

STRATEGY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

11 April 2019

7.00 pm – 9.23 pm
 Council Chamber, Ebley Mill, Stroud

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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	A
Councillor Simon Pickering	P		

P = Present

A = Absent

Officers Present:

Chief Executive	Head of Community Services
Principal Accountant	Policy Implementation Manager
Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer	Head of Contract Services
Interim Head of Legal Services	Democratic Services Officer

SRC.073

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Skinner and Young.

SRC.074

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

SRC.075

MINUTES

RESOLVED

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 7 March 2019.

SRC.076

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were none.

SRC.077

SUPPORT FOR THE FOUNDATION OF AVON MUTUAL

The Head of Finance presented the case for the support of the foundation of Avon Mutual. He stated that this would be the first submission for the use of pilot rates money. He also stated that it would be a local co-operative bank and that it is part of the Community Savings Bank Association. It would be one of eighteen regional banks. The

bank is at the initial stages of seeking funding. Current funding would support Avon Mutual through the process of becoming a bank. The Head of Finance stated that this is the riskiest stage of investment. The aims and objectives are in line with those of the Council. The funds should be treated as a grant from the Business Rates Reserve. However, the investment would be in the form of shares in the co-operative.

Members of the Committee asked for clarification on the nature and purpose of the investment, the potential return and the degree of risk. Questions were also raised about the nature of the bank, timescales and the probabilities of further additional investment requirements.

Members of the Committee discussed the proposal.

- RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL**
- a. **To approve the use of £50k of the Business Rates Reserve for purchase of shares in Avon Mutual.**
 - b. **To delegate authority to the Head of Finance in consultation with the Head of Legal to conclude the share purchase.**

SRC.078 **HRA BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2018/19 MONTH 10**

The Head of Finance presented the report referring to sections 2.2, 2.3 and 3. Councillor Townley thanked those involved in preparing the report.

- RESOLVED** **To note the outturn forecast for the HRA Revenue budgets and Capital programmes.**

SRC.079 **BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2018-19 – 28 FEBRUARY 2019**

The Head of Finance presented the report referring to tables 1, 2, 3 and 4 as well as paragraph. 7. Councillor Ross thanked those involved in the preparation of the report. A question was raised on the multi-storey car park resurfacing.

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

SRC.080 **RECOMMENDATION FROM HOUSING COMMITTEE ON 9 APRIL 2019**

Repairs and Maintenance Service 2020

Councillor Cornell stated that the Committee had the full report, but would only be considering item three of the recommendations at this meeting. She further stated that the report had been discussed at the Housing Committee meeting and that it would be going to a full Council meeting where further discussion would be possible.

Councillor Townley stated that the service review project identified was moving from external contractors for repairs and maintenance to in-house support.

Questions were raised on the drivers for the project, the nature of the IT support included in the plan and personnel being transferred from contractor services to in-house support and the costings of vehicles. It was stated the prime driver was about improving the quality of the service. Councillor Cornell clarified that the Housing Committee had

already approved the plan and the financing was the topic of discussion for this Committee.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL **An additional revenue budget of £53k in 2019/20 and £132k in 2020/21 to cover the one-off implementation and set-up costs, and a new capital programme for HRA IT systems totalling £175k over 2019/20 and 2020/21.**

SRC.081 **PROVIDING TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION FOR HOMELESS HOUSEHOLDS – PURCHASE OF SALVATION ARMY BUILDING (ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL INFORMATION MARCH 2019)**

The Committee discussed the additional information provided in the update. The discussions focussed on the nature of the investment and the services being provided, the risks in the undertaking, any conservation requirements and the timescales for the project.

RESOLVED **To note the update.**

SRC.082 **RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION WORKING GROUP**

Councillor Pearson briefed the Committee reporting on the Working Group's discussion on the Roles of Councillors. He reported that the length of tenure for Committee Chairs needed to be reconsidered and that the need to attend and be adequately briefed for a meeting needs to be added to the role description for Councillors. Councillor Pearson referred to item 11 of the report discussing task and finish working groups. He noted that the work of this group had now finished.

The Committee discussed the report. Inconsistencies when referring to the title of Chair and Chairman of Committee respectively was commented on.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL **That the Role Profiles for Councillors section of the Council's Constitution be amended as shown in the Appendix to this Report, in accordance with the recommendations set out in this report.**

SRC.083 **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Committee discussed the possibility of elections to the European Council taking place on 23 May 2019 and the consequent impact on meetings and the work of the Committee.

It was proposed that the next Committee meeting be moved to 13 June 2019. The Chief Executive agreed to consult Committee members to confirm this.

Timing for the out-turn report was commented on. An agenda planning meeting was also discussed.

The Chief Executive stated that the Action Plan from the Peer Challenge Team would come to a future meeting of the Committee.

RESOLVED **To note the above updates.**

SRC.084

MEMBER REPORTS

- (a) Performance Monitoring – Councillor Whiteside provided an update.
- (b) Investment and Development Panel – Councillor Cornell provided an update referring to a Members' Information Sheet circulated to the Committee on Brimscombe Port and the Asset Management Strategy. A report on the three-year asset review will come to a future Committee. Members of the Committee commented on balancing weighting between design and costs which is an open issue.

SRC.085

MEMBERS QUESTIONS

There were none.

The meeting closed at 9.23 pm.

Chair