

MINUTES OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

15 NOVEMBER 2011

Present:

Councillor Philippa Broom (Chairman)
Councillor Mrs Marian Rough (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors:

Mrs C.A. Bannister	M.P.C. Francis	Miss D. Patel
I.J. Beardsmore	Mrs I. Napper	Ms J.R. Sexton
Ms M. Bushnell	Mrs C.E. Nichols	Ms S. Webb

R.D. Dunn

Apologies: Councillors A. Ayub, D. Gohil and A.P. Patterson

284/11 DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS

No disclosures of interests reported.

285/11 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 September 2011 were approved as a correct record.

286/11 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(1) Minute No 228/11 Ashford and St Peter's Hospitals Seminar

The Chairman reported on a request received from a member of the committee for arrangements to be made for representatives from the Ashford and St Peter's Hospital Trust to give a presentation at an Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting in February /March 2012.

RESOLVED that the officers to obtain information as to when the outcome of the bids for the merger with Epsom Hospital would be known and to invite representatives from the Ashford and St Peter's Hospital Trust to attend an Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting. The date for the meeting to be arranged in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee.

(2) Minute 233/11 Capital Budget Outturn Position

The Chairman reported that the information previously requested on the Disabled Facilities Grant was being obtained and would be circulated to all committee members.

287/11 CALL IN OF CABINET DECISIONS

No decisions had been called in.

**288/11 REVENUE MONITORING AND PROJECTED OUTTURNS –
SEPTEMBER 2011**

The Committee discussed with Adrian Flynn, Senior Accountant, the report covering the revenue spend figures and how resources were spent on providing services for residents for the period April to September 2011. The committee noted that the forecast outturn was £12,620m against the revised budget of £12.367m an over spend of £253k before taking account of use of reserves to fund one off redundancy costs incurred in order to achieve ongoing savings.

During the discussion the Officers were asked to provide additional information on the following areas:

- A breakdown of the redundancy cost due to restructuring (£142k)
- Details of the partnership costs with Runnymede Borough Council which had inadvertently been omitted £140,215
- The reason for the portacabin costs for the Sea Cadets being £33k adverse
- Why the SLM annual contract income was lower than budgeted
- Details of the Surrey Jobs subscription £6k (adverse) for advertising on website and obtain details from Human Resources on how they advertise vacant posts.

RESOLVED that:

1. the report of the Chief Finance Officer outlining the current revenue spend position for the period April to September 2011 be noted;
2. an item be added to the work programme to enable the committee to look at Partnership arrangements and how they are progressing; and
3. the officers provide additional information on the issues raised at the meeting.

289/11 CAPITAL MONITORING REPORT 2011

The Committee discussed with Adrian Flynn, Senior Accountant, the report covering the current spend figures for April to September 2011 on the Capital Programme. The Committee noted that the anticipated projected outturn to spend by the end of the financial year was £1,942,000 which represented 95% of the revised budget.

RESOLVED that the report of the Chief Finance Officer outlining the Capital monitoring position for April to September 2011 be noted.

290/11 TREASURY MANAGEMENT HALF YEARLY REPORT

The Committee discussed with Terry Collier, Chief Finance Officer the report which provided an update on the treasury management activities for the first half of the year to 30 September 2011. The report indicated that we are on track to achieve our budgeted investment income for the year. The report also outlined proposed changes to the Treasury Management Strategy, the

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Continued

proposed use of pooled funds within the list of approved investments and outlined the revisions to the Council's counterparties' creditworthiness criteria.

The Committee noted that in the first six months of the current financial year the Council had operated within the treasury limits and Prudential Indicators set out in the Treasury Policy Statement, the annual treasury management strategy statement and the annual investment strategy approved by Council in January 2011.

The Committee were pleased to note that the officers were being proactive in seeking ways of maintaining and improving current levels of return against a very challenging global investment environment

RESOLVED the report of the Chief Finance Officer be received and the actions being taken be supported.

291/11 ECONOMIC SITUATION

The Chairman introduced the matter by advising that it was a scrutiny matter to look at the overall framework of how the economic situation was affecting the borough in terms of its aspirations for growth, housing needs, levels of crime and requirements to support vulnerable people.etc As well as looking at the changes to government legislation being introduced particularly with the welfare changes.

The Committee received a presentation from Terry Collier, Chief Finance Officer on the impact of the economic situation and how the resulting risks were being managed. A copy of the presentation is attached

The monthly fact sheet providing information on employment and housing development trends for October 2011 were circulated at the meeting.

The Chairman invited members of the Committee to identify key areas for further consideration such as business rates, economic risks and the welfare reform as well as future economic opportunities and how to link in with the planning processes.

RESOLVED that the presentation from the Chief Finance Officer be received.