



Rutland County Council

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Minutes of a meeting of the **Special RESOURCES SCRUTINY PANEL** held in the Council Chamber, Catmose, Oakham, at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 15 January 2014

PRESENT: Mr J M Lammie - Chairman (in the Chair)
 Mr W J Cross
 Mr D C Hollis
 Mr D L Richardson
 Mrs C L Vernon
 Miss G Waller
 Mr A S Walters

In attendance: Mr M D A Pocock Portfolio Holder for Highways, Waste and Recycling, Transport and Parking, Revenues and Benefits, Democratic Services

Officers present: Mr S Della Roca Assistant Director - Finance
 Miss M Gamston Support Officer
 Mrs A Hawkins Accountant
 Mrs D Mogg Director of Resources

Also present: Mr J T Dale

Apologies: Mr T C King, Mr B A Montgomery and Mr J R Munton

692 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made in respect of the items on the agenda for this meeting.

693 PETITIONS, DEPUTATIONS AND QUESTIONS

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

694 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS

No questions had been received from members.

SCRUTINY

695 BUDGET 2014-15, MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME

Report No. 286/2013 from the Director of Resources was received.

The Portfolio Holder for Highways, Waste and Recycling, Transport and Parking, Revenues and Benefits, Democratic Services, Mr Pocock, introduced the report the purpose of which was to agree detailed budget proposals for 2014/15 for consultation and to inform Members of the estimated position on the Collection Fund

at 31 March 2014.

During discussion the following points were noted:

- i) That the proposed 2014/15 budget for the Resources Directorate was £5,177,700;
- ii) That staff costs accounted for £2.9m of the Resources Directorate budget;
- iii) That savings of £267k had been identified including £198k staff costs, £20k in the legal contract budget; other savings were less than £10k each;
- iv) That with the change in approach to Human Resources (HR) provision it was not possible to deliver the original savings of c£29k proposed for 2014/15 but that it was likely that savings could be delivered in the future.. Members were advised that the Authority was not looking to reduce HR provision but that it was looking to up skill line management and funds would be utilised to change working practices where required;
- v) That due to the workload and priorities within the IT team, the saving of £60k proposed needed to be reduced to £30k.
- vi) That the implementation of a Corporate Support Team, by merging the Democratic Services and Senior Management Team Support teams, would result in a saving of £32,300 for 2014/15. A written breakdown of changes around the staffing budget and structure changes was to be provided to Members;
- vii) That the cost to the Council of implementing the supplement approach to the Living Wage would be low as only 10 members of staff are affected (Section 2.2, Appendix 1 to Report No. 286/2013);
- viii) That the Authority continually reviewed contracts with external agencies to ensure the most cost effective way of delivering a service;
- ix) That the previous budget for Reprographics and Post staff costs was included in the Corporate Support Team budget;
- x) That a query was raised regarding the third party payment under cost code 3450, Customer Services Team. The Director of Resources, Mrs Mogg, agreed to provide a written response;
- xi) That there were two elements to the budgeting for the Welland Internal Audit Consortium: that RCC was the employing body (cost code 3713, £318,400) invoicing other authorities and that the actual cost to Rutland was £80k (cost code 3730);
- xii) That cost code 3040, Elections – General, incorporated European Elections with reimbursed costs taken into account;
- xiii) That the Authority received approximately £6.5m in ring fenced government grants, the two biggest of which are: £1.1m for the People Directorate (including Public Health Department grant) and £5.5m for the Resources Directorate (including Housing Benefit reimbursement);
- xiv) That projected forecasts for Interest Receivable as stated in the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP)(Appendix 6 to Report No. 286/2013) were driven by the medium term cash flow and forecast interest rates. Advice was also taken from Sector, treasury management advisors;

AGREED:

- i) That Panel noted the contents of Report No. 286/2013.
- ii) That the Director of Resources, Mrs Mogg, would provide a written response to the query regarding the third party payment under cost code 3450, Customer Services Team.
- iii) That the Director of Resources, Mrs Mogg, would provide a breakdown of savings from the merger of SMT admin and Democratic Services.

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The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.07 pm