

**MINUTES** of a meeting of the **IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – RESOURCES** held at County Hall, Matlock on 6 December 2018.

**PRESENT**

Councillor T A Kemp (in the Chair)

Councillors K Athwal (substitute member), B Bingham, J Boulton, J Frudd (substitute member) M Wall, and G Wharmby

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor C Moesby, Mrs J Twigg and Ms A Western

**23/18**      **MINUTES**      **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Improvement and Scrutiny Committee – Resources held on 20 September 2018 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**24/18**      **FIVE YEAR FINANCIAL PLAN** The Director of Finance and ICT provided Members with a presentation on the Five Year Financial Plan (FYFP) for the period 2018-19 to 2022-23, as part of the process towards production of the 2019-20 budget.

Over the past few meetings of the committee the various reports and presentations have been given to inform members about financial resilience and financial planning for the medium term.

The Plan was a medium term financial plan which set out the overall shape of the Council's budget, by establishing what resources were available for allocation to reflect Council and community priorities. The Council Plan set out service and organisational priorities. This was reflected in the development of the Plan. The Plan was updated on an annual basis and the version of the Plan included in the Revenue Budget Report 2018-19 to Council, which was approved in February 2018, was updated and approved by Cabinet on 20 September 2018.

The Plan was attached at the Appendix to this Report and included the assumptions used in its development. It will next be updated and incorporated in the Revenue Budget 2019-20 Cabinet Report in January 2019.

The Plan shows that a total of £70m of budget cuts were required over the period 2018-19 to 2022-23. Successive Plans had identified the need to make significant budget savings. Between 2010 and 2022 it was estimated that the Council will have made budget savings totalling nearly £330m. The Plan reflected the fact that the Council was part of the Government's multi-year funding offer, which provided some funding certainty until 2019-20. A

balanced budget was projected for 2022-23, with the likelihood that no savings would be required in that year. However, this was predicated on a number of assumptions, not least of which was uncertainty of the level of Government funding beyond 2019-20. The Plan assumes that additional Better Care Funding would be available beyond 2019-20, which has yet to be confirmed by Government, and that there will be no further cuts to the levels of mainstream funding to local authorities. Any further funding reductions are likely to result in further budget savings over and above those already identified in the Plan to achieve a balanced budget.

The level of budget savings required over the next five year period remained significant and departments had identified £45m of these savings to date. The achievement of a balanced budget was significantly dependent on the Council meeting its budget savings target over the medium term, subject to any smoothing out of annual targets by use of one-off resources.

The Director of Finance and ICT made specific reference to the Government announcement on 29 October 2018 that gave details of the Autumn Budget 2018. The key announcements relevant to local government were detailed in the report and members were provided with the allocations that DCC would receive.

Members made a number of comments and asked questions which were duly noted or answered by the Director of ICT.

The Plan was being updated to take account of the impact of the Autumn Budget 2018. The Plan would also be updated for the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement, expected Council Tax level projections, service pressures facing the Council and consequent budget savings required. It would be presented to Cabinet at their meeting on 24 January 2019.

**RESOLVED** to note the presentation and report.

## **25/18      ONE PUBLIC ESTATE UPDATE – BUXTON PROJECT**

Members were provided with an update following the One Public Estate (OPE) Improvement and Scrutiny Review.

Matt Scarborough, Programme Manager attended the meeting and gave members a brief presentation of One Public Estate (OPE) which was a pioneering, transformational and enterprising national initiative which was supported and funded by the Cabinet Office and delivered in partnership with the Local Government Association.

It was designed to facilitate and enable local authorities to work successfully with central government and other agencies on property and land issues through sharing and collaboration to sustain, protect and improve services. It was all about getting more from collective assets, gaining

knowledge, encouraging engagement and meeting priorities of communities. Grant Funding was available to support programmes and Projects and it provided technical & practical support and funding to deliver ambitious property focused programmes.

In terms of outcomes it provided

- a systematic approach to joint planning across the partnership.
- Identification of land/buildings which can be redeveloped or brought to the market to stimulate economic growth, capital receipts and housing supply and Estate rationalisation through colocation and integration.
- More effective and efficient buildings -“fit for purpose”.
- An understanding of partnership priorities and how local solutions can assist in addressing national issues.
- Projects identified which may require assistance or capacity funding from the OPE programme.
- Assistance and enables the delivery of the key priorities of the Council Plan

In terms of a good example of the work of One Public Estate, Sarah Morris, Assistant Director of Property Services gave a brief presentation on the Buxton Locality review which had secured a phase 6 OPE bid of £100,000 to carry out a feasibility study.

In terms of progress to date the Derbyshire Community Health Services NHS Foundation Trust had made the successful acquisition of a suitable 15,081m<sup>2</sup> site in a prime Buxton town centre location, with a proposal to regenerate the site into a modern, central hub for NHS and other public-sector bodies in the High Peak Area.

Derbyshire County Council, High Peak Borough Council and Derbyshire Community Health Services had now obtained Cabinet and Executive approval which fully endorsed the project and formal public communications had been issued.

A stakeholder workshop had been held with services operating from and serving the Buxton and wider High Peak area and Health had undertaken a public exhibition of the proposals.

Consultants had been appointed to undertake a feasibility study which would look at stakeholder requirements, accommodation needs, concept designs and funding opportunities/options.

DCHS had submitted an application for capital which was awaiting announcement. The Business case would be prepared and reported back to the key stakeholders in March 2019.

A number of Assets in the area had been identified for consideration.

The potential outcomes were a fit for purpose estate; a Potential financial savings/ capital receipts; Improved service delivery; Easier access to a range of public services; and Regeneration – Housing.

Members made comments and asked questions which were duly noted or answered.

**RESOLVED** to note the presentation and update.

**26/18      DERBYSHIRE ENERGY STRATEGY** Denise Ludlam , Principal Policy Officer attended the meeting and gave a presentation to members on “An Energy Strategy for Derbyshire”

As background for the Committee Denise spoke of the Energy Trilemma in terms of Security; Affordability; and Decarbonisation with this very much being seen as an opportunity for the Council to be proactive.

Discussion took place around Energy Security and affordability with particular mention of how DCC energy costs were increasing despite a 36% reduction in energy use.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change had recently produced a report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5 degrees centigrade above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty. This was a study based solely on scientific fact and concluded by saying that something needed to be done in the next 12 years or it was hard to predict what the implications could be.

In relation to energy supply demand and distribution discussion took place around what could be done to reduce demand, by looking at renewable energy, flattening peak, battery storage and decentralisation.

Denise provided the committee with some ideas of what it was envisaged could be done by DCC in terms of Energy for Power, Heat and Transport.

Members made a number of comments and asked questions which were duly noted or answered.

In conclusion it was clear that the energy sector was changing and it was felt that Derbyshire needed to respond to these changes with members being integral to this by providing feedback on the draft Energy Strategy, which contained 5 Key priorities, discussing these priorities and finding agreement on a way forward for Derbyshire. This would be discussed further at a pre decision Scrutiny Working Group on 11 December 2018 which would be made up of members of both the Resources and Places Scrutiny Committee's.

**RESOLVED** to note the presentation

**27/18      REVIEW OF INITIATIVES TO PROMOTE STAFF WELLBEING AND GOOD MENTAL HEALTH** The committee was informed of the progress made by the working group conducting the review of initiatives to promote staff wellbeing and good mental health.

This was the first progress report about the review. The members of the working group were Cllrs Kemp (Chair), Boulton, Twigg, Bingham and Wall. The aim of the review was to consider what the Council was currently doing to promote staff wellbeing and good mental health, and to consider the effectiveness of the approach. It would also explore opportunities to better support staff (especially those with mental ill health or poor wellbeing) to remain in and thrive at work.

The working group had met with Luan Kay (Senior Human Resources Consultant) who is leading on the development of the Council's Workplace Wellbeing Strategy. A task and finish group had been established to carry out this work and was made up of representatives with expertise in public health, occupational health, mental health training, human resources and health and safety. This group (the Workplace Wellbeing Strategy Development Group) has held a series of meetings and had collated a considerable amount of information about initiatives that were currently in place. The working group had also met with Sandy McKay (Deputy Manager of Occupational Health) to hear in more detail about the support provided by Occupational Health Team.

**RESOLVED** to note that the review of initiatives to promote staff wellbeing and good mental health was ongoing and that another meeting of the working group would hopefully be scheduled for early in the new year.

**28/18      WORK PROGRAMME** The Chairman invited members to provide any ideas for future Scrutiny reviews to either himself or Roz Savage, Scrutiny Officer.

**29/18**        **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC RESOLVED** to exclude the public from the meeting during the consideration of the remaining items on the agenda to avoid the disclosure of exempt or confidential information

**SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS CONDUCTED AFTER THE PUBLIC WERE EXCLUDED FROM THE MEETING**

1.        To confirm the exempt minutes of the meeting held on 20 September 2018 (contains exempt information)

**30/18**        **EXEMPT MINUTES RESOLVED** that the exempt minutes of the meeting of the Improvement and Scrutiny Committee – Resources held on 20 September 2018 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.