advised on the current position regarding Capital Receipts.

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The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.35 pm.

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CHAIRMAN
Date 7 February 2013