

STRATEGY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

17 January 2019

7.07 pm – 10.30 pm
 Council Chamber, Ebley Mill, Stroud

3

Minutes

Membership:

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

P = Present A = Absent

Officers Present:

Chief Executive	HR Manager
Director of Customer Services	Head of Asset Management
Property Manager	Policy Implementation Manager
Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer	Solicitor
Principal Accountant	Democratic Services Officer
Revenue and Benefits Manager	

Other Member(s) Present:

Councillor Chas Fellows

Members of the public were in attendance who wished to make a statement on climate change.

The Chair explained that there was a process for the public to declare questions in advance of the meeting. The Chair also stated that this topic was already tabled for the next meeting of Full Council. The Chair further stated that an item on the Stroud District Carbon Neutral 2030 Commitment was also part of the agenda for the current meeting.

The Chief Executive clarified the process for asking questions by Members of the public in advance of the meeting.

SRC.044

APOLOGIES

An apology was received from Councillor Skinner.

SRC.045

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Townley declared an interest in the item relating to the Subscription Rooms.

SRC.046 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED **To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 4 October 2018.**

SRC.047 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were none received in advance of the meeting.

SRC.048 **WORK PROGRAMME**

Members discussed the following items on the work programme:

- Councillor Townley clarified that “Housing Initiatives” on the workplan would be a report on the provision of temporary accommodation.
- The Head of Finance stated that he would produce a report by March 2019 setting out the principles in allocating funds for the Business Rate Pilot and a more accurate steer on year end.

SRC.049 **MEMBER REPORTS**

(a) Performance Monitoring – the report had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Councillor Whiteside noted that IT remained at high risk.

Councillor Young raised concerns about Littlecombe Business Units.

(b) Investment and Development Panel – Councillor Cornell confirmed that a significant amount of work was being undertaken on Brimscombe Port. Committee had been invited to a meeting next Monday.

SRC.050 **TASK AND FINISH GROUPS**

ICT Working Group – A briefing note had been circulated prior to the meeting.

SRC.051 **FINANCIAL REPORTS**

(a) Housing Revenue Account (HRA) – Revised 2018/19 and Original 2019/20 and Medium-Term Financial Plan 2018/19 – 2022/23

The Principal Accountant presented the HRA account and discussed the revised, original and medium-term financial plans.

- RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL**
1. **The revised HRA revenue budget for 2018/19 and original budget 2019/20 are approved.**
 2. **The movement to and from HRA balances and capital reserves as detailed in Appendix B and section Error! Reference source not found. are approved.**
 3. **That from 1 April 2019:**
 - i) **Social rents and affordable rents are decreased by 1%, as calculated in accordance with legislation.**
 - ii) **Garage rents are increased by 2.4%.**
 - iii) **Landlord service charges are increased by 2.4%, except district heating charges which are increased by 14%, capped at £1 per week.****As detailed in Appendix A.**
 4. **That provision for repayment of HRA borrowing is made**

on an annual basis, with flexibility retained for this to be made from revenue, the Major Repairs Reserve, capital receipts, or any combination of these.

5. That the HRA Capital Programme for 2018/19 to 2022/23, as detailed in Appendix C, be included in the Council's Capital Programme.

At 8.18 pm the Chair adjourned the meeting while an interruption from a Member of the public was resolved. The meeting resumed at 8.19 pm.

(b) General Fund Revenue Estimates – Revised 2018/19 and Original 2019/20

The Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer outlined the above report.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL The estimates set out in the report be considered and approved for inclusion in the General Fund Revenue Budget 2019/20 and Medium-Term Financial Plan report to Council elsewhere on this agenda.

(c) The General Fund Budget 2019/20, Capital Programme and Medium-Term Financial Plan 2019/20 to 2022/23

The Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer outlined the above report.

At 8.57 pm the Chair adjourned the meeting while an interruption from a member of the public was resolved. The meeting resumed at 9.01.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL (Subject to the Government's final settlement announcements):

1. To approve the updated Medium-Term Financial Plan as set out in Appendices A-C;
2. To increase the council tax by 2.99% to £207.52 at Band D, an increase of less than 12p per week for the services provided by Stroud District Council;
3. To note the uncertainty around the impact of changes to local government funding in 2020/21;
4. To approve the Capital Programme, as set out in Appendix D;
5. To approve the planned changes to the reserves as set out in Section 4 of the report and Appendix E.

(d) Stroud District Council Capital Strategy

The Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer outlined the above report.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL

1. To approve the Capital Strategy at Appendix A.
2. To grant the S151 Officer Delegated Powers to re-profile capital budgets in consultation with the relevant service Committee chairs.

The Chair reordered the remaining items on the agenda to allow waiting officers to present and then retire from the meeting.

SRC.052**RECOMMENDATIONS FROM ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE****(a) Motion regarding Achieving Stroud District Carbon Neutral 2030 Commitment**

Councillor Pickering outlined the above motion. The key would be enabling people so that larger houses are insulated properly to conserve energy and in future working with partners in a more holistic way. Members debated the impact of the motion and recognised that some decisions would be outside the scope of this Council.

A lot of work would be required, with partners to take this forward. The Motion was unanimously supported by all Members.

RESOLVED

To consider setting aside initial funds via the normal budgeting process in order to fund the scoping and delivery of the “Stroud Carbon Neutral 2030 Commitment”. Further the commitment will be added as a piece of work to this Committee’s work programme and that work will include the items listed below from 1 to 7.

- 1. To set out a Plan of Action, including clear targets and transparent reporting, to develop District wide Locally Determined Contributions to complement National Determined Contributions in line with the Paris Agreement to limit global warming to 1.5C.**
- 2. To include planning and support in the District for adaptation to the climate change that is already happening.**
- 3. To develop a strategy for Stroud District Council to play a leadership role in promoting community, public and business partnerships for this Carbon Neutral 2030 Commitment throughout the District, County and region.**
- 4. To work with partner bodies across the County to ensure that the climate emergency is adequately reflected in the development and implementation of all county wide strategies and plans, including Gloucestershire 2050, the Gloucestershire Industrial Strategy, Gloucestershire Energy Strategy and Gloucestershire Transport Plans.**
- 5. To investigate all possible sources of external funding and match funding to support this commitment.**
- 6. To work with key partner organisations within the County and region to secure external funding.**
- 7. To report back on an annual basis to Council on progress made.**

At 9.50 pm the Chair moved a motion to extend the meeting, in accordance with the Council’s Constitution. Members voted unanimously to continue past 10.00 pm.

(b) Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) – Governance and Spending Arrangements

Councillor Pickering presented the above report.

RESOLVED

- 1. Bids from strategic infrastructure providers are invited subject to completion of the form attached at Appendix A; and**

- 2. Funding commitments are agreed according to performance against the criteria set out in the matrix attached at Appendix B.**

(c) Market Towns Centres Initiatives Fund

Councillor Pickering presented the above report.

RESOLVED That the Market Towns Initiative Capital fund is allocated to individual town councils as identified at Appendix A.

SRC.053 **THE FAIR PAY AND SENIOR PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2018/19**

The Head of Human Resources presented the above annual report.

RECOMMENDED That the statement is approved.
TO COUNCIL

SRC.054 **COUNCIL TAX DISCOUNT FOR CARE LEAVERS**

The Revenue and Benefits Manager presented the above report.

RECOMMENDED That it adopts the scheme to be effective from 1 April 2019.
TO COUNCIL

Councillor Pearson proposed that short items be scheduled at the start of meetings in the future out of consideration for presenting officers. The Chair commented that at last year's meeting, Members were concerned that the budget papers were dealt with at the end of the meeting, the substantive purpose of the meeting. No change in the order of business for future meetings was agreed.

SRC.055 **SUBSCRIPTION ROOMS, STROUD**

The Property Manager presented a report summarising the terms negotiated by officers with Stroud Town Council and Subscription Rooms Trust for the simultaneous transfer of the freehold of the building and forecourt to the Town Council and the Subscription Rooms business to the Trust. Questions were answered relating to the structure of the proposed transfer documents. Officers, including the staff at the Subscription Rooms were thanked for their work in getting to this point.

RESOLVED

- 1. To approve the final terms for the transfer of the freehold interest of the Subscription Rooms and forecourt to Stroud Town Council and the transfer of the business (including the staff) to the Stroud Subscription Rooms Trust by 31 March 2019, as outlined in this report and**
- 2. To delegate authority to the Director of Customer Services in consultation with the Head of Finance to finalise the pension arrangements for staff transferring to the Stroud Subscription Rooms Trust.**

SRC.056 **PENSION COMMITTEE**

Councillor Cooper, the Council's representative on the above Committee, provided a verbal update on the changes made during the year.

RESOLVED **To note the update.**

SRC.057 **MEMBERS QUESTIONS**

There were none.

The meeting closed at 10.30 pm.

Chair