

BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET

RESOURCES POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY PANEL

Monday, 4th February, 2019

Present:- Councillors Sarah Bevan (Chair), Lisa O'Brien, Jasper Becker, Joe Rayment, Sally Davis, David Veale and Richard Samuel (in place of Andrew Furse)

46 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

47 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

The Chairman drew attention to the emergency evacuation procedure.

48 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Councillor Furse sent his apologies and was substituted by Councillor Richard Samuel.

49 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Charles Gerrish, Cabinet Member for Finance and Efficiency declared an interest as Chair of ADL which is referred to in the papers.

50 TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIRMAN

There was none.

51 ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC OR COUNCILLORS - TO RECEIVE DEPUTATIONS, STATEMENTS, PETITIONS OR QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OF THIS MEETING

There were none.

52 MINUTES

The Panel confirmed the minutes of the previous meeting as a true record and they were duly signed by the Chairman.

53 BUDGET & COUNCIL TAX 2019/20 AND FINANCIAL OUTLOOK

David Trethewey – Director of Partnerships and Corporate Services and Donna Parham – Director of Finance introduced the report.

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Efficiency, Councillor Charles Gerrish was present to answer questions.

Panel members asked the following questions and made the following points:

The Panel noted the comments from other PDS Panels.

Councillor O'Brien pointed to the high and medium risk factors in Appendix 2 (such as office accommodation) and asked if officers were confident that the strategy for savings was sufficiently robust. The Finance Director responded that 35% of savings plans are marked as high risk this year whereas it was over 60% this year so this was a better position. She further explained that the budget contingency is being added to and all high and medium risk factors will be monitored.

Councillor Becker asked how this authority compares to others regarding Council Tax. The Finance Director explained that this authority is currently third lowest in Council Tax charges in the region and should remain so despite the increase.

Councillor O'Brien asked if our key partners (for example social housing providers) would be proactive in supporting the savings proposed. The Director of Partnerships and Corporate Services explained that part of the purpose of the Core Offer is to be clear what the authority can afford to deliver and to enable a more honest engagement with partners and the community.

Councillor Rayment noted the comments from the Communities, Transport and Environment Panel and asked if they had been followed up. The Cabinet Member for Finance and Efficiency, Councillor Charles Gerrish confirmed that the relevant Cabinet Member had noted the comments and will report back where requested.

54 CABINET MEMBER UPDATE

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Efficiency updated the Panel, he explained that he had mainly been working on the budget papers but also reported that there were two potential property acquisitions which will lead to increases in income in the future.

55 PANEL WORKPLAN

The Panel agreed to move the March meeting from 27th to Monday 4th March 2019 and noted the following items for that meeting:

- Local Government Funding Changes
- People Strategy

Councillor Rayment asked about 'New Member Training' and 'Council Website' as items the Panel asked to be briefed on. The Chief Executive explained that the content for new member induction is currently being worked on and it would be useful to have the views of current members. Councillor Bevan stated that it was important to include Group Leaders in new member induction. Councillors agreed that it would be useful for new members to have a meaningful chart showing officer responsibilities. The Director of Partnerships and Corporate Services stated that he

was looking at getting this chart onto the front page of the website. He also confirmed that he would set up a session for members on the new website.

The meeting ended at 5.00 pm

Chair(person)

Date Confirmed and Signed

Prepared by Democratic Services