

MINUTES of a meeting of the **IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - RESOURCES** held on 19 September 2013 at Markham Vale Environment Centre.

PRESENT

Councillor C R Moesby (in the Chair)

Councillors C Bisknell, P Dunn, T A Kemp, M V Longden and D Lomax.

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor S Freeborn and S Marshall-Clarke.

14/13 **MINUTES** **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 25 July 2013 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

15/13 **DISCUSSION WITH LEADER** Councillor Ms A Western attended the meeting to give an update on current issues facing the Council, in particular the budgetary position and the cuts that were faced over the coming years. Councillor Western had been joined by the leaders of five other authorities - High Peak Borough Council, Chesterfield Borough Council, Derby City Council, North East Derbyshire District Council and Bolsover District Council - in writing to Eric Pickles MP, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, to call for a meeting to discuss the cuts. The request for joint action followed the new figures which showed the Council faced a further £30m of cuts on top of the £127m reduction already scheduled over the next five years. Other councils in Derbyshire also faced substantial cuts. The Secretary of State had responded to the letter, turning down the request for a meeting and instead suggesting the Derbyshire councils put their points in writing as part of a wider consultation.

The LEP was now progressing well with good progress being made. Plans were being developed to introduced a Prosperity Board for Derbyshire as a legal entity.

Members asked a number of questions that were responded to by Councillor Western.

16/13 **THE COUNCIL'S FIVE YEAR PLAN** Mr P Handford, Director of Finance, attended the meeting and gave a short presentation on the Five Year Financial Plan. The Five Year Financial Plan was a medium term financial plan which set out the overall shape of the Authority's budget by establishing how resources would be allocated reflecting the authority's and the community's priorities. The Comprehensive Spending Review had originally indicated that the Authority had to make £127m savings over the next 5 years. This in itself was a challenging target but recent changes indicated by Government had shown that the Authority had to make an additional saving of £30m, making a total of £157m.

The Director of Finance explained that the Council annually prepared forward financial plans for the 4 years after the current budget year. The plan took account of funding, known pressures, inflation and reserves projections and details of these were given in the presentation. Discussion also took place surrounding the risks and challenges and a table showing projected cuts that may need to be made was presented to Members.

Members were afforded the opportunity to raise any observations and ask questions, which were duly noted or answered by the Director of Finance. A further presentation would be made to the next meeting.

RESOLVED to note the report on the Five Year Financial Plan.

17/13 NON-OPERATIONAL PROPERTY HOLDINGS A report was presented on the progress that had been made on the review of the Council's non-operational property holdings. A number of meetings had been held to gather evidence and further work would be undertaken prior to a final report to the Committee's next meeting in November.

RESOLVED to note the investigations already undertaken by the Review of Non-Operational Property Working Group; and the further consultation with local Members which the working group proposes to undertake in order to finalise the review.

18/13 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. Members were reminded that they were invited to submit any proposals for reviews that they considered appropriate.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.