

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CORPORATE MANAGEMENT
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**HELD ON 5 AUGUST 2013 AT 7.30 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,
COUNCIL OFFICES, WEELEY**

Present: Councillors Steady (Chairman), Miles (Vice-Chairman) (except items 17-18 (part)), Bucke, Caines, Griffiths, Platt and Pugh

Also Present: Councillor Halliday (Leader of the Council and Finance and Asset Management Portfolio Holder)

In Attendance: Corporate Director (Martyn Knappett), Finance and Procurement Manager (Richard Barrett), Democratic Services Manager (Colin Sweeney) and Democratic Services Officer (Michael Pingram).

17. WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Pugh to the meeting which was his first Corporate Management Committee and also welcomed Michael Pingram who had recently been appointed as the new Democratic Services Officer. Michael introduced himself to the Committee.

18. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Nicholls (with Councillor Griffiths substituting), Watling (with Councillor Pugh substituting) and Councillor V E Guglielmi.

19. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE HELD ON 24 JUNE 2013

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 24 June 2013 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

20. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none declared.

21. FEES AND CHARGES

Further to Minute Number 13 of the meeting of the Corporate Management Committee held on 24 June 2013, the Finance and Procurement Manager (Richard Barrett) confirmed that he had not received any questions from members.

Following further discussions around fees and charges it was considered appropriate to focus on specific areas in turn with Leisure Fees and charges being identified as the first area to be reviewed given the timely opportunity to work with Jeanette Thomasson (Sports Facilities Business Manager) who is currently undertaking a similar review.

If any Member had any questions relating to Leisure fees and charges they were encouraged to get involved early, in line with a point raised at the recent Council in Committee meeting.

It was **AGREED** that:

- 1) The Council's Sports Facilities Business Manager be invited to address the next meeting of the Committee with ideas in relation to Leisure fees and charges and how they could be developed and;
- 2) Members be invited to submit any questions or comments prior to the next meeting.

22. INITIAL FINANCIAL BASELINE 2014/15

The Finance and Procurement Manager (Richard Barrett) introduced the initial financial baseline 2014/15 which had been considered by Cabinet on 12 July 2013.

Significant points discussed included:

- On-going significant reductions in Government support year on year since 2011 and highlighted that 60% of funding was derived locally through business rates and Council Tax;
- Government changes to the New Homes Bonus, where potentially 40% of this funding now proposed to be reallocated to Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP) and how the Council could influence decisions of the LEP in spending this money;
- The new Business Rates Retention Scheme and the potential impact on the budget; and
- The Local Council Tax Support Scheme (LCTSS) and whether there should be changes to the scheme and the associated grants to Parish / Town Council's in light of the reduction in Government Funding.

It was **AGREED** that:

1. A working party be established to discuss ways in supporting the Council in delivering a balanced and sustainable budget from 2014/15. Membership of the working party to comprise of the Chairman, Councillors Platt and Caines, with Councillor Miles being a substitute if required.
2. In respect of the LCTSS, that no changes should be made to the current scheme but that consideration should be given to passing on an associated reduction in the Grants to Town and Parish councils.

23. FORWARD PLAN

The new items on the Forward Plan were noted by the Committee.

24. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT

There were no urgent items but the Chairman made the Committee aware that at the next meeting to be held on 17 September 2013 Members would be discussing tendering for contracts and that the Environment and Coast Protection Portfolio Holder would be invited to attend the meeting.

The meeting was declared closed at 9.46 p.m.

Chairman