

ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY AND PERFORMANCE PANEL

Monday, 24 January 2011 AT 6.00 p.m.

Panel Members Present

Councillor L. Beeley (Chair)
Councillor F. Westley (Vice-Chair)
Councillor D. Anson
Councillor C. Bott
Councillor R. Carpenter
Councillor J. Cook
Councillor M. Munir
Councillor M. Yasin

Officers Present

Steve Pretty - Head of Engineering & Transportation
Steph Simcox - Service Accounting & Financial Training Manager

Portfolio Holders present

Councillor Bird – Leader of the Council
Councillor Towe – Finance & Personnel
Councillor Ansell - Transport

47/11 APOLOGY

An apology for absence was received on behalf of Councillor Tweddle.

48/11 SUBSTITUTIONS

There were no substitutions.

49/11 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND PARTY WHIP

None.

50/11 MINUTES

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 4 January, 2011, a copy having previously been circulated, be approved as a true and accurate record subject to the date of the Minutes being amended to read 4th January, 2011.

51/11 BUDGET SETTING 2011/12

Members considered Cabinet's draft revenue budget and draft capital programme 2011/12 for services within the remit of the Panel.

The Service Accounting and Financial Training Manager drew Members' attention to the information as contained within Table 3 of the report which summarised changes to savings proposals. Members were advised that a significant saving had been achieved due to a contract being £618,676.00 lower than anticipated. This resulted in the revised savings proposals of £2,532,779.00.

Members considered the proposals and discussed the following matters:-

- The cost of vehicles leased by the Authority;
- The Introduction of Parking Dispensations;
- The increase in parking permit costs as agreed by Cabinet;
- The possible increase in budget to tackle road issues such as pot holes;

In relation to leasing, the portfolio holder for Finance & Personnel assured Members that this cost covered every vehicle that the Council leases not just this portfolio as fleet services has overall management of the vehicle leasing programme for the council. The leasing programme is being reviewed to ensure value for money. Leasing rentals would cost £1.8m in 2011/12 along with expected new capital expenditure on vehicles of £5.4m.

In relation to Parking Dispensations, it was reported that this would provide a facility to allow people to park in an area that would otherwise be prevented by a parking restriction. The purpose and time of the contravention would first be agreed by the Authority. It was suggested that this matter could be included within the work programme for consideration at a future meeting.

In relation to the increase in parking permit costs, members were advised that, in line with their recommendations, the cost of permits had been increased. The cost of the first permit had been increased from £20 to £40 for the first permit and £50 for any additional permits

Finally, in relation to the possible increase in the budget to tackle road issues it was reported that main roads would continue to be the initial focus. Secondary roads would then be programmed in. This was the case in previous year. It was anticipated that due to the introduction of permanent repairs this would continue in future years. Assurances were given by the portfolio holder, Finance that frontline services would be protected despite the difficult financial climate.

The Leader stated that the waste services deserved credit for continuing to provide a service in extremely adverse weather conditions. These comments were endorsed by the Panel. The environment was an area which the Council was committed to improving and this had been reflected in the budget.

Discussion ensued about replacement bins and the collection service, especially in relation to collections from flat developments. It was reported that the issue relating to providing replacement bins was being considered. The collection service had recently been restructured with revised routes and crews. This was bedding in and so collection was now improving and initial issues had been resolved.

Members congratulated the staff within Street Pride on the significant savings that they had achieved.

Members considered the proposals and,

Resolved

That the revised draft revenue budget and draft capital programme 2011/12 consultation be noted.

52/11 WORK PROGRAMME AND FORWARD PLAN

Resolved

- (1) That the Work Programme and Forward Plan be noted;
- (2) That a further report be included on the Work Programme on parking dispensation processes, to be considered at the Panel's meeting on 19 April, 2011.

53/11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting of the Panel will take place on 8 March, 2011.

The meeting closed at 6.45 p.m.

Chair:

Date: