

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16 JANUARY 2015 AT 2:00PM

Present: Councillors John Kane (Chairman); Jackie Bowman (Deputy Chairman); George Clements; Eileen Eastwood; Allan Forster; Ian Hill; Sam Pollen; Gilbert Scurrah and Dave Smith.

Apologies for Absence: Councillors David Banks; Felicity Wilson; Carole Woodman; Henry Wormstrup and Gillian Troughton.

Officers: Andrea Smith; Policy and Scrutiny Officer; Paul Walker, Chief Executive; Angela George, Interim Finance Manager & S151 Officer; Janice Carroll, Interim Head of Copeland Services; Karen Morley-Chesworth, Communications Manager and Clive Willoughby, Member Services Technical Support Officer.

Also Present: Councillors Elaine Woodburn; Hugh Branney and John Bowman.

OSC 53/14

Minutes

The Minutes of the meetings held on 2 December 2014 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

OSC 54/14

Executive Forward Plan

Committee considered the Forward Plan of the Council's Executive.

RESOLVED – That the Executive Forward Plan be noted.

OSC 55/14

Revenue Budget Proposals for 2015/16 and Medium Term Financial Strategy Projections 2015/16 to 2018/19.

Members were advised that this report had been prepared following receipt of the Government grant settlement figures for 2015/16 where Copeland was one of the worst affected boroughs.

This would result in the Council having to find a further £3m of savings.

During the discussion that followed, Members expressed concern at the ongoing Sellafield business rates appeal.

Members also asked about the Pension deficit, the Council Tax help provided to the vulnerable and the effect of a Directly Elected Mayor.

RESOLVED – that the Revenue Budget Proposals for 2015/16 and Medium Term Financial Strategy Projections 2015/16 to 2018/19 be noted.

OSC 56/14

Review of Reserves 2015/16.

The Review of Reserves 2015/16 report was introduced to Committee by the Interim Finance Manager & S151 Officer.

Members were advised that efforts would continue to be made to make more in year savings to build up reserves.

During the discussion that followed, Members enquired regarding the potential cost of a Directly Elected Mayor (DEM) and were advised that an indicative amount of £100k for the DEM and a Political Advisor had been included in the report.

RESOLVED – that the Review of Reserves 2015/16 be noted.

OSC 57/14

Proposed Capital Programme 2015/16 – 2017/18.

Members were advised that Copeland Borough Council was not rich with assets.

Members then enquired about the automatic charger for the Cremator at Distington Hall Crematorium and the replacement/upgrading of Pay and Display machines.

RESOLVED – that the Proposed Capital Programme 2015/16 – 2017/18 be noted.

OSC 58/14

Draft Treasury Management Strategy Statement (TMSS), Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy 2015/16.

The Interim Finance Manager & S151 Officer provided Members with an overview of Council's investment strategy.

A brief discussion followed regarding the types of fund, term and rates of return. Members also enquired about the possibility of borrowing funds.

RESOLVED – that the Draft Treasury Management Strategy Statement (TMSS), Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy 2015/16 be noted.

The meeting closed at 3:10pm

Chairman

Date