

## **RESOURCES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**THURSDAY, 19 MARCH 2015**

**PRESENT:-** Councillors Steve Allsopp, Oliver Donachie, Mark Edwards, Toby Elliott (Chair), Nick Martin, Gemma McCracken, Stan Pajak and Robert Wright

### **19. Minutes**

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2015, be confirmed and signed.

### **20. Public Question Time**

There were no public questions

### **21. Property Portfolio and Civic Campus**

Rob Richards submitted a report concerning the Council's Property Portfolio and the Civic Campus. He advised that property and land held by the Council is a significant resource, which is essential for the provision of the vast majority of Council services. As well as operational properties which are used in direct front line service delivery there are a number of corporate offices which accommodate the Council's staff, a housing stock of 10,500 freehold and 500 leasehold homes, around 250 operational assets and a portfolio of investment property [some 810 assets, including retail; office and industrial premises together with a 2,000 acre agricultural estate] which currently produces nearly £4m of revenue income to supplement the Council's financial plans.

Attached as Appendix 1 to the report was the Council's Property Strategy, adopted at Cabinet in 2012 and which sets out the Council's objectives and the general direction the property base will take in relation to the management, acquisition and disposal of property assets. The Civic Campus provides the main base for the Council's civic and office based activity and is the work place for nearly 1500 staff.

The report sought to update and inform the Committee on the key elements of the Strategy relating to the Council's property portfolio and the current activity related to it and activity on the Civic Campus

Rob Richards responded to questions put to him by members of the Committee concerning:

- The use of Asbestos in Council owned buildings
- An over-arching strategy for centralising or decentralising Council services
- The renting of Council owned premises to charitable organisations.

Resolved – (1) That the report be noted

(2) That the Council should look to maximising its profits from Council owned buildings

(3) That the Cabinet be requested to investigate the possibility of having an over-arching strategy for centralising or decentralising its services.

### **22. End of year report**

The Chair thanked Councillors for their input during the year and undertook to incorporate their comments into his end of year report