

(Approved by Council 7 January 2014)

## **EXECUTIVE – SPECIAL MEETING**

**MONDAY 9 DECEMBER 2013 AT 4.00 PM**

### **PRESENT:**

Councillor Glover (Leader)  
Councillor Mrs Martlew (Deputy Leader; and Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder)  
Councillor Mrs Riddle (Communities and Housing Portfolio Holder)  
Councillor Dr Tickner (Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder)  
Councillor Mrs Bradley (Economy and Enterprise Portfolio Holder)

### **OFFICERS:**

Town Clerk and Chief Executive  
Deputy Chief Executive  
Director of Governance  
Director of Resources  
Director of Economic Development  
Director of Local Environment

### **ALSO PRESENT:**

Councillor Mrs Luckley (Chairman of the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel)

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Ms Quilter (Culture, Health, Leisure and Young People Portfolio Holder) and Councillor Mrs Bowman (Chairman of the Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel)

### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest affecting the business to be transacted at the meeting.

### **WELCOME**

The Chairman welcomed all those present, particularly Councillor Mrs Luckley, Chairman of the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

**EX.150/13 BUDGET 2014/15 – FEEDBACK FROM THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANELS ON THE DRAFT BUDGET REPORTS**  
(Key Decision – KD.030/13)

**Portfolio** Finance, Governance and Resources

**Relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel** Community; Environment and  
Economy; and Resources

## **Subject Matter**

The Minutes of the meetings of the following Overview and Scrutiny Panels relating to the draft Budget reports considered by the Executive on 18 November 2013 were submitted:

- (a) Community – 19 November 2013 (COSP.76/13)
- (b) Environment and Economy – 21 November 2013 (EEOSP.79/13)
- (c) Resources – 28 November 2013 (ROSP.83/13)

Copies of the above Minute Excerpts had been circulated prior to the special meeting.

The Leader reported that invitations had been extended to the Overview and Scrutiny Panel Chairmen to attend the special meeting.

It was noted that the Chairman of the Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel had submitted apologies, and that the Chairman of the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel was not in attendance.

The Chairman of the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel was present. She indicated that the observations of the Panel were as detailed within Minute Excerpt COSP.76/13, to which there was little she could add.

The Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder wished to place on record thanks to all Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Panels for their work in scrutinising the draft Budget Reports. He had attended the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel meeting, when it was clear that Members had gone through the various options under consideration with a fine tooth comb.

The Portfolio Holder confirmed that Executive Members had received the Minutes of the Panel meetings. The Minutes and any additional comments would be taken into account as part of the Executive's deliberations on the budget.

The Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder then responded to Overview and Scrutiny's observations on the Budget Process as follows:

### **Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel – 19 November 2013**

Whilst the Panel had queried several areas of the budget, they were satisfied with the responses provided. Minor queries had been raised on the Charges Reports, responses being:

#### Local Environment Charges Report

- Sports Pitches Charges – the Portfolio Holder had recommended option 2 in the charging proposals for 2014/15 set out in the original report
- City Centre Events – the Portfolio Holder had recommended option 2 in the charging proposals for 2014/15 set out in the original report, which only increased the charges above inflation in respect of large commercial promotions

#### Community Engagement Charges Report

Although the individual rent charges for the Hostels were increased by the CCP target of 3.8%, the overall budgeted income did not increase due to the 2013/14 income being

below target (£30,000) as a result of reduced occupancy rates. Therefore the increased rent would mitigate any income shortfall in 2014/15.

### **Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel – 21 November 2013**

Whilst the Panel had queried several areas of the budget, they were satisfied with the responses provided. Minor queries were raised on the Charges Reports, responses being:

#### Local Environment Charges Report

- City Centre Events – the Portfolio Holder had recommended option 2 in the charging proposals for 2014/15 set out in the original report, which only increased the charges above inflation in respect of large commercial promotions.

#### Economic Development Charges Report

- Assembly Room hire charge (per session) rounded to £66 from £66.43

### **Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel – 28 November 2013**

Whilst the Panel had queried in detail several areas of the budget, they were satisfied with the responses provided.

The Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder then expressed grateful thanks to the Director of Resources' Team for the information and advice provided to Overview and Scrutiny and himself, which had enabled good questioning of the various issues to take place. The Portfolio Holder further thanked the Director for his responses to those questions.

The Chairman of the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel made reference to the amended Review of Charges 2014/15 Reports, copies of which had been circulated to all Members on 6 December 2013. Panel Members were very glad to see that some of the charges had been retained at this year's rates. She particularly made reference to City Centre Events / children's rides. As everyone was aware, businesses were struggling and those opportunities would add to their income.

The Chairman further referred to the hire of football pitches by junior clubs, commenting that the Panel was particularly concerned at the impact increased charges would have on families with more than one member. She further highlighted the healthy city implications thereof. Although option 2 was not the worst case scenario, Members were concerned to ensure that charges were affordable for the junior clubs.

In conclusion, the Leader seconded the comments expressed by the Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder. He further echoed thanks to Overview and Scrutiny Members and to the Director of Resources and his Team.

**Summary of options rejected**    None

## **DECISION**

That the Overview and Scrutiny Panels be thanked for their consideration of the draft Budget reports; and their comments, as detailed within the Minutes submitted, would be taken into account as part of the Executive's deliberations on the 2014/15 Budget.

## **Reasons for Decision**

The views of the Overview and Scrutiny Panels would be taken into account as part of the 2014/15 Budget process

(The meeting ended at 4.12 pm)