

## STRATEGY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

12 October 2017

7.00 pm – 10.05 pm  
 Council Chamber, Ebley Mill, Stroud

# 3

### Minutes

#### **Membership:**

Councillor Steve Lydon(Chair)	P	Councillor Steve Robinson	P
Councillor Doina Cornell (Vice-Chair)	P	Councillor Mattie Ross	P
Councillor Nigel Cooper	P	Councillor Tom Skinner	P
Councillor Stephen Davies	P	Councillor Ken Tucker	P
Councillor Nick Hurst	P	Councillor Martin Whiteside	A
Councillor Keith Pearson	P	Councillor Debbie Young	P
Councillor Simon Pickering	P		

P = Present                      A = Absent

#### **Officers Present:**

Chief Executive	Head of Business Service Planning
Accountancy Manager (Acting Section 151 Officer)	Democratic Services Officer
Revenue and Benefits Manager	Head of Property Services
	Investment Manager

Members and Officers stood in remembrance of Councillor Liz Peters who had recently passed away.

#### **SRC.027**

#### **APOLOGIES**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Martin Whiteside.

#### **SRC.028**

#### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

#### **SRC.029**

#### **MINUTES**

Minute no. SRC.024 – the Chair stated that a report on Littlecombe Section 106 would be discussed at the meeting on 18 January 2017.

#### **RESOLVED**

**To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 2017, with the inclusion of the above wording.**

#### **SRC.030**

#### **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were none.

**SRC.031      WORK PROGRAMME**

The following items were added to the work programme.

- Task and Finish Group Report on Performance Monitoring – 18 January 2018
- Littlecombe Section 106 – 18 January 2018
- Brimscombe Port Report -12 April 2018

Future meetings

- Stroudwater Connected (Phase 1B)
- Update from the Subscription Rooms Task and Finish Group.
- Report on delivering Homes for Rent

**RESOLVED              To agree the Committee's Work Programme 2017/18.**

**SRC.032              MEMBER REPORTS****(a)      Performance Monitoring**

The Chair noted that a meeting relating to performance monitoring would be taking place in the week following Committee.

**(b)      Investment and Development Panel**

Notes of the Investment and Development Panel had been circulated.

**(c)      Subscription Rooms Task and Finish Group**

Councillor Cornell updated Committee. Bids for the future running of the Subscription Rooms had been received and a detailed report would be finalised in due course. A public consultation event will be held at the Subscription Rooms and a Members Information Evening will be held to update all Members.

The Chair announced that an additional meeting of this Committee would take place on Tuesday 5 December 2017 at 7.00 pm. to receive the report of the Task and Finish Group.

**SRC.033              CAPITAL PROJECT MONITORING****(a)      Littlecombe Business Units, Dursley**

The Head of Property Services agreed to update Members as to the level of interest in these units.

**(b)      Brimscombe Port Redevelopment**

The Head of Property Services updated Members explaining that an audit had been carried out listing areas where recommendations had been made. A copy would be e-mailed to Members following the meeting.

**(c) Homes for Rent**

The Policy Implementation Manager updated Members explaining that officers are working with Gloucester City Homes on a business case for purchasing properties for conversion to temporary accommodation or accommodation for young people and recommendations will be reported to Members at a future meeting.

**(d) ICT Investment Plan**

An update was provided to Members by the Head of Business Service Planning and the Investment Manager. They thanked them for taking part in the pilot relating to Members' access to systems. A further report will be presented to Committee in December.

**RESOLVED**                    **To note the report.**

**SRC.034                    LOCAL COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME**

The Revenue and Benefits Manager presented the report explaining that local authorities are required to develop a local Council Tax Support scheme which protects vulnerable people. Consultation had taken place with the statutory consultees who supported the scheme. The Revenue and Benefits team were now introducing Universal Credit which does not include council tax support.

The Chair thanked the Revenue and Benefits team for the work they were carrying out on Universal Credit.

**RECOMMENDED**    **That it adopts the Local Scheme as the scheme for Stroud**  
**TO COUNCIL**                    **District Council for the period 01 April 2018 to 31 March**  
**2019.**

**SRC.035                    FINANCIAL REPORTS****(a) Budget Monitoring Report 2017/18 – 31 Aug 2017**

The Accountancy Manager presented this report explaining that it was the forecast for each budget holder over the current financial year. He highlighted the underspends and overspends for each budget. ICT and the Multi Service Contract were two areas Members questioned officers.

**RESOLVED**                    **To note the outturn forecast for the General Fund Revenue**  
**budget and Capital Programme.**

**(b) Budget Strategy 2018/19**

The Accountancy Manager presented this report which explained the current financial position and the outlook over the Medium Term Financial Plan. Budget consultation is currently taking place and results will be available in November, these will inform the 2018/19 budget setting process.

**RESOLVED**                    **(a) To approve the Budget Strategy 2018/19 to 2021/22 as**  
**set out in this report**  
**(b) To amend the Capital Programme in respect to the 4**  
**schemes set out in para 3.25, as reported to Community**

**Services and Licensing Committee and Environment  
Committee in September 2017.**

**(c) 100% Business Rates Retention Pilots**

The Accountancy Manager presented the report informing Committee of the opportunity to make a proposal to the Government to become a pilot of 100% business rates retention in 2018/19. Potentially, £10m would be available for distribution in Gloucestershire as part of this pilot, although local authorities involved in the pilot would be expected to forego Revenue Support Grant and Rural Services Delivery Grant. Mitigation would also need to be factored in against an NHS appeal relating to the pilot.

Following discussion the recommendation was amended, relating to the NHS Trusts.

**RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL**      **Subject to confirmation of the potential financial benefits outweighing risks, the Council agrees to be part of the Gloucestershire bid for business rate pilot status for 2018/19. The bid should make clear that it is submitted on the basis that it is conditional on there being no financial detriment to Gloucestershire in 2018/19, arising from the NHS trusts appeal. Should subsequent analysis or the terms of the Government's proposed scheme change, this matter be brought back to S&R Committee and Council for further consideration before proceeding with a pilot.**

**SRC.036**                      **REGENERATING THE COTSWOLD CANALS – PROGRESS WITH THE CANAL PROJECT AND THE NEXT STEPS**

The Canal Project Manager gave a presentation and updated Members on the progress of the canal. He explained that volunteers had been a valuable part of this process. On 20 October 2017 there would be a celebration and a 'sign off' of this phase of the canal. The Chair thanked everyone involved with the success of this phase.

A Heritage lottery fund bid will be submitted by the end of November for Phase 1B – Stroudwater Connected, restoring the canal between Stonehouse and Saul Junction. Working closely with the Cotswold Canals Trust, a team would need to be put in place to deliver the project which could take approximately 5 years to complete.

At this point in the meeting Members agreed to continue the meeting past 10.00 pm.

**RESOLVED**

- (a) To note the imminent successful completion of 'Phase 1A' – the Stonehouse – Bowbridge section.**
- (b) To delegate approval of the Governance arrangements for Phase 1B – 'Stroudwater Connected' to Canal Project Manager in consultation with Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer.**
- (c) To approve that a funding bid be submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund in November 2017.**

**SRC.037**                      **CORPORATE DELIVERY PLAN – PROGRESS WITH IMPLEMENTATION**

The Chief Executive gave a powerpoint presentation on the progress of the plan.

**SRC.038****LEADERSHIP GLOUCESTERSHIRE UPDATE**

The Chief Executive updated Members and recommended that if they wanted to read more information on Vision 2050 and Leading Place they could find this on Gloucestershire County Council website under Leadership Gloucestershire.

**RESOLVED**

**To approve the approach being taken by the Leader and Chief Executive to the Gloucestershire wide agenda and the application of resources accordingly.**

**SRC.039****MEMBER QUESTIONS**

Councillor Norman Kay submitted a question which was answered by Councillor Lydon. The question and answer can be accessed on the [Council's website](#).

The meeting closed at 10.05 pm.

Chair