

PUBLIC

MINUTES of a meeting of the **IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - RESOURCES** held on 14 November 2013 at the Postmill Centre, South Normanton.

PRESENT

Councillor C R Moesby (in the Chair)

Councillors C Bisknell, P Dunn, S Freeborn, M V Longden, S Marshall-Clarke and D Lomax.

Also in attendance were Councillors S Bambrick and Mrs K D Lauro.

19/13 **MINUTES** **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 19 September 2013 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

20/13 **DISCUSSION WITH DEPUTY CABINET MEMBER – COUNCIL SERVICES** Councillor J Owen, Deputy cabinet member – Council Services attended the meeting to discuss a number of the areas of responsibility that he was focussing upon within the Council Services portfolio. He referred to particular initiatives and service pressures within Transformation, Legal Services, the Registration Service and Welfare Rights. Members were invited to let Councillor Owen know if there was any more detailed information that was required arising from his briefing.

21/13 **REVIEW OF THE POTENTIAL OF SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FOR DCC PROPERTY** A scoping report for a review of the potential to harness sustainable energy for the Council's properties was presented. A scrutiny review was proposed to evaluate the benefits to the authority of the use of sustainable energy including solar/wind/water power, and the potential to generate power at locations, and on property, owned by the Council, including schools. As well as the possible financial savings, the review would also consider how such energy use could contribute to the Council's carbon reduction targets.

RESOLVED that the scoping report for the Improvement and Scrutiny review of the potential of sustainable energy for County Council property be approved; and a working group comprising Councillors C R Moesby, P Dunn, Mrs C Bisknell and D Lomax plus 1 Conservative member be established to work on the review.

22/13 **NON-OPERATIONAL PROPERTY HOLDINGS** The draft final report on the review of the Council's non-operational property holdings was presented.

The review working group made a number of recommendations which the Committee was asked to accept and refer to Cabinet for approval and implementation of the proposals. The Director of Property was present at the meeting and he made reference to a small number of the recommendations in the report and offered further information and explanation of the implications of the draft proposals. The Committee took account of the advice of the Director of Property and agreed to vary its recommendations which would now be as follows:-

1. The proposal to dispose of the County Council's non-operational property holdings is supported, subject to the additional recommendations of this report.
2. The Director of Property liaises with local Members who have expressed concerns, or offered suggestions, in respect of those properties which are deemed to be surplus within their Divisions and report back to this Committee on the outcomes of their discussions.
3. The Director of Property, in consultation with the Director of Finance and Legal Services, pursues the opportunity to dispose of appropriate properties to social housing providers.
4. The Director of Property liaises with the county's District and Borough Councils and other public sector organisations to adopt a partnership approach to the future of the County Council's non-operational property, whether for housing or other uses.
5. The Director of Property, in consultation with the Director of Finance and Director of Legal Services, develop a structured Asset Management system to assess each individual property (above an appropriate value) against 25-year projections in order to measure best-value options for its future use or disposal,
6. The Asset Management system also be used to assess operational property on a regular basis to give a continual appraisal to its usage/requirement.
7. The concept of "Corporate Landlord" be explored further by the Director of Property in consultation with Strategic Directors and a report on this be brought to this Committee in due course.
8. The disposal of property held by the County Council "in trust" is supported, providing that the previous owners' wishes and original intentions, when donating the property to the County Council, are protected.

RESOLVED (1) that the amended recommendations as set out above be accepted and referred to Cabinet for approval and implementation of the proposals; and (2) to note that it would be in order to make current occupiers of such properties aware of the proposals at this stage.

23/13 PERFORMANCE MONITORING Ms S Eaton, Policy and Research Division, attended the meeting to make a presentation on performance monitoring within the Council. She outlined the background to the performance management function in the Council and the current position that we were in. The Corporate Performance Management framework was in place and the Derbyshire Indicator Set had been developed and used to monitor performance. The use of the existing corporate performance system had declined and a new system was being procured. Councillor Moesby was involved in this process.

The challenges facing the Council and the way in which it was moving forward were discussed.

Ms Eaton agreed to provide additional information to Members on the current indicator set and framework and she would give an update to the Committee in 6 months

24/13 WORK PROGRAMME The Committee's draft work programme for 2013/14 was presented. This would form the basis of work over the coming year and would be developed.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.