

SCRUTINY BOARD (RESOURCES AND COUNCIL SERVICES)

MONDAY, 6TH FEBRUARY, 2012

PRESENT: Councillor P Grahame in the Chair

Councillors S Bentley, A Blackburn,
J L Carter, B Chastney, N Dawson,
R Grahame, J Hardy, A Lowe, C Macniven
and R Wood

66 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Ron Grahame declared a personal interest in relation to Agenda Item No. 7, Financial Health Monitoring 2011/12 – Month nine report, in his capacity as a Director of East North East Homes ALMO, and as a Member of the GMB Union. (Minute No. 69 refers)

67 Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutes

There were no apologies for absence

68 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 9th January 2012 be confirmed as a true and correct record

69 Financial Health Monitoring 2011/12 - Month 9

The Head of Scrutiny and Member Development submitted a report which provided details of the financial health of the authority as of month nine of the 2011/12 financial year.

Dough Meeson, Chief Officer (Financial Management) attended the meeting and responded to Members questions and comments

In brief summary, the main areas of discussion were:

- Costs associate with foster caring/ children in care
- The generation of income through Council Services
- The projected overspend at month 9 of £0.5m, an improvement of £1.9m from the position at month 8
- Reductions in staffing through the early leavers initiative
- Refuse collection back up service

RESOLVED – To note the projected financial position of the authority after nine months of the financial year 2011/12

70 Best Value Review of ICT - Update

The Chief Officer ICT submitted a report which provided an update of the Best Value Review of ICT

Ian Jones, Senior ICT Consultant attended the meeting and responded to Members questions and comments

In addressing the report Mr Jones explained the background in appointing a Consultant to undertake a more detailed review of Children's Services.

A report from the appointed consultant was included in the report provided to the Board. The report described the proposed approach of the review, timescale, deliverables, resources and costs

In brief summary, the main areas of discussion were:

- Users of any new system to be consulted on the design and delivery of the system
- Any new system would need to be compatible with other City Council IT systems
- Assurances that adequate training would be provided
- A desire to have commercial package/ proven system, not a bespoke system
- The use of a Consultant and further details and background about the procurement process
- A desire for reports to be written in plain English, more user friendly

RESOLVED –

- (i) That the contents of the report be noted
- (ii) That the comments of the Board be made known to the project team
- (iii) That further details be obtained about the appointed Consultants and the procurement process

71 Work Schedule

A report was submitted by the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development which detailed the Scrutiny Board's work programme for the current municipal year.

Appended to the report for Member's information was the current version of the Board's work programme, the minutes from the Executive Board meeting held on 4th January 2012, together with an extract from the Forward Plan of Key Decisions for the period 1st February to 31st May 2012

RESOLVED – That the work programme, as amended, be approved

72 Date and Time of Next Meeting

RESOLVED – To note that the next meeting will take place on Monday 5th March 2012 at 10.00am in the Civic Hall, Leeds (Pre- Meeting for Board Members at 9.30am)