

RESOURCES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, 25 SEPTEMBER 2014

PRESENT:- Councillors Steve Allsopp, Michael Bray, Oliver Donachie, Toby Elliott (Chair), Nick Martin, Gemma McCracken, Ann Richards, Keith Williams and Robert Wright

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors John Ballman and Stan Pajak.

4. Minutes

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 26th June 2014 be confirmed and signed.

5. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Robert Wright made a non-prejudicial and non-personal interest in respect of item no. 4 on the agenda and stayed in the room during the voting and discussion thereon.

6. Public Question Time

There were no public questions

7. Communicating with the Public

The Head of Communications submitted a report allowing this Scrutiny Committee to review the Council's approach to the way it communicates with the public, looking at front line services and the range of methods used.

Councillor Wright identified other ways of interacting with the public including signs at roundabouts and rail and bus stations.

Gavin Calthrop commented that signs on billboards and roundabout were currently an income source for the Council.

Resolved – That the report be noted

8. Staff Survey

The Group Director, Resources and Nicola Houwayek introduced a report submitted by Alison Hackett concerning the Council's approach to measuring employee engagement, and in particular the progress on a staff survey.

She produced a list of historic results for the staff survey including (a) areas for the Council to improve and (b) a review of the action taken in the light of the staff survey results.

She commented on the current position and the key engagement measures including the next steps to be taken.

Members of the Scrutiny Committee stressed the need for anonymity for staff responding to the staff survey.

Resolved – That this Committee:

- (1) Agree and support the staff survey
- (2) Be open advocates of the staff survey when dealing with employees and helping to promote its purpose and reason for taking place
- (3) Agree that the Committee, as key stakeholders, be part of reviewing the outcomes of the survey and subsequent action planning where appropriate.

9. Financial Projection 2014-15 and Forward look

The Group Director, Resources introduced a presentation given by Kirsty Cole concerning an overview of the Council's financial position both in relation to the current year's budget and the outlook for coming years

Kirsty Cole tabled a document showing Council Tax levels for 2014/15 for Unitary Authorities and a pie chart showing how the 2014 General Fund Budget will be spent.. She itemized the key risks and projected overspend areas and offset mitigations assuming use of one-off resources. She advised that the overall assumption is that the Budget will be delivered within cash limits.

Resolved – That the report be noted