

Minutes of the Meeting of the **FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE** held at the Town Hall, Swanage on **WEDNESDAY, 15th JANUARY 2014** at 9.30 a.m.

PRESENT:- Councillor Mrs. A. Patrick (Town Mayor) – Chairman.

Councillor M. Bonfield
Councillor S. Poultney
Councillor M. Whitwam

Public Participation Time

No members of the public were present at the meeting.

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for their inability to attend the Meeting were received from Councillors Brown, Pratt and Trite.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were invited to declare their interest under the Code of Conduct as defined by regulations made under section 30 (3) of the Localism Act 2011.

There were no declarations to record on this occasion.

3. **DRAFT ESTIMATES AND CONSIDERATION OF PRECEPT 2014/15**

(a) **Draft Estimates 2014/15**

Further to Minute No. 4 (a) of the Finance & Performance Management Committee meeting held on 9th December 2013, consideration was given to the revised draft Estimate Book 2014/15, duly amended in accordance with the recommendations of the Committee.

Consideration of Precept 2014/15

Further to the recommendation of the Finance & Performance Management Committee held on 9th December 2013,

‘That the draft Estimates 2014/15 incorporating a proposed increase in the continued income from the Council Tax precept and Council Tax Support Grant of 2.5% be approved for final consideration by the full Council on 20th January 2014’.

it was reported that central government had yet to clarify whether or not Town Councils would be subject to a referendum threshold. Until clarification had been received on this matter, Members were unable to assess the impact that this may have on the Town Council’s financial position, and it was proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Poultney, and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-**

That further consideration of the draft Estimates 2014/15 and the precept 2014/15 be deferred pending clarification from central government whether or not Town Councils would be subject to a referendum threshold.

(b) **Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Investment Strategy 2014/15 – 2016/17**

Copies of the draft Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Investment Strategy 2014/15 to 2016/17 had been circulated to all Members prior to the Meeting.

The document detailed the Council's projected investment/borrowing strategy over the next 3 years, and outlined parameters within which the Council's officers could operate with regards to the annual investment strategy over the next financial year.

Following a brief discussion, it was RESOLVED:-

To approve the draft Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Investment Strategy 2014/15 to 2016/17 for submission to the Estimates meeting on 20th January 2014.

(c) **Medium Term Financial Strategy 2014/15 to 2016/17**

Consideration was given to the Council's Draft Medium Term Financial Strategy for the period 2014/15 to 2016/17.

The MTFS sets out the Council's approach to income generation, treasury management, maintenance of adequate reserves and balances, capital investment and risk management, and had been updated in accordance with the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Investment Strategy.

Details of the Earmarked Reserves projected balances and the projected capital programme over the term of the Strategy were included within the document.

During the ensuing discussion, it was noted that the MTFS may be subject to change pending clarification from central government whether or not Town Councils would be subject to a referendum threshold.

It was RESOLVED:-

To approve the draft Medium Term Financial Strategy 2014/15 to 2016/17 for submission to the Estimates Meeting on 20th January 2014, subject to clarification from central government whether or not Town Councils would be subject to a referendum threshold.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Poultney, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That under Standing Orders Nos. 67 and 68, by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be excluded from the Meeting during consideration of the following matters.

4. **COUNCIL PRIORITIES MONITORING REPORT**

Further to Minute No. 6 of the Finance and Performance Management Committee meeting held on 13th November 2013, an updated schedule of Council Priority Projects was submitted, for information.

In presenting the Report, the Town Clerk made reference to some legal issues which were progressing, but had yet still to be concluded.

5. **OPERATION OF SWANAGE MARKET**

Further to Minute No. 10 of the Finance and Performance Management Committee meeting held on 13th November 2013, draft Heads of Terms for the future operation of Swanage market were submitted for consideration.

Following discussion, it was proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Bonfield, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the key Heads of Terms be agreed, subject to clarification that the market rent would be a base fee of £10,000 plus a percentage of turnover to be agreed through the tender process.

The amended Heads of Terms to be included in a tender pack to be sent to prospective market operators.

It was FURTHER RESOLVED:-

That an advertisement of the tender be placed in appropriate publications, and that the Town Mayor and Deputy Mayor be given delegated authority to participate in the interview process for prospective operators.

6. **ITEMS OF INFORMATION AND MATTERS FOR FORTHCOMING AGENDAS**

(a) Provision of IT tablets.

7. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Finance and Performance Management Committee would be held on Monday, 28th April 2014 at 9.30 a.m.

The meeting concluded at 10.40 a.m.
