

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11 NOVEMBER 2014 AT 2:00PM

Present: Councillors: John Kane, Chairman; David Banks; Jackie Bowman; George Clements; Eileen Eastwood; Sam Pollen; Gilbert Scurrah; Felicity Wilson; Carole Woodman and Henry Wormstrup.

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Allan Forster; Ian Hill and Dave Smith.

Officers: Andrea Smith, Policy and Scrutiny Officer; Ann Treble, Financial Management & Treasury Accountant and Clive Willoughby, Member Services Technical Support Officer.

Also Present: Councillors Elaine Woodburn and Gillian Troughton.

OSC 42/14

Minutes

The Minutes of the meetings held on 9 October 2014 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

OSC 43/14

Medium Term Financial Strategy – Budget Options 2015/16 and 2016/17

The Financial Management & Treasury Accountant, together with the Portfolio Holder (Councillor Gillian Troughton) introduced the report by providing Members with an overview of the Medium Term Financial Strategy – Budget Options 2015/16 and 2016/17 including the timescales for setting a balanced Budget. This included final approval of the Copeland Borough Council budget for 2015/16 by Full Council at the meeting on 26 February 2015 and the setting of the Council Tax levels by the Council Tax Setting Committee before 11 March 2015.

Members were advised that a public consultation was underway and would run for six weeks until 23 December 2014. Copies of the consultation were available on the Council's website and from Public Libraries, etc.

During the discussion that followed, Members enquired further regarding:-

- Potential savings,
- The Sellafeld appeal,
- The review of funding for Parishes,
- Any possible underspends in the current year,
- The impact of the Council Tax Reduction Grant on the new Whitehaven Town Council,

- The income from letting space in the Copeland Centre,
- The charge for a replacement green waste bin.

Members requested further information on the Accommodation Review and ICT Strategy and it was suggested that the Interim Director of Resources and Strategic Commissioning be invited to brief Committee at the meeting on 2 December 2014.

The Financial Management & Treasury Accountant and Councillor Gillian Troughton were thanked for their attendance and for presenting their report.

RESOLVED – that

- a) the Medium Term Financial Strategy – Budget Options 2015/16 and 2016/17 report be noted, and
- b) the Interim Director of Resources and Strategic Commissioning be invited to brief Committee at the meeting on 2 December 2014 on the Accommodation Review and ICT Strategy.

The meeting closed at 3:00pm

Chairman

Date