

THE CABINET
25TH JULY 2013

Present:	Councillors:	
	Ray Dawe	Leader
	Helena Croft	Deputy Leader and Communication, Horsham Town & Special Projects
	Andrew Baldwin	The Environment
	Jonathan Chowen	Arts, Heritage & Leisure
	Roger Paterson	The Local Economy
	Sue Rogers	A Safer & Healthier District
Apologies:	Gordon Lindsay	Resources
	Claire Vickers	Living & Working Communities
Also present:	Councillors: John Bailey, John Chidlow, George Cockman, Leonard Crosbie, Duncan England, Frances Haigh, David Holmes, Sheila Matthews, Jim Rae	

EX/8 **RECORD OF THE MEETING OF 23RD MAY 2013**

The record of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 23rd May 2013 was approved as correct and signed by the Leader.

EX/9 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

EX/10 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

EX/11 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

The Leader reported that a question had been received from Mr Paul Kornycky but, as he was unable to attend the meeting, a written reply would be sent.

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE RESOURCES

EX/12 **Budget 2013/14 – Progress Report to end of June 2013 and Outturn Forecast**

The Director of Corporate Resources submitted a report that compared expenditure and income with the profiled budget for the period 1st April 2012 to 30th June 2013 and provided a forecast for the full year outturn. The report highlighted that additional income of £192,000 had been achieved on the green waste service and, with other income and expenditure variances, at this early stage in the year a potential underspend of £307k at year end was forecast. This forecast would be updated as the year progressed.

EX/12 Budget 2013/14 – Progress Report to end of June 2013 and Outturn Forecast (cont.)

The Director and the Chief Executive responded to Members' queries in respect of an increase in the forecast outturn for legal costs awarded against the Council in respect of planning appeals; vacant posts; capital and repair & renewals budget underspends; and salaries underspend.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

REASONS

Monitoring of the Council's budget is essential, so that if necessary action can be taken to safeguard the Council's financial position.

EX/13 Medium Term Financial Strategy 2014/17

The Director of Corporate Resources reported that the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy had last been reviewed by the Council on 13th February, 2013, as part of the annual budget setting cycle. The current report summarised the latest review of the financial strategy, considering key financial changes which impacted on the Council's local and wider financial environment, resulting in revised financial projections. The review ensured that the 2014/15 budget and resultant Council Tax level would be set within the context of the Council's District Plan priorities and the financial strategy in order to deliver a balanced budget, updated for the latest information and knowledge available to the Council.

The report referred to issues including the economic outlook, financial strategy objectives, budget assumptions, the budget challenge process, reserves, the capital programme and business transformation.

In particular, the Director of Corporate Resources drew Members' attention to possible future changes to Government funding for local authorities, the New Homes Bonus scheme and Pension Fund contributions.

It was noted that a number of potential actions could be taken to mitigate the projected deficit. Over the coming months, Cabinet would review these options, develop proposals and make recommendations to Council.

RESOLVED

That the projected budget gap detailed in the report be noted and that strategies be developed to deal with the deficit during the 2014/15 budget setting process.

EX/13 Medium Term Financial Strategy 2014/17 (cont.)

REASON

To ensure that the 2014/15 budget and resultant Council Tax level is set within the context of the financial strategy in order to deliver a balanced budget, updated with the latest information and knowledge available to the Council.

EX/14 Representatives on Outside Bodies

The Chief Executive reported that the Scrutiny & Overview Committee's Social Inclusion Working Group had been reviewing how the Council was represented on outside bodies. As a result of this review, the list of such bodies had been updated to remove those where the Council's representation was no longer required or where the outside body no longer existed. The revised list, indicating current representatives, was submitted.

Members suggested that, in reviewing the current schedule of representatives on outside bodies, regard should be had to the interests and skills of all Members. It was also agreed that some additional information was required regarding each of the bodies on the schedule, such as frequency of meetings, and that the list should be kept under review to ensure that it was relevant and up to date.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL

- (i) ***That Councillor Sue Rogers, in her capacity as the Cabinet Member for a Safer & Healthier District, be appointed as the Council's representative on the Police and Crime Panel until May 2015, with Councillor Brian Donnelly as the substitute representative.***

RESOLVED

- (ii) That the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Minority Group, should determine whether any changes should be made to any of the other representatives currently appointed until May 2015.
- (iii) That the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Minority Group, should seek interest from all Members to fill existing vacancies.

EX/14 Representatives on Outside Bodies (cont.)

- (iv) That all Members who are appointed to outside bodies be required to report to Council on a regular basis, and in any event at least once a year, by means of a brief written information report.

REASON

To ensure that the Council is adequately represented on outside bodies, where required by that body's constitution or by statute or where there is a benefit to both the Council and the body.

EX/15 **SCRUTINY & OVERVIEW COMMITTEE – MATTERS REFERRED TO CABINET**

There were no matters currently outstanding for consideration.

EX/14 **MATTERS OF SPECIAL URGENCY**

There were no matters of special urgency to be considered.

The meeting closed at 5.15pm having commenced at 4.30 pm.

LEADER