

PUBLIC

MINUTES of a meeting of the **CABINET MEMBER FOR STRATEGIC POLICY AND BUDGET** held on 9 September 2014 at County Hall, Matlock

PRESENT

Cabinet Member – Councillor Ms A Western

Also in attendance – Councillor B Lewis

Declarations of Interest – Councillor Western declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 5 – Appointments to Outside Bodies as a representative on various bodies detailed in the report.

19/14 **MINUTES RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 5 August 2014 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Cabinet Member.

20/14 **BUDGET MONITORING MONTH 3 2014-15** The budget for the Strategic Policy and Budget portfolio was approximately £5.9m. The budget monitoring was projecting an underspend of £0.510m. The position statement at month 3 was detailed in the report. The key variances were as follows:-

Communications – projected underspend £0.348m

The key underspends related to staffing within Call Derbyshire and Communications, due to vacancy control during the communications review, and the reduction in expenditure on publications.

Policy Unit – projected underspend £0.188m

This was mainly due to a gradual reduction in the number of payments to other local authorities for the administration of Local Area Forums. There were also underspends of approximately £0.078m on a number of budgets covering staffing, travel and supplies and services.

RESOLVED to note the position on the 2013-14 Revenue Budget.

21/14 **REVENUE OUTTURN 2013-14** The Director of Finance presented a report on the final revenue outturn position for 2013-14 which was attached as Appendix 1 to the report. Controllable net expenditure was £4.2m against a budget of £4.9m resulting in a controllable underspend of £0.7m. The key variances were highlighted along with the earmarked reserves that related to the Strategic Policy and Budget portfolio.

There were a number of commitments against the underspends which had already been approved by the Cabinet Member which totalled £0.056m

and were listed in Appendix 2 to the report. There was also a bid totalling £0.050m towards an Assistant for the new post of Innovation Programme Manager, temporary for twelve months. The role was to support the Innovation Programme Manager to help establish the service and speed up delivery of the innovation programme.

The earmarked reserves that related to the Strategic Policy and Budget portfolio were highlighted and detailed in Appendix 3 to the report.

RESOLVED to (1) note the revenue outturn position for 2013-14;

(2) approve the use of underspends to meet the commitments outlined in the report; and

(3) approve the new bid requested from underspends.

22/14 INDEPENDENT COMMISSION ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE RESPONSE TO ‘CALL FOR WRITTEN EVIDENCE’ The Independent Commission on Local Government Finance (ICLGF) was tasked with making recommendations for the reform of local government finance and finding better ways to fund local services and promote economic growth in England. ICLGF was established by CIPFA and the LGA to impartially examine:

- The current position of the local government finance system.
- A potential new system that enabled better public services and encouraged economic growth.
- Practical options for changing the system that could be implemented by an incoming government.

ICLGF had requested written evidence from business and business organisations, the faith and the voluntary sector, public sector organisations and local government on:

- The strengths and weaknesses of the current local government finance system;
- The problems and opportunities it created in tackling the challenges above;
- Potential reforms that would make it easier to tackle these challenges; and
- Specific practical solutions for changing the system that could be implemented by an incoming government from May 2015.

ICLGF would analyse the evidence to form a view on the current local government finance system and the ways in which it could be reformed.

Interim findings would be published in Autumn 2014, with a final report published in early 2015.

RESOLVED to note the Council's response to ICLGF's 'Call for Written Evidence' attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

23/14 LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE SETTLEMENT 2015-16 TECHNICAL CONSULTATION The Government published the Local Government Finance 2015-16 Technical Consultation on 22 July 2014. It set out the Government's proposed changes to the 2015-16 Settlement. The deadline for responses was 25 September 2014 and the Council's response was based on consultation questions relating to the following issues:-

- Compensation for the 2% cap on the small business rates multiplier.
- Council Tax Freeze Grant.
- Efficiency Support Grant 2014-15.
- Rural Services Delivery Grant 2014-15.
- Carbon Reduction Credits Energy Efficiency Scheme adjustment.

RESOLVED to note the details of the consultation and approve the response.

24/14 APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES The following changes in representation/additions to the list had been made recently and had been included in the main list of appointments which was attached as Appendix 1 to the report:-

- Ashbourne Community Transport Board of Trustees – change of representation to Councillor S Spencer
- Bolsover Local Strategic Partnership Board – addition of Councillor M Stockdale
- Bolsover Woodland Enterprise – change of representation to Councillor A Western
- Derby and Sandiacre Canal Trust Board – change of representation to Councillor M Booth
- Derbyshire Children's Trust Board – change of representation to Councillor J Street
- Derbyshire Learning Disability Partnership Board – change of representation to Councillor J Street
- Derbyshire Schools Forum – change of representation to Councillor J Street
- Erewash Local Strategic Partnership – change of representation to Councillor M Booth
- Erewash Partnership – addition to the list of appointments
- National Coal Mining Museum for England Liaison Committee – addition to the list of appointments

- Vital Earth GB Ltd – change of representation to Councillor S Spencer

Any subsequent amendments made to the list would be reported to this portfolio on a periodic basis.

RESOLVED that the appointments to the outside bodies as detailed in the Appendix to the report, be approved.