

EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**HELD: 3 DECEMBER 2009**

Start: 7.30pm

Finish:8.45pm

PRESENT:

Councillor Hammond (Vice Chairman in the Chair)

Councillors	Mrs. Atherley	Grice
	Baldock	Griffiths
	Mrs. Blake	McKay
	Carson	R.A. Pendleton
	Cotterill	Pope
	Mrs. Evans	Rice
	Gartside	

Officers Executive Manager Housing and Property Maintenance Services (Mr B Livermore)
Executive Manager Community Services (Mr D Tilleray)
Group Accountant (Mr M Kostrzewski)
Principal Solicitor (Mr L Gardner)
Principal Member Services Officer (Mrs S Griffiths)

36. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Bailey, O'Toole and Vickers.

37. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4, Members noted the termination of membership of Councillors Cropper, J. Roberts and W.G. Roberts and the appointment of Councillors Mr. Atherley, Rice and Cotterill for this meeting only, thereby giving effect to the wishes of the Political Groups.

38. URGENT ITEMS

There were no items of urgent business.

39. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

40. DECLARATIONS OF PARTY WHIP

There were no declarations of a party whip.

41. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 1 October 2009 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

42. CALLED IN ITEMS

There were no called in items.

43. RELEVANT MINUTES OF CABINET

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 17 November 2009.

Min. 70 Review of Revenue Grants to Voluntary Organisations

In relation to the above minute a Member sought further information on the applications for revenue funding that had been received from the voluntary organisations and suggested that the Membership of the Working Group that had considered these applications be reviewed.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 17 November 2009 be noted.

44. KEY DECISION FORWARD PLANS 1 NOVEMBER 2009 - 28 FEBRUARY 2020 & 1 DECEMBER 2009 - 31 MARCH 2010

There were no items under this heading.

45. NOISE MANAGEMENT POLICY

Further to minute no. 26(B) of the last meeting of the Committee held on 1 October 2009 consideration was given to the report of the Executive Manager Community Services as circulated and contained on pages 445 – 447 of the Book of Reports on the status of the Council's Noise Management Policy.

In relation to noise pollution Members raised questions/commented upon:-

- Number of cases achieving resolution or otherwise
- Seasonal noise pollution (pubs/clubs etc.)
- Prosecutions/types of evidence
- Powers of Police and Local Authority (noise conditions)
- Use of technology
- Business/industry noise pollution

The Executive Manager Community Services responded to Members questions.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

46. REPORTS OF THE COUNCIL SECRETARY AND SOLICITOR

Consideration was given to the reports of the Council Secretary and Solicitor as circulated and contained on pages 449 –481 of the Book of Reports.

47. REVENUE BUDGET MID YEAR REVIEW

The Committee considered the report on the projection on the financial position on the General and Housing Revenue Accounts to the end of the financial year.

During the ensuing discussion Members raised questions/commented upon the following issues:-

- Community Services favourable variation – suggest introduction of free under 16 swimming
- Budget realignments/virements – Repairs and Programme Maintenance Budgets
- Planning Regeneration and Estates – concern regarding non filling of posts
- Street Scene – lack of street cleansing in Tanhouse
- Downsizing - impact on service delivery (particularly in relation to Planning/Regeneration)/exit costs

The Group Accountant responded to questions from the Committee and the Chairman concluded that the report was an indication of the financial position at the end of the financial year.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

48. BUDGET PROSPECTS

The Committee considered a report providing an initial assessment of the budget prospects for future years. The Group Accountant confirmed that the increase in Government grant for 2010-2011 would be 0.6%.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

49. REVISED CAPITAL PROGRAMME AND MID YEAR REVIEW 2009/2010

The Committee considered a report outlining progress against the Revised Capital Programme at the mid-year point.

During the ensuing discussion Members raised questions/commented upon the following issues:-

- VAT windfall schemes
- Funding of re-roofing Nye Bevan Pool
- Staff re-location costs
- 19% capital expenditure low for time of year

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The Group Accountant answered questions and indicated that factors such as partnership arrangements/tendering process/contracts etc. affect low spending in the early part of the financial year and that through good management expenditure is kept within budgets.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

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CHAIRMAN