

## MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

### MINUTES of a MEETING of the COMMUNITY WELL BEING POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP held on 2 December 2014 at 2.15 pm

#### Present

##### Councillors

Mrs H Bainbridge (Chairman)  
Mrs S Griggs (Vice Chairman), M R Lee and F R Rosamond

#### Apology

##### Councillor

E J Berry

#### Also Present

##### Councillors

R M Deed and C R Slade

#### Present

##### Officers

Rob Fish (Principal Accountant), Andrew Jarrett (Head of Finance), Jill May (Head of HR and Development), Laura Maksymczuk (Community Safety), Nick Sanderson (Head of Housing and Property Services), Julia Stuckey (Member Services Officer) and Amy Tregellas (Head of Communities and Governance)

#### 34 APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

No apologies were given.

#### 35 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no members of the public in attendance.

#### 36 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting were approved as a correct record and **SIGNED** by the Chairman.

#### 37 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman informed the Group that the Community Council for Devon had recently changed its name to Devon Communities Together.

#### 38 COMMUNITY SAFETY 00:02:29

The Committee had before it a report\* from the Head of Housing and Property Services regarding the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014.

The Officer explained that the reforms contained within the report were designed to put victims at the heart of any response to anti-social behaviour and give Councils, Police and Social Landlords a wider and more flexible provision to deal with any given situation. The Act came into effect on 20 October 2014, except for Civil Injunctions which had been delayed until early 2015.

The Officer further explained that the Act was intended to consolidate and simplify tools that were already in place to prevent anti-social behaviour.

Discussion took place regarding:-

- The process to be followed;
- Training that had been provided for both Police Officers and Officers from Mid Devon;
- How victims would be supported through the process;
- The website would be updated to explain the new procedures;
- No additional funding had been provided;
- A fixed penalty notice of £100 could be issued, with offenders being taken to court for non-payment of fines or serious incidents;
- If Members witnessed dog fouling or littering offences they could provide a statement.

It was **AGREED** that the Head of Housing and Property Services would provide an update to the Group regarding performance for anti-social behaviour, to include comparisons with other authorities, on an annual basis.

**RECOMMENDED to the Cabinet that:**

1. The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 be adopted.
2. Delegated authority be given to Chief Executive for the appointment of Officers under the Act and to coordinate a consistent level of fines across all Devon authorities.

(Proposed by the Chairman)

Note: \*Report previously circulated, copy attached to minutes.

**39 FINANCIAL MONITORING 00:21:15**

The Group had before it, and **NOTED**, a report\* of the Head of Finance detailing the financial monitoring for the six months to 30 September 2014 in respect of the services within this PDG's remit.

The Principal Accountant outlined the potential deficit of £172K and explained that the main area contributing to this was waste. He further explained that monitoring for October showed little change to the overall picture.

Discussion took place regarding areas specific to this Group:

- Tiverton Market - At the request of this Group income from the Market was now being shown on the report. A Market Assistant had recently been recruited to undertake administrative duties so that the Market Supervisor could concentrate on increasing income.
- Leisure Services – Income was forecast to be on budget. An open day at Exe Valley Leisure Centre had proved successful, was well supported and new memberships were sold. Work was being carried out to improve retention of members.
- Fuel – The Accountant anticipated that there would be fuel savings across the Council due to both the reduction in the cost of fuel and fuel saving measures that had been put in place.

Note: - Report previously circulated, copy attached to signed minutes.

#### 40 BUDGET 2015-16 00:37:00

The Committee had before it and **NOTED** a report \* of the Head of Finance requesting that Members consider options available in order for the Council to set a balanced budget for 2015/16.

The Officer explained that since 2010/11 the Council had seen its Formula Grant reduced by circa £2.6m or 42% from £6.2m to the provisional figure of £3.6m announced for 2015/16. Going forward the current Government had maintained its pledge to continue the austerity programme, with most public sector commentators estimating further cuts of at least 10% per annum for the next 3 – 4 years. Once this was factored in to the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan it was predicted that there would be a funding deficit of circa £2.1m by 2018/19. This highlighted the need to take steps to plan for further reductions to ongoing expenditure levels.

The Head of Finance explained that at this stage the budget for 2015-16 was draft due to a number of unknowns. The Formula Grant would not be known until late in December, along with the referendum limit and the Council Tax Freeze Grant.

Senior Officers had looked at where savings could be made and these had been factored into the budget. He further explained that Leisure Services were not achieving predicted savings and that he had not yet estimated savings for the new Waste and Recycling scheme.

#### Reconciliation of 2015/16 budget variances

Variations	Amount £000
Savings identified in savings exercise	(983)
Cost pressures identified in savings exercise	659
Formula grant cut	656
Leisure savings not realised	218
Waste and recycling currently at 14/15 budget and known service pressures	97
Pay and price inflation – incl. pensions & NI	160
Interest adjustment from HRA	41
Council Tax property growth + 1.5% and reduction in Council Tax reduction grant	(136)
Transfer from New Homes Bonus to fund 2 new officers	(99)
Other costs	37
<b>Draft budget gap for 2015/16</b>	<b>650</b>

#### General Fund Summary

	2014/15 £'000	2015/16 £'000	2016/17 £'000	2017/18 £'000	2018/19 £'000
Total Gross Expenditure	36,710	37,012	37,623	38,037	38,520
Total Income	(27,618)	(28,130)	(28,591)	(28,307)	(28,551)
<b>Net Cost of Services</b>	<b>9,092</b>	<b>8,882</b>	<b>9,032</b>	<b>9,730</b>	<b>9,969</b>
Investment Interest/MRP	(44)	45	(12)	(43)	(75)
Cont. to/(from) Reserves		(99)	(99)		
Contribution to Capital	125	125	125	125	125
<b>Total Budget Requirement</b>	<b>9,173</b>	<b>8,953</b>	<b>9,046</b>	<b>9,812</b>	<b>10,019</b>
Funded by:					
Collection Fund Surplus	(75)	(50)	(50)	(50)	(50)

Formula Grant (1)	(4,181)	(3,525)	(3,128)	(2,816)	(2,534)
Council Tax	(4,917)	(5,114)	(5,168)	(5,253)	(5,339)
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>(9,173)</b>	<b>(8,689)</b>	<b>(8,346)</b>	<b>(8,119)</b>	<b>(7,923)</b>
<b>Cumulative (Surplus)/Deficit</b>	<b>Nil</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>1,693</b>	<b>2,096</b>

Discussion took place regarding:

- A Town Centre Manager post would be funded, using the New Homes Bonus;
- Feedback from the public confirmed that the area's most important to them had not changed;
- Updated costs for waste and recycling would be brought to the January meeting of this Group;
- The Grants budget had been reduced by £20k;
- Areas under this PDG showed an improvement of £80K on last year;
- In the summer budget meetings the Leisure Service had been targeted with achieving savings of £300K. The current savings figure shown in the report totalled £82K. This position had not been helped by changes to pension legislation which added circa £33K to salary costs.
- Universal Credit would not be implemented in Devon until 2017/18. There were ongoing problems in the pilot areas.

An update on the budget would be provided at the next meeting of this Committee.

Note: - Report previously circulated, copy attached to signed minutes.

#### 41 LEADER FUNDING 01:29:52

The Head of Communities and Governance informed the Group that she had sent an email to all Members on Friday to tell them that she had received an indication from DEFRA that the LEADER bid had been successful. This was subject to contract which would be agreed in early 2015 with it being likely that funds would be available from April 2015. Unfortunately there had been a report regarding this in the local paper, which she hoped would not damage the agreement.

The Officer explained that a Local Action Group, made up of local business people and members of local community and voluntary groups would approve funding bids. Full details had yet to be received but it was believed that funding would be approved for bids that would improve the rural economy, such as forestry or farming and community projects that would increase business turnover or employee levels.

The Officer informed the Group that publicity would be carried out following the signing of the contract to promote the funding and staff would be trained on who could claim the fund and how to do so.

The Head of Communities and Governance would update Members when she had received official confirmation from DEFRA, following the signing of the contract.

**42 IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING: 27 JANUARY 2015**

- CCTV Annual Report
- Single Equalities Scheme
- Performance and Risk
- Grant updates – Grand Western Canal, CAB
- Budget Update

(The meeting ended at 1550)

**CHAIRMAN**