

## **CORPORATE SCRUTINY AND PERFORMANCE PANEL**

Tuesday, 23 October, 2012 at 6.00 p.m. in a Conference Room at the Council House, Walsall

### **Panel Members Present**

Councillor S. Coughlan (Chair)  
Councillor G. Illmann-Walker  
Councillor J. Rochelle

### **Portfolio holders present**

Councillor Mohammed Arif - Business Support Services  
Councillor Chris Towe - Finance and personnel

### **Officers Present**

Rory Borealis	Executive Director, Resources
Paul Milmore	Head of Business Solutions
Mushtaq Hussain	Revenues and Benefits Business Development Manager
Neil Picken	Senior Democratic Services Officer

### **159/12 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were submitted on behalf of Councillors M. Flower, D. Shires, D. Turner and R. Worrall.

### **160/12 SUBSTITUTIONS**

There were no substitutions.

### **161/12 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND PARTY WHIP**

None received.

### **162/12 MINUTES**

#### **Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 11 September, 2012, a copy having previously been circulated, be approved as a true and accurate record.

### **163/12 LOCALISED COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME**

Members of the Panel received an update on the localised council tax support scheme.

Officers advised that:-

- Over 15,000 leaflets had been distributed to working age people;
- A meeting had been arranged with the voluntary sector on 24 October, 2012 to gain their views, an update would be provided at the next meeting of the Panel;
- Advertisements were on Walsall Councils website;
- Walsall Housing Group had been visited to discuss proposals;
- 86 paper responses had been received, 10 of which had been received through digital media;
- 14,602 people were in receipt of maximum council tax award (they do not pay any Council Tax whatsoever).
- 4, 228 people were on partial awards;
- 18,830 people were pensioners and so were protected from the changes;
- In total, there were 35,000 people in receipt of full or partial awards.

There then followed a discussion during which Members asked that a breakdown of awards be circulated to all Members.

A further discussion ensued on the possibility of establishing a Working Group to consider options for council tax support in future years. Members were advised that the situation was constantly changing and the position could well change with reductions being sought from Central Government that would go further and happen quicker. It was suggested that a Working Group be established in due course when it could add real value. In the meantime, Localised Council Tax Support Scheme would be a standing item on the Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Panel agenda.

### **Resolved**

- 1) That updates on Localised Council Tax Support be a standing item on future agenda;
- 2) That a Working Group be established to consider future options for localised council tax support at such time that it could add real value;
- 3) That the update be noted.

### **164/12 FORWARD PLAN**

Members considered the Forward Plan.

Whilst not on the Forward Plan, it was requested that a working group be established to consider Central Support Services recharges. Officers advised that this could be considered at the next meeting.

### **Resolved**

- 1) That the forward plan be noted.
- 2) That information about Central Support Services Recharges be considered at the next meeting with a view to establishing a working group.

**165/12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was noted that the next meeting of the Panel would take place on 29 November, 2012 at 6.00 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting terminated at 6.20 p.m.

Signed:

Date: