



STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

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STRATEGY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

13 June 2019

7.00 pm – 9.55 pm
Council Chamber, Ebley Mill, Stroud

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Minutes

Membership:

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

P = Present A = Absent

Officers Present:

Chief Executive	Head of Community Services
Interim Director of Resources and Section 151 Officer	Principal Procurement Officer
Interim Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer	Principal Accountant
Head of Housing Services	Property Manager
	Democratic Services and Election Officer

SRC.001

APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Skinner.

SRC.002

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

SRC.003

MINUTES

RESOLVED

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 11 April 2019.

SRC.004

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were none.

The Chair advised that the order of the items printed on the agenda would be revised.

SRC.005**ADOPTION OF THE REVISED PROCUREMENT STRATEGY**

The Principal Procurement Officer outlined the revised Procurement Strategy which was in line with the National Procurement Strategy for Local Government. In reply to Members' questions confirmation was given that there is an authorisation process at the start of the procurement process, this has not changed. Training of officers within service areas would be undertaken when the new strategy would be reiterated to officers.

Councillor Pickering confirmed the importance of the implementation of the new strategy and would like monies spent within the Stroud District, as far as possible. It would be for the Performance Monitors to monitor, and important that all staff followed the new procedure.

A discussion ensued where Members agreed that this was an excellent strategy and Members should promote the South West Portal to raise awareness and encourage local applicants to apply.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL **That the revised Procurement Strategy is adopted.**

SRC.006**CORPORATE ASSET MANAGEMENT STRATEGY – PROPERTY REVIEWS AND COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFERS**

The Property Manager outlined the background to the property reviews and updated Members, emphasising that this was the first phase where information would be gathered prior to all options being identified. Each asset would be different. Queries were raised on the following sites, Woodchester Mansion, 3 sites in Nailsworth, 3 garage sites in Upton St Leonards, the Old Town Hall, Gossington Depot.

The Property Manager reiterated that at this stage the review would be looking at options, no decisions had been made and recommendations will be brought back to a future meeting of this Committee.

The Property Manager also outlined the approach to be used in any future Community Asset Transfers.

RESOLVED (a) **The proposed property reviews due to start in 2019/20, and**
 (b) **The approach for Community Asset Transfers are approved and the update on property reviews is noted.**

SRC.007**HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) OUTTURN 2018/19 – SUMMARY OF VARIANCE**

The Principal Accountant introduced the above report and confirmed that overall there was nothing of concern at the moment. The Housing Committee report did contain more detailed information. Budgets would continue to be closely monitored.

RESOLVED (a) **Note the Housing Revenue Account revenue outturn for 2018/19, as shown in Table 1.**
 (b) **Approve the transfers to and from earmarked reserves for the year, as set out in Table 2.**
 (c) **Approve the reprofiling of the HRA Capital Programme budget as set out in Table 6.**

SRC.008**GENERAL FUND REVENUE OUTTURN REPORT 2018/19**

The Interim Director of Resources and Section 151 Officer outlined the above report which was the final outturn position against the General Fund revenue budgets for 2018/19. He drew Members' attention to the various tables contained therein, confirming that monies had been earmarked for ongoing projects and if there were any planning appeals this would be funded from reserves.

Councillor Cornell confirmed that since the report had been drafted more up to date figures for the Littlecombe Industrial Estate were available whereby 2 units had been sold, 2 units let, 1 unit let (subject to contract), leaving 4 units currently available.

- RESOLVED**
- (a) **To note the General Fund Revenue Outturn for 2018/19, as shown in Table 1.**
 - (b) **To approve the transfers to and from earmarked reserves for the year, as detailed in Section 2 and Appendix A.**

SRC.009**CAPITAL OUTTURN REPORT 2018/19**

The Interim Director of Resources and Section 151 Officer outlined the above report which advised the capital outturn for 2018/19, sought authority to carry forward capital budgets and corresponding finance into the 2019/20 capital programme and also reporting the latest capital programme and funding position. He agreed to provide a more detailed table showing where money came from and how it down for Committee.

- RESOLVED**
- (a) **That the capital expenditure outturn statement for 2018/2019 is approved.**
 - (b) **That carry forward budgets identified in Appendix A, together with the sources of finance, are approved and added to the 2019/20 capital programme.**
 - (c) **That the revised capital programme and funding for 2019/20 is agreed.**

SRC.010**COMMUNITY SERVICES VEHICLE REPLACEMENT**

The Head of Community Services outlined the above report. In reply to Members' questions he confirmed that discussions with other services would be taking place for a more corporate approach, including logos on the vehicles themselves. Electric vehicles would be purchased directly from the manufacturer. Consultation with the County Council regarding smart meters and also discussions with at least one other Parish Council had also taken place. It is anticipated that the vehicles will be charged overnight by a standard single charger point.

Councillor Pickering supported the report, which was the first step in changing the Council's fleet to low carbon emissions, and having a rolling replacement programme in place.

- RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL**
- RESOLVED**
- That a Capital Budget of £257k is approved, funded from the Business Rates Reserve, to purchase a new low carbon fleet.**
- To DELEGATE to the Head of Community Services, in consultation with the Head of Finance and the Chair of Environment Committee, the authority to determine the final number of charging points required and their location.**

SRC.011 **SUPPORTING THE MILITARY COVENANT IN THE STROUD DISTRICT**

The Head of Housing Services outlined the reasons for supporting the Military Covenant in the Stroud District., one of which was that more needed to be done to drive awareness and assist by sign posting our veterans to receiving the help and assistance they deserved. He had linked up with the local Royal British Legion and also visited colleagues in Hereford who had undertaken a self-build project. At the present time there was no need for a budget.

Members were very supportive and agreed a change to the decision box to make a recommendation to Council to appoint a Councillor to Champion the Military Covenant.

- RESOLVED**
- (a) **To agree that a member of the Royal British Legion is based in reception on designated days to support veterans on a trial basis.**
 - (b) **That the Head of Housing Services is tasked with being the Council's Officer Champion for the Military Covenant.**

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL **To appoint a Councillor to Champion the Military Covenant.**

SRC.012 **REVIEW OF LEGAL SERVICES**

The Interim Head of Legal Services provided an overview of Legal Services and outlined the options for future service delivery. Some Members had attended an information evening where One Legal had given a presentation.

In reply to Members' questions the Officer confirmed that the report was asking Members what options they wanted explored. All Members agreed that the two options to be investigated were an in-house service or a shared/collaborative service.

The Chief Executive confirmed that a solution would have to work for all partners. A business case and further report would be presented to Committee in October 2019.

Councillor Townley, seconded by Councillor Pickering moved an amendment to paragraph (b) of the decision box, "To instruct the Interim Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer to provide a further report in relation to a shared service and in-house options".

The Interim Head of Legal Services confirmed that the Council has a very committed legal team who want to do a good job for the Council.

- RESOLVED**
- (a) **To note the report.**
 - (b) **To instruct the Interim Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer to provide a further report in relation to a shared service and in-house options.**

SRC.013 **APPOINTMENTS**

RESOLVED **To appoint Councillors Cooper and Pearson as Performance Monitoring Champions for the new civic year.**

SRC.014 **EMERGING WORK PROGRAMME**

The Chief Executive confirmed that there was still a lot of work to be undertaken. From the Corporate Delivery Plan, the Policy Team and Democratic Services were working together to create a Forward Plan which will involve all Committees. A standard item would be added to each meeting for updates to be given on external bodies eg GFirst LEP.

RESOLVED **To note the above.**

SRC.015 **MEMBER REPORT**

Investment and Development Panel – Councillor Cornell confirmed that there had recently been a Members' Information Sheet on Brimscombe Port and this topic would be discussed at the next meeting. The study on May Lane, Dursley was ongoing.

SRC.016 **MEMBERS' QUESTIONS**

There were none.

The meeting closed at 9.55 pm.

Chair