

## **PUBLIC**

**MINUTES** of a meeting of the **IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - RESOURCES** held on 16 January 2014 at County Hall, Matlock.

### **PRESENT**

Councillor C R Moesby (in the Chair)

Councillors C Bisknell, P Dunn, S Freeborn, T A Kemp, M V Longden and S Marshall-Clarke.

In attendance – Councillor B Ridgway.

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor D Lomax.

**01/14**      **MINUTES**    **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 14 November 2013 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

### **02/14**      **DISCUSSION WITH LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

Councillor Ms A Western, Leader of the Council attended the meeting to give an update on some of the current issues that were being addressed, principally the Council's finances and the structures to ensure service delivery. These actions included:-

- A new Strategic Director – Corporate Resources had been appointed and would take up duties in April.
- The rebuilding and strengthening of relations with partners where there had been a very positive response to working together.
- Derbyshire Partnership Forum was now meeting more regularly with a focus on joint working and anti-poverty.
- The Health and Wellbeing Board was looking at the integration of services.
- Changes had been made to communications with Your Derbyshire being introduced. Also, e-newsletters were being introduced and Members' feedback on this was invited.
- Progress on equalities issues where Stonewall had placed the Council 15<sup>th</sup> of the Top 100 employers.
- Work on the D2N2 LEP/Sheffield City Regions to ensure that we compete with other parts of the country. Work was progressing towards the establishment of the Economic Prosperity Board.
- Preparation of the 2014/15 budget to meet the required cuts.

**03/14      NON-OPERATIONAL PROPERTY HOLDINGS**    The final report on the review of the Council's non-operational property holdings had been agreed at the last meeting and accepted by Cabinet at its meeting on 3 December 2013. The Director of Property now reported on the work being undertaken by the Corporate Property Services Division to assess the performance of the Council's operational properties.

Recommendation 9.5 in the final report stated that:

"The Director of Property, in consultation with the Director of Finance, develops a structured assessment system to assess each individual property (above an appropriate agreed value) against 25 year projections in order to measure best-value options for its future use or disposal."

Recommendation 9.6 in the final report stated that:

"The Asset Management system should also be used to assess operational property on a regular basis to give a continual appraisal to its usage/requirement."

The Director of Property now reported that work was currently underway to develop a structured assessment system to assess each individual non-operational property (above an appropriate agreed value) against 25 year projections in order to measure best-value options for its future use or disposal and progress on this would be reported back to a future meeting of this committee. However, the system, once devised, would not be used to assess operational property on a regular basis to give a continual appraisal to its usage/requirement because the Corporate Property Services Division already had robust mechanisms in place to assess the performance of the Council's operational property.

**RESOLVED** to note the work currently being undertaken in the Corporate Property Services Division to assess the performance of and requirement for the Council's operational properties.

**04/14      REVIEW OF THE POTENTIAL OF SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FOR DCC PROPERTY**    Councillor Dunn presented a report on the progress made by the working group set up to investigate the potential of the use of sustainable energy for DCC property. Initial meetings had taken place and further discussions would take place with a view to a final report being presented to the Committee in May.

**RESOLVED** that the report on progress to date and further investigations which the working group proposes to undertake in order to finalise the review, be noted.

**05/14**      **WORK PROGRAMME**    The Committee's draft work programme up to May 2014 was presented. This would form the basis of work over the coming year and would be developed.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.