FINANCIAL RESOURCES SCRUTINY FORUM

Minutes of meeting held in Committee Room 5, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton on 25 February 2010

Chair:
Councillor Tommy Gilligan

Councillors Present:
John Anderson, Hugh Dunsmuir, Henry Mitchell, Graham Scott, George Sutherland, Jim Wardhaugh

Councillors' Apologies:
Pam Clearie, Mary McNeill

Attending:
Corporate Resources
S McLeod, Administration Officer
Enterprise Resources
A Colthart, Head of Support Services; J Turner, Operations Manager
Finance and Information Technology Resources
L Hardie, Executive Director; K Brown, Head of Information Technology Services; L O'Hagan, Finance Manager
Housing and Technical Resources
I Douglas, Project Services Manager

1 Declaration of Interests
No interests were declared.

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting
The minutes of the meeting of the Financial Resources Scrutiny Forum held on 14 January 2010 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

The Forum decided: that the minutes be approved as a correct record.

3 Information Requested from Resources
A report dated 1 February 2010 by the Executive Director (Finance and Information Technology Resources) was submitted on information received from Resources in response to the following issues raised at the last meeting of the Forum:-

Community Resources
♦   artists' fees, performing arts and entertainment
♦   Janitorial Services
Education Resources – Other Property Costs

In response to a member's question regarding Other Property Costs in Education Resources, the Finance Manager advised that savings from a number of areas within Education Resources' revenue budget had been moved to Other Property Costs and that this budget line was being used as a holding budget code.

In response to a request for further clarification, the Executive Director (Finance and Information Technology Resources) advised that the action taken to hold savings separately had been approved in principle by the Executive Committee at its meeting on 9 September 2009 and had been agreed in detail by the Education Resources Committee at its meeting on 27 October 2009.

The Head of Information Technology Services gave a presentation on the main components of the spend on IT equipment covering:-

- the role of Information Technology Services which included:-
    - Telephony
    - Technology Services
    - Business Systems
    - Support Services
    - Security Strategy and Standards
- out tasked work
- Information Technology Services' budgets
- recharges for services used by Resources
- income

The Forum decided:

(1) that the information provided by Resources on the issues raised at the last meeting of the Forum and the additional information provided in response to members' questions be noted; and

(2) that the presentation on the main components of the spend on IT equipment be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 14 January 2010 (Paragraphs 3 and 4)]

4   Revenue Budget Monitoring 2009 to 2010

A report dated 1 February 2010 by the Executive Director (Finance and Information Technology Resources) was submitted on the position of the Council's revenue budget at 23 December 2009 including:-

- the financial position of the revenue budget for the General Services, Housing Revenue and Trading Services accounts
- the financial and operational position of Community Resources' Trading Services

The Forum decided: that clarification/further information be requested from Housing and Technical Resources on whether the annual budget for Other Property Costs had been increased during the financial year and how the underspend of £0.126 million had been achieved.

5   Capital Budget Monitoring 2009 to 2010

A report dated 27 January 2010 by the Executive Director (Finance and Information Technology Resources) was submitted on the progress of the Council's various capital programmes at 23 December 2009 including information on:-

- the financial and physical progress of the Housing Capital Programme
- the financial and physical progress of the various General Fund Capital Programmes

The Forum decided: that the report be noted.

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6 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.