

CHILTERN DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the
RESOURCES OVERVIEW COMMITTEE
held on **18 NOVEMBER 2015**

PRESENT: Councillor N M Rose - Chairman

Councillors: A K Bacon
S P Berry
C J Ford
J L Gladwin
J E MacBean
D W Phillips
C J Wertheim

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Councillors A J Garth, C M Jones, M Shaw and D M Varley

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor M J Stannard

30 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Resources Overview Committee meeting held on 6 October 2015, copies of which had been previously circulated, were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

31 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

32 28 DAY NOTICE

The Committee received a report attaching the draft 28-Day Notice which provided a forward look at the Agenda for the next meeting of the Cabinet. The Notice would be published on 23 November 2015.

The Director of Resources advised that the reports on Bucks Infrastructure Plan and Bucks Advantage Funding were now due to be presented to Cabinet on 10 February 2016.

During consideration of this item, members made the following suggestions to improve the information being presented to the Overview Committee:-

- Timing of Overview Committee meetings to accommodate the monitoring of quarterly information
- The Performance Indicator Review 2016/17 report to be presented to Cabinet on 5 April 2016 to also be presented to Resources Overview Committee in advance of the Cabinet meeting so that the Committee can offer their views to the Cabinet.

- In future Joint Waste Collection Committee and the Joint Committee Forward Plans are to be presented to the Resources Overview Committee only for meetings still to be held, not retrospectively.

RESOLVED:

That the content of the report be noted.

33 QUARTER 2 PERFORMANCE REPORT 2014/15

The Committee considered the report which outlined the performance of Council services against performance indicators and service objectives during April to September 2015.

Members were advised that four Performance Indicators had failed to meet targets in the Community, Health & Housing section, three of which are linked to the national increase in demand for temporary accommodation which a government briefing paper stated as 11% nationally year on year at March 2015 with a further 3% increase by June 2015. The homelessness situation was a continuing problem and officers were continually seeking alternative approaches to address this issue. Members suggested that continued good relationships should be maintained with housing providers to ensure that agencies worked together to tackle this increasing problem. Due to the importance of this issue members requested that the Housing Strategy should be considered by the Services Overview Committee in addition to the Community, Health & Housing PAG. The Director of Resources explained that officers were looking at a package of measures but unfortunately there was no one single solution.

The Director of Resources agreed to work with officers to review which items being presented to Cabinet were to be considered by the relevant PAGs and Overview Committees to ensure robust scrutiny and consultation of items for Cabinet decision.

Members considered the performance indicators information in detail and in addition to the housing issue; it was identified that ongoing monitoring in respect of recycling and the higher than expected number of voluntary leavers and sickness was required. With regard to staffing related matters it would be appropriate for these to be considered by reporting to Personnel Committee. Additional performance indicators were suggested in respect of enforcement in sustainable development and responses to emails.

RESOLVED:

That the content of the report was noted.

34 DRAFT REVENUE BUDGET 2016/17

The Committee considered the report which presented the draft revenue budget for 2016/17.

The budgets presented at this stage represented the direct costs of the services; ie. they exclude all support recharges; and also included a summary of the major movements between the 2015/16 and the 2016/17 net cost of services as shown in Appendix 2 of the agenda.

Following the outcome of the budget / council tax consultation, Cabinet was to make its final decisions and set the Council's budget and 2016/17 Council Tax requirement at its meeting on 10 February 2016 prior to the full Council Tax resolution at full Council on 24 February 2016.

The Director of Resources informed members that confirmation of the government funding allocation was still awaited.

The key decisions, in respect of the budget, were to be taken in February 2016 but the immediate decision to be presented to Cabinet was to consider the level of support to parish council tax bills, which was detailed in Appendix 11 of the report. It was agreed that the approach of reducing the support in line with the reduction in the Council's Revenue Support Grant should continue, and this would be finalised when the Government announced the Local Government Financial Settlement. The current proposal was to scale back the support to the parish tax bases from £80,000 to £50,000.

The Resources Overview Committee considered the content of the report and appendices in detail and

RECOMMENDED TO CABINET:

- i) That the draft revenue service budget for 2016/17 be noted; and**
- ii) That £50,000 be provided to Chiltern District Council parishes in respect of the impact of CTS on their tax bases for 2016/17**

The meeting ended at 7.52pm