

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CORPORATE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**HELD ON 22 OCTOBER 2012 AT 7.30 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, WEELEY**

Present: Councillors Steady (Chairman), Miles (Vice-Chairman) (items 30 (part) to 32), Caines, Goggin, V E Guglielmi, Nicholls (items 30 (part) to 32) and Platt

In Attendance: Finance and Procurement Manager (Richard Barrett), Democratic Services Manager (Colin Sweeney) and Democratic Services Officer (Elizabeth Ridout)

26. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Bucke.

27. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 17 September 2012 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

28. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ABOVE-MENTIONED MINUTES

Councillor Goggin expressed his thanks to the Benefits Manager (Harry Bates) for providing figures in response to a query regarding pitch fees in such a timely manner.

29. QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 15.3

There were none.

30. INITIAL FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2013/14

Members were aware that at the meeting of the Cabinet on 13 September 2012, Cabinet agreed its Initial Financial Strategy for 2013/14 and resolved:

That the Corporate Management Committee be consulted on these initial proposals, recognising that any further inclusion of cost pressures or other budgetary demands would require matching measures to ensure that the funding gap was not increased.

The report provided the Committee with the opportunity to comment on the Cabinet's Initial Financial Strategy.

The Finance and Procurement Manager presented the report, answered questions from the Committee, and also provided the Committee with information to support it in considering alternative approaches to how it undertook its scrutiny role of the financial strategy and associated budgets in the future.

Members discussed the next steps for the Committee including:

- to invite senior officers from each department to appear before the Committee;
- to focus on the potential for increasing revenue and reducing expenditure;
- to be proactive rather than reactive; and

- the possibility of introducing Working Groups to focus on particular areas of interest.

RESOLVED that

1. in accordance with the Constitution and the request of Cabinet, consideration was given to the Cabinet's Initial Financial Strategy 2013/14 and in providing its comments, the Committee was mindful that any further inclusion of cost pressures or other budgetary demands would require matching measures to ensure that the funding gap was not increased;
2. the Committee considered and determined its future approach to scrutiny and budget review, with the aim of supporting the Council in responding to the significant financial challenges that it currently faced, as follows:
 - a) The Committee wished to embark upon more innovative scrutiny to address the longer-term on-going support of the budget-setting process;
 - b) That, at its meeting scheduled to be held on 3 January 2013, senior officers from each of the Council's Departments be invited to address the Committee and to answer any questions from Members in relation to their specific budgets;
 - c) That the 3 January 2013 meeting proceed between Members of the Committee and appropriate officers only;
 - d) That a further meeting of the Committee be scheduled for 10 January 2013, at which, relevant Portfolio Holders be invited to address the Committee and to answer any questions from Members in relation to their specific budgets; and
 - e) That the appropriate officer with responsibility for Leisure provision be invited to address the Committee at its next meeting to answer any questions from Members in relation to their specific budgets; and
3. the Committee requested Cabinet to endorse the proposed revised approach to scrutiny.

31. FORWARD PLAN

The Committee noted the new item relevant to the terms of reference of the Committee contained in Forward Plan no. 132.

32. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT

There were none.

The meeting was declared closed at 9.38 p.m.

Chairman