

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CORPORATE MANAGEMENT  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 3 DECEMBER 2015 AT 7.30 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL  
CHAMBER, COUNCIL OFFICES, WEELEY**

**Present:** Councillors Steady (Chairman), Platt (Vice-Chairman), Baker, Cawthron, Chittock, Massey, Scott and Stephenson.

**In Attendance:** Finance and Procurement Manager (Richard Barrett) and Senior Democratic Services Officer (Ian Ford).

**21. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS**

There were no apologies for absence received from Members.

**22. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE HELD ON 28 SEPTEMBER 2015**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee, held on 28 September 2015, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**23. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest received from Members.

**24. THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER'S AUTUMN BUDGET STATEMENT AND COMPREHENSIVE SPENDING REVIEW**

At the request of the Chairman, the Finance and Procurement Manager (Richard Barrett) gave a verbal overview on the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Autumn Budget Statement and Comprehensive Spending Review and answered Members' questions thereon. Mr Barrett stated that the headlines for this Council included:

- (1) A reduction of 24% in the core funding [i.e. Revenue Support Grant (RSG) and local Business Rates (BR)] from central Government to Local Authorities. Given that BR income was expected to rise at least by inflation this would surely mean that the RSG would go down by more than 24%;
- (2) The Communities and Local Government's contribution to Local Authorities would reduce by 30% over the next four years though it was unknown whether this reduction would be evenly phased-in or it would be 'front-loaded'. Tendring District Council's (TDC) Financial Strategy took into account a 30% cut though the Strategy could be needed to be adjusted pending the final RSG settlement from the Government;
- (3) The RSG was due to be phased out entirely by 2020 though the retention of BR locally would not come into effect until 2020 which ran the potential risk of the RSG disappearing before BR retention came into force. TDC currently collected approximately £23-24million in BR locally but only kept approximately £4-5million with the rest going to the Government or other Precepting Authorities. The best that TDC could hope for was that it would be no worse off in 2020; and
- (4) Essex County Council and the Essex Police and Crime Commissioner would be able to raise an extra 2% above the local referendum limit on Council Tax increases of 2%. The New Homes Budget was to be reviewed by the Government.

After discussion of the above and other matters including the Small Businesses Rural Rate Relief Scheme and income generation from local renewable energy schemes it was:

**RESOLVED** that the Leader of the Council be requested to find out more detail from the Government on its plans regarding Local Authority income generated by local renewable energy schemes.

**25. EFFICIENCY SAVINGS AND INCOME GENERATION – OUTCOMES FROM INFORMAL WORKSHOPS**

With reference to Minute No.8 of the meeting of the Committee, held on 13 July 2015, Members were encouraged to identify an area(s) of potential income or efficiency saving to scrutinise, work-up and report upon to the Committee at a later meeting.

Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** that the following ideas be proactively taken forward on behalf of the Council and that the following Committee Members take the lead on those projects:

Transformation Agenda – Councillors Scott and Baker  
Office Rationalisation – Councillors Cawthron and Stephenson  
Channel Shift – Councillors Chittock and Steady  
Growing the Beach Economy – Councillors Platt and Massey

**26. CORPORATE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE'S BUDGET SCRUTINY MEETINGS – MONDAY 4 AND WEDNESDAY 6 JANUARY 2016**

The Committee gave consideration as to how it would wish to proceed with its business, both constitutional and otherwise, at its scheduled meetings to be held on 4 and 6 January 2016 when it was due to scrutinise the Cabinet's draft Budget proposals for 2016/2017.

Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** that:

- (a) The Committee, at its scheduled meeting to be held on 4 January 2016, scrutinises the Cabinet's draft Budget proposals for 2016/2017 and decides, at that time, which Portfolio Holders and senior Officers it will wish to question on their respective Budget proposals at the Committee's second scheduled meeting on 6 January 2016; and
- (b) Members of the Committee hold an informal discussion and question and answer session, with the Council's Finance and Procurement Manager, on the Cabinet's Budget proposals commencing at 6.30 p.m. on Monday 14 December 2015, in the Council chamber, at the Council Offices, Weeley

The meeting was declared closed at 8.23 p.m.

Chairman