

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CORPORATE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**HELD ON 5 JANUARY 2015 AT 9.15 A.M. IN THE
CONNAUGHT ROOM, TOWN HALL, CLACTON-ON-SEA**

Present: Councillors Steady (Chairman), Bucke, Caines, R Callender, Challinor, V E Guglielmi, D R Mayzes and Nicholls.

Also Present: Finance and Transformation Portfolio Holder (Councillor Goggin).

In Attendance: Chief Executive (Ian Davidson), Democratic Services Manager (Colin Sweeney), Finance and Procurement Manager (Richard Barrett) and Democratic Services Officer (Michael Pingram).

40. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Coley (with Councillor V E Guglielmi substituting) and Councillor Wood (with Councillor D R Mayzes substituting).

41. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 2 December 2014 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

42. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

43. INTRODUCTION TO THE BUDGET

The Council's Chief Executive and the Finance and Transformation Portfolio Holder provided the Committee with the background to how the budget figures had been reached and explained it had been a difficult process that had required a lot of hard work from staff. They informed the Committee that, in total, £7.4 million had been saved in recent years and that the aim was to eventually become a self-sustainable Council.

The meeting stood adjourned between 9.53 a.m. and 10.01 a.m.

44. UPDATED FINANCIAL BASELINE 2015/16 AND DETAILED BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR A REVISED BUDGET 2014/15 AND ORIGINAL BUDGET FOR 2015/16

The Committee's comments were sought on the updated Financial Baseline 2015/16 and proposals for a revised budget for 2014/15 and original budget for 2015/16, which had been approved at the meeting of the Cabinet held on 12 December 2014 (minute 102/2014 referred).

The Committee had before it a summary of changes to budgets and estimates for 2014/15 (revised) and 2015/16 (original) that had been made since the Cabinet meeting on 12 December 2014.

The Council's Finance and Procurement Manager set out the background and context to the budget, including the updated financial baseline 2015/16.

The Council's Finance and Procurement Manager then outlined the proposed Capital Programme 2015/16, the proposed contribution from Reserves for capital projects and he identified the approach to the financial strategy for 2016/17 and beyond. Questions were raised to specific fees and charges applied to the Princes Theatre.

It was **RECOMMENDED TO CABINET** that the Council's community leadership role continues to be highlighted despite the ongoing reduction in budgets and that community leadership key initiatives to assist residents should continue wherever possible.

It was **COMMENTED TO CABINET** that:

- (1) the Committee commends the Council's Finance and Procurement Service for their good work and in recognising that this would become increasingly difficult as future budgets became more challenging, the Committee would continue to take a more proactive approach in supporting the Council in balancing its budget each year.
- (2) the Council explores different opportunities to work with other Local Authorities in delivering services (e.g. Careline).

45. SPECIAL EXPENSES 2015/16

The Committee gave consideration to the Executive's proposals in respect of Special Expenses for the 2015/16 financial year.

It was **RECOMMENDED TO CABINET** that consideration be given to merge Special Expenses into the overall budget-setting proposals in future years.

The meeting was declared closed at 12.22 p.m.

Chairman