

FINANCIAL RESOURCES SCRUTINY FORUM

Minutes of meeting held in Committee Room 2, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton on 13 October 2011

Chair:

Councillor Mary McNeill

Councillors Present:

Bobby Lawson, Brian McCaig, Graham Scott, Graham Simpson, Jim Wardhaugh

Councillors' Apologies:

John Anderson, Pam Clearie, Tommy Gilligan (Chair)

Attending:**Finance and Corporate Resources**

P Manning, Executive Director; G Bow, Administration Manager; G Cochran, Administration Assistant; L O'Hagan, Finance Manager (Accounting and Budgeting)

Housing and Technical Resources

I Douglas, Property Services Manager; H Goodwin, Finance Manager (Technical); D Lowe, Head of Property Services

Appointment of Chair

In terms of Standing Order No5(b), Councillor McNeill was appointed Chair for this meeting.

1 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Financial Resources Scrutiny Forum held on 15 September 2011 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

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

3 Information Requested from Enterprise Resources - Winter Maintenance Programme - Use of Liquid De-icer

A report dated 5 October 2011 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on information requested at the previous meeting of the Forum in relation to the use of liquid de-icer on the road network during the forthcoming winter season.

Details were provided on the proposed pilot of the new liquid de-icer product which would not be used as part of normal gritting operations. The liquid de-icer was more expensive than rock salt and would only be used where a layer of ice had formed following a snow event and the temperature was colder than the operational range of rock salt.

The Forum decided: that the information provided in relation to the query raised at the previous meeting of the Forum be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 15 September 2011 (Paragraph 3)]

4 Revenue Budget Monitoring 2011/2012

A report dated 19 September 2011 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on the position of the Council's revenue budget at 2 September 2011 including:-

- ◆ the financial position of the revenue budget for the General Services, Housing Revenue and Trading Operations accounts
- ◆ the position of the Property Trading Service, Financial and Operational Performance at 2 September 2011

The figures included an underspend on the General Fund Revenue Account of £0.322 million and an underspend of £0.043 million on the Housing Revenue Account.

The forecast for the General Fund and Housing Revenue Accounts to 31 March 2012 was a breakeven position.

The Forum decided:

- (1) that the position be noted; and
- (2) that information be provided to the next meeting of this Forum:-
 - ◆ detailing the number of vacancies in Environmental Protection and Consumer and Trading Standards Services which had led to an underspend on Employee Costs
 - ◆ on the overspend in relation to the cost of councillors' broadband
 - ◆ providing clarification on equal opportunities costs within Personnel Services

[Reference: Minutes of Executive Committee of 5 October 2011 (Paragraph 4)]

5 Capital Budget Monitoring 2011/2012

A report dated 22 September 2011 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on the progress of the Council's various capital programmes at 2 September 2011 including information on:-

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

The General Fund Capital Programme included Education Resources, Social Work Resources, Roads and Transportation Services and General Services. The General Fund Capital Programme totalled £129.798 million and the Housing Capital Programme £41.928 million. At 2 September 2011, £41.460 million had been spent on the General Fund Capital Programme and £9.780 million on the Housing Capital Programme.

The Forum decided:

- (1) that the progress of the General Fund Capital Programme be noted;
- (2) that the progress of the Housing Capital Programme be noted; and
- (3) that information be provided to the next meeting of this Forum on the circumstances behind the delay of the Capital project at Dunedin Recreation Area, East Kilbride.

[Reference: Minutes of Executive Committee of 5 October 2011 (Paragraph 3)]

6 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.