

## **AMENDMENTS AND WRITTEN QUESTIONS – FULL COUNCIL – 13 DECEMBER 2017**

### **AMENDMENTS**

No amendments have been received.

### **WRITTEN QUESTIONS**

#### **1. AGENDA ITEM 6 – MOTION 538**

##### **Questions submitted by Councillor Mrs J Roach and the response of the Cabinet Member for Finance**

How much did the HRA pay towards grass cutting in the last financial year and how much will the HRA be paying in the next financial year?

##### **RESPONSE:**

The cost to the HRA for grass cutting was set out in the paper presented to Environment PDG on 7<sup>th</sup> Nov 17; as previously advised,

*“1.2.6 For 16.17 the Grounds Maintenance recharge to the HRA was £112,510; that charge was posted on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2017. The provisional recharge for 17.18 is £118,160. That is due to be posted on the 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2018.”*

Cllr Mrs Roach was present at that Environment PDG; the one where she withdrew her previous motion. For the 18.19 year the provisional budget figure in the draft budget will be £118,160 plus inflationary increase. That will be subject to the ongoing budget discussions through the various PDGs.

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#### **2. SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 6 NOVEMBER**

##### **MIN NO 79**

##### **Question submitted by Councillor Mrs J Roach and the response of the Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Regeneration**

At the point that the scrutiny committee reviews the Tiverton Town centre masterplan, can we be assured that this will be a genuine review and not a tick box exercise?

The same question applies to the public consultation? Will this be a genuine consultation that will not proceed if there are good economic and financial reasons for not proceeding?

Will the budget for next year have finance allocated in case the proposals are supported by the public?

##### **RESPONSE:**

Yes. At the request of Scrutiny Committee, officers will ensure that there is opportunity for the emerging work to be considered and responded to by that Committee. It will be for Members of Scrutiny Committee to consider how it wishes to respond.

It is intended to carry out two separate periods of public consultation on the emerging Tiverton Town Centre masterplan, the first being at scoping stage and the second, on the proposed draft masterplan itself. These consultation periods are considered to be important.

District wide regeneration has been recognised within the draft 2018/19 capital programme in order to ensure project funding (subject to very careful modelling including a thoroughly costed business case).

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### **3. SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 4 DECEMBER**

#### **MIN NO 91**

#### **Question submitted by Councillor Mrs J Roach and the response of the Cabinet Member for Housing**

Does MDDC consider that using different approaches to the selling or handing over of assets is fair? Given that some assets have been sold to community organisations with a market valuation whilst others have been sold on the basis of a commercial valuation, does the Council intend to have one policy for some people and another policy for others?

If so, what is the basis of the policy?

At what point was this policy approved by full Council?

#### **RESPONSE:**

A report on the disposal of Council assets was provided to Scrutiny Committee on the 4/12/17 and was discussed at some length. It was made very clear to the Members of this Committee that it is imperative on the Council to obtain the best price from any asset sale based on all of the unique factors pertaining to the transaction. The Council's financial regulations (approved by the Audit Committee and Full Council in early 2013 – see para 12.5 onwards) and our Asset Management Strategy makes clear reference to achieving the best VFM from any asset disposal.

The issue of "fairness" will always be a subjective one and therefore open to personal opinion and certainly something that couldn't be implemented in to any Council policy. On this basis the Council would look to continue with its existing policies with regard to any future asset disposal – i.e. to obtain the best price achievable based on all the individual/unique particulars to each transaction.

With regard to all commercial asset disposals or indeed acquisitions officers will need to be able to have the ability to negotiate in order to return the best potential deal/offer in order for the Council to demonstrate it has obtained the maximum financial value for all of the residents of the District.

After Scrutiny giving this matter a lot of careful consideration, they voted to support the Council's current policy on the matter.