

Present:	Councillor Gary Hewson (in the Chair)
Councillors:	Chris Burke, Sandra Grattrick, Ronald Hills, Marc Jones, Ralph Toofany, Patrick Vaughan, Peter West
Apologies:	Councillor(s) David Grattrick
Substitutes:	Councillor(s) Geoffrey Kirby

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on the 24 March 2011 be received.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Gary Hewson declared a personal interest in Minute No. 8.
Reason: He was a member of the Boutham Park Advisory Committee..

Councillor Marc Jones declared a personal interest in Minute No. 11.
Reason: He had spoken to representatives of the Gospel Church about the burial land proposals..

3. INTEGRATED FINANCIAL AND PERFORMANCE MONITORING: QUARTER4 2010/11

The Head of Business Development and Finance and the Senior Policy Officer:

a. presented a report on the Council's finances and performance during the financial year 2010/11.

b. provided:

- an overview of financial and performance reporting
- details of key successes and outcomes this quarter
- a summary of all financial and performance indicators deemed "RED" this quarter - areas off profile
- details of the key challenges - a view of the biggest challenges faced this quarter
- follow up statements on remedial actions contained in previous quarters' reports
- Directorate Position Statements

c. noted that the percentage of measurable indicators that had been met or were within achievable boundaries was now 91%

d. advised that the Capital Receipts target had not been met in 2010/11 due to the Lindongate receipt not being received till April 2011.

e. advised that interest on investments was not as high as the target however the Council had still managed to achieve a return higher than the market.

f. advised all of the Council collection rates were above target.

e. advised that this would be the last time the report would be provided in this format

Members asked the following questions:

Question 1

I understand the need for the changes can the Officers give an indication of the timescales?.

Response - The new format will be the subject of a report to the next meeting to be held on the 6 July 2011.

Question 2

In respect of the indicators for the parks and gardens can officers indicate whether there any background to the target/public perception?.

Response - The response is a mystery, although the survey was undertaken in January at a time of extreme weather. The survey is normally undertaken in the autumn.

Question 3

In respect of Local Indicator 4 whose fault was it that the data had not been received?.

Response - although this indicator had been identified as required the methodology to collect the information had not yet been identified.

Question 4

Street cleansing figures have always been green, but the public perception of the service doesn't appear to add up?.

Response - Not sure why the public perception is as low as this, however as it is believed that this is a one off, officers are not too worried.

Question 5

The figures for short term sickness suggest that the target is not going to be met as quarter 4 figures are not included.

Response - Although we were unable to produce stand alone Quarter 4 figures, these have been included in the cumulative year end total which confirms that our staff sickness level is below the target set.

Question 6

In respect of Local Indicators 9 and 10 is there a correlation between these and crime

Response - the data is factual however it is historic information.

RESOLVED

1. That the achievements and outcomes at quarter 4 2010/11 be noted.
2. That action be focused to improve highlighted areas that did not meet their targets.
3. That the progress on the financial performance for the period 1 April to 31 March 2011 be noted.
4. That a report on the health figures and their correlation with the crime figures be submitted to a future meeting of the committee.

4. FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE: OUTTURN 2010/11

The Head of Business Development and Finance:

a. presented a report on the provisional 2010/11 financial outturn including the following areas:

- General Fund
- Housing Revenue
- City Maintenance Services
- Capital Programmes

b. stated that the figures were provisional subject to agreement by the Audit Commission.

c. highlighted proposed carry forwards in the budget, which it had been recommended for Executive to agree.

d. drew members' attention to the main variations to the revised budget.

e. advised that the Executive had agreed to transfer £150,000 to earmarked reserves to provide future capacity to respond to some of the current risk and governance issues as detailed in paragraph 3.11

f. drew members attention to the variation in the projected surplus for City Maintenance Services and the reasons for it

Members asked the following questions:

1. In respect of the water usage at the Lawn when is the report expected and is there a reason why the usage is so high?.

Response - A report will be submitted to a future meeting of the committee which will detail the findings of the report and any necessary actions required..

2. Was the higher call on services due to the bad weather. Is there any unseen damage caused by the bad weather?.

Response - The higher demand was due to urgent repairs.

Officers also advised that the monies currently allocated for homeless prevention was not ring fenced.

RESOLVED that

1. the proposed transfers to General Fund earmarked reserves as detailed in paragraphs 3.9 and 3.11 of the report be noted.

2. the provisional 2010/11 financial outturn for the General Fund Housing Revenue Account, City Maintenance Services and Capital Programme as set out in paragraphs 2 - 6, and in particular the reasons for any variances be noted.

3.the nature and current level of earmarked reserves and in - year movements between revenue, as set out in Appendix A, prior to any further allocations being approved be noted.

4. a written explanation be provided to all members of the Committee in respect of the water usage at the Lawn.

5. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STEWARDSHIP AND ACTUAL PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS REPORT 2010/11 (OUTTURN)

The Head of Business a Development and Finance:

a. presented a report on Treasury Management.

b. highlighted the summary of performance against the Treasury Strategy in the main report.

c. noted that the Director of Resources had confirmed that under - borrowing of £5.219m was currently being supported by internal resources.

d.summarised the key issues for members to note from activity during 2010/11.

e. the Council's treasury management performance when compared to a comparator group of similar authorities indicated that the City of Lincoln paid below the average

interest rate on its debt and received above the average interest rate on its investments.

RESOLVED that

1. the actual prudential indicators contained within appendices A and B be noted.
2. the Treasury Management stewardship report for 2010/11 be noted.

6. CONFIRMATION OF HOUSING SCRUTINY SUB - COMMITTEE MEMBERS

RESOLVED that in addition to Councillor Hewson as Chair the following members comprise the Housing Scrutiny Sub Committee:

Councillor G Hewson (Chairman)

Councillor B Bushell

Councillor P Vaughan

Councillor E Strengiel

Councillor D. Grice

7. WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

The Principal Democratic Officer updated the Committee on the committee's work programme for 2011/12.

Members of the Committee suggested that quarterly reports on the progress of the new strategic priorities be included within the work programme.

RESOLVED that subject to the inclusion of quarterly reports on the progress of the new strategic priorities the contents of the work programme be noted.

8. STRATEGIC PLAN PROGRESS - OUTTURN 2010/11

The Head of Business Development and Finance

a. presented a report on strategic projects against their milestones for the year end 31 March 2011

b. highlighted projects to members, and noted that 17 projects were currently being monitored by Strategic Plan Implementation Team one of which was giving cause for concern and had been reported to the Executive.

c. discussed details relating to the project which was the subject of a separate report elsewhere on the agenda.

Members considered, discussed and commented upon the contents of the report.

RESOLVED that members note the progress in delivery of strategic projects, in particular the specific issues, as highlighted in section 5 of the report and the appropriate actions being taken.

9. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED that the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business because it is likely that if members of the public were present there would be a disclosure to them of 'exempt information' as defined by Section 100I and Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

10. STRATEGIC PLAN PROGRESS - OUTTURN 2010/11

The Head of Business Development and Finance

a. presented a report on Strategic Plan progress during 2010/11

b. highlighted to members a project that SPIT and CMT were specifically bringing to the attention of members, with relevant remedial action being taken which due to contractual and legal measures needed to be reported confidentially.

c. discussed details relating to the projects in question.

Members asked the following questions:

1. Are there any lessons to be learned from the letting of the Contract?

Officer response - The project will be the subject of a Post Implementation Review, the results of which will be reported to Committee.

2. Do we know what the shops want in respect of the reinstatement works?

Officer response - The views of the shop owners have not been obtained.

RESOLVED that

1. the progress in delivery of strategic projects, in particular the specific issues highlighted in section 2 and the appropriate actions being taken be noted.

2. the Executive be requested to consult with all affected businesses in respect of the reinstatement process to ensure that they are aware of the issues surrounding the problem and also gauge their opinions on the proposed works.

11. BURIAL LAND PROGRESS REPORT

The Head of Community Services, Leisure and Sport

- a. provided an update on the work being carried out by the Burial Land Working Group on the procurement and development of the Council's new cemetery off Long Leys Road.
- b. advised that income from the sale of land adjacent to the site would influence expenditure on the burial land.

Members commented as follows:-

1. Are we going to meet the start date detailed in the planning application?.

Officer response - work has already commenced on site so that condition of the planning application has been met.

2. Has provision for green and woodland burials been taken into account?.

Officer response - They have not been included within the current proposals however the comments will be noted and passed to SPIT for consideration.

3. I would not wish to see anything to prevent the provision of the new cemetery, we need to progress with it.

Officer comment - We don't need to have the whole site available at the same time, we could develop the site in sections.

4. Is cremation more popular, and have the trends been taken account of in our calculations?.

Officer response - Cremation is the more popular however preferences do change.

RESOLVED that

1. the work of Officers in forming a project management group to implement the construction phase of this work through the EMPA framework to develop the new burial site be noted.

2. the work by Property Services to finalise and determine a preferred course of action for the Council with respect to the land sale/lease to the Long Leys Gospel Church be supported.

3. SPIT be requested to continue monitoring the delivery of this project

4. Officers note the comments made in respect of the future provision of green and woodland burials.