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SUMMONS

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

Wednesday 19 April 2017

DBC Council Chamber - The Forum

You are hereby summoned to a meeting of the Dacorum Borough Council in the County of Hertfordshire to be held in the DBC Council Chamber - The Forum on Wednesday 19 April 2017 at 7.30 pm to transact the business set out below.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sally Marshall'.

**SALLY MARSHALL
CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Contact: Jim Doyle

ext 2222

AGENDA

1. MINUTES

To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting of the council

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive any declarations of interest

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

To consider questions (if any) by members of the public of which the appropriate notice has been given to the Solicitor to the Council.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

To receive announcements and business brought forward by the Mayor, Leader, and Members of the Cabinet or the Chief Executive.

4.1 By the Mayor:

4.2 By the Chief Executive:

4.3 By the Group Leaders: Any apologies for absence

4.4 Council Leader and Members of the Cabinet:

Councillor Williams	Leader of the Council
Councillor Mrs Griffiths	Housing
Councillor Harden	Residents & Corporate Services
Councillor G Sutton	Planning and Regeneration
Councillor Marshall	Environmental, Sustainability and Regulatory Services
Councillor Elliot	Finance & Resources

5. QUESTIONS

To consider questions (if any) by members of the Council of which the appropriate notice has been given to the Solicitor to the Council.

6. BUSINESS FROM THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING

To consider any business referred from the previous meeting

7. CABINET REFERRALS (Pages 4 - 5)

To consider the following referrals from Cabinet:

7.1 CA/032/17 21st March 2017 Budget Monitoring

8. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES ANNUAL REPORTS 2016/2017 (Pages 6 - 12)

The Constitution requires that the Overview & Scrutiny Committee Chairmen make an Annual Report to the Council on the work of their committees

9. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY REFERRALS

None.

10. CHANGES TO COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

To consider any proposals for changes to committee membership

11. CHANGE TO COMMITTEE DATES

To consider any proposals for changes to committee dates

Agenda Item 7

CABINET REFERRALS

21 March 2017

7.1 CA/032/17 BUDGET MONITORING QUARTER 3 2016/17

Decision

Resolved to recommend:

2. Approval of the supplementary budgets set out below. Details for these supplementary budgets are set out in the body of the report to Cabinet:
 - Decrease the budget for Pension back funding by £900k
 - Decrease use of the Pensions reserve by £900k
3. Increase the capital budget for The Forum by £514k to reflect contribution received from Hertfordshire County Council for fit out works to the library, ceremonial room and registration offices.

Reason for Decision

To provide details of the projected outturn for 2016/17 as at Quarter 3 for the:

- General Fund
- Housing Revenue Account
- Capital Programme

Corporate Objectives

Delivering an efficient and modern council

Monitoring Officer/S.151 Officer Comments

Monitoring Officer

No further comments to add.

Deputy S.151 Officer

This is a Section 151 Officer report.

Advice

D Skinner explained that there would be an underspend of £262k for the end of quarter 3, which was consistent with previous quarters. Details of this were included within the report.

Councillor Elliot highlighted that there was a £15k overspend within the cemeteries budget. D Skinner said that they would be looking to recover money via different options.

Councillor Harden asked if there was a pressure on pay and display as a result of the new £1 coin. He asked if the council were upgrading the machines just to accommodate that or would the upgrade mitigate against any further changes made in the future.

D Skinner confirmed that the upgrade was to accommodate the new £1 coin only. The upgrade would cost £15k.

Councillor Williams asked if there was a timescale to renew the contract.

D Skinner said the council would go out to market soon with a view to have the contract in by May 2018.

Councillor Williams referred to the pressure of £50k shown in section 3.2 of the report.

D Skinner explained that a pressure is forecast in the Revenues and Benefits service from bank charges incurred. The new system of credit card surcharging has been implemented, but charges recovered from customers at the time of payment are being reported in the income section of the relevant departmental budgets.

Voting

None.

Agenda Item 8

FINANCE & RESOURCES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE REPORT 2016-17.

During the Council Year 2016/17 the Finance & Overview & Scrutiny Committee met on eight occasions including two joint meeting with all Scrutiny Committees to discuss the 2017/18 Budget requirement .

As to be expected with the wide variety of topics to discuss we experienced several lengthy and in depth discussions ranging from:

Performance Reports.

Revenue Outturn Reports.

Risk Management Updates.

Community Infrastructure Levy.

Core Funding for Community Groups.

Revenues and Benefits.

Etc.

The committee were pleased that the Cabinet and Officers have actioned the financial Overview and Scrutiny request that credit card transactions should be charged to the user. This has now resulted in a saving to the Council of approximately £90, 000 per year.

I thank members of the Committee for their full involvement in the discussions. I should also like to thank the officers that attended the meeting for the responses they gave to the Members' questions.

As well as thanking Portfolio Holders Neil Harden (Portfolio Holder for Residents and Regulatory Services), and Graeme Elliot (Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources) for their regular attendance and input at the Finances and Resources Overview and Scrutiny meetings. Thanks must also go to all the Council Officers who have attended the meeting and the Member Support Team who compiled the agendas, and produced accurate minutes of the meetings.

Councillor Bert Chapman,

Chairman, Finance and Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Housing & Community Overview & Scrutiny Committee Review 2016-2017

Each year the 'bread and butter' agenda items for the Housing and Community Overview & Scrutiny Committee are the statutory quarterly submissions covering budget papers, housing service updates and resident service reports. These reports form an essential, and a regular, part of the Committee scrutiny cycle.

During the 2016/17 season the budget reports looked at the General Fund, Housing Revenue Account and the Capital Programme income and spend items. In recent times the budget for the H&C OSC has been set against a backdrop of achieving year on year savings through efficiency provisions. With this constraint in place the Committee found that the budget under its remit has been well managed by the housing service through good planning, and without compromising too much the quality of service being provided to the tenants. The Committee reviewed the financial variances by scrutinising and querying the budget underspend and overspends, where appropriate.

Overall, the H&C OSC Committee found the financial management and budget process under its remit for the Housing and Community OSC budget for the year, after scrutiny, to be satisfactory.

During the 2016 scrutiny period the Housing and Planning Bill also became an Act necessitating additional policies updating work for the Housing Service leading to amendment of, or revisions to, existing policies and strategies that were in place. The Act covered all aspects relating to social housing, social landlords and included the contentious issue of "pay-to-stay" for the tenants, something they found a little unfathomable. In the summer therefore a meeting was arranged at the request of the Tenants and Leaseholders Committee (TLC) with the local MP's, Mike Penning and David Gauke, to discuss aspects of the Housing and Planning Bill, and in particular the tenant's concerns on "pay-to-stay".

The fruitful meeting at the Civic Centre in the summer was led by the TLC Chair and supported by the Leader, Portfolio Holders and the Committee Chairman. The concerns surrounding "pay-to-stay" and other housing matters were taken back to Westminster by the MP's for review. Government amendment to "pay-to-stay" resulted with the joint TLC & DBC contribution leading up to the change being acknowledged. Thus the mandatory nature of "pay-to-stay" was made non-mandatory.

On this high note the outgoing TLC Committee, as we had come to know it, bowed out. The new revised format and terms of engagement for the TLC were formulated by the Officers during the course of the year and arrangements are now in place with the 'new' TLC Committee meeting quarterly. The changed format was presented to the Committee before implementation.

Over the summer period, the reports and policies for housing rents and charges, community alarm update, Osborne and Sun Realm contract review, housing asset management strategy and tenant involvement strategy were all reviewed by the Committee. The de-pooling strategy, whereby the housing rent and service charge were separated, was also scrutinized during this period.

By the end of the year reports on the Old Town Hall, the Community Safety Partnership and update on New Build Housing Schemes in the Borough were presented and reviewed by the Committee.

The Committee also met the new Youth Connexions (YC) manager for the Borough, Karen Haswell, who explained the 23 or so local area specific projects that are being delivered in Dacorum by YC. The committee emphasized the need for joined up working between the services being provided by DBC for young people and the Youth Connexions provisions. A further update report was provided by YC for the March 2017 committee meeting. This year's presentation by Youth Connexions was an improvement of previous years' offerings, with more informative and a Borough specific report.

The Committee welcomed the opportunity to review the "Park By-Laws Report" which the Portfolio Holder for Environmental, Sustainability and Regulatory Services kindly brought to the committee for additional scrutiny and input. The Committee gave a thorough and constructive feedback to the report instigators. The number of comments provided on the report vindicated the Portfolio Holder's decision to present the report to more than one committee for wider scrutiny.

The most thoroughly reviewed policy during the 2016/17 term related to the Homelessness Strategy (2016-2020). The Committee was informed that homelessness is becoming a growing problem in the Borough and how the Housing Services was tackling and making efforts to create awareness of the issues and what prevention measures being taken.

The homelessness theme continued over a number of meetings and awareness on Members was substantiated by the presentation and training session given by the Group Manager. It must be acknowledged that there was a consensus of Committee opinion that the officer concerned had certainly put a lot of thought, effort and heart-and-soul into addressing this issue of homelessness in the Borough.

The homelessness policies reviewed do set out the effective way DBC are tackling and preventing the increase of homeless numbers in the Borough. Through its policy updates the Housing Service sets out its aspirations and leads other local partners in tackling this unwelcome fact of life.

Continuing with the theme, it was decided to switch the January OSC meeting to The Elms, to meet the new CEO of Dens and hear her vision and also to hear the experiences of residents who had benefitted from the provisions of DBC & Dens working together for the benefit of homeless people.

The members who attended this session at The Elms were able to inspect the homelessness provisions at the particular site and more importantly had the opportunity to hear at first hand the experiences of local residents who had successfully managed to get back on their own two feet again after falling victim to homelessness. The feeling of achievement felt by these individuals in getting their life back on track again through a supportive homelessness programme being implemented in the Borough, was so evident from the smiles and enthusiasm with which they narrated their experience and inspiring stories.

Apart from budget matters, the February meeting also had the opportunity to review the “No second night out” policy, thus bringing to conclusion the review of various aspects of the Homelessness Strategy as set out in the Borough’s ‘Delivering for Dacorum Corporate Plan’.

The March 2017 meeting brought to an end the 2016/17 scrutiny cycle by reviewing the Q3 Reports and scrutinizing the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan.

It is worth reminding Members that the aim of the Scrutiny Committee is to “promote service improvement, influence policy development and hold the executive to account for the benefit of the Community of Dacorum”. Suggestions, from Members, on specific policies for review during the coming year, and also on ways to make the H&C OSC scrutiny more effective, are as always welcome.

The effort and contribution that the Officers, TLC Committee representatives and Members dedicate to scrutinizing and improving the Housing and Community Services, and thus making the OSC process more transparent and meaningful for the benefit of the wider Dacorum Community, is greatly appreciated and acknowledged herewith.

Councillor Suqlain Mahmood

Chairman, Housing & Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee

March 2017

Strategic Planning & Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee Review 2016/17

The Committee held eleven meetings during the year, and considered the following matters.

June 2016

Provisional Financial Outturn Report - 2015/16
Environmental Services Performance Report - Quarter 4 2015/16
Planning, Development & Regeneration Performance Report - Quarter 4 2015/16
Regulatory Services Performance Report - Quarter 4 2015/16
Environmental Health Service - Introduction to a Service New to the Committee's Remit

July

Environmental Management System - Reducing the Council's Water Usage
Gypsy & Traveller Planning Policy & the Site Allocations Document Site LA5

September

Financial Outturn Report - Quarter 1 2016/17
Environmental Services Performance Report - Quarter 1 2016/17
Planning, Development & Regeneration Performance Report - Quarter 1 2016/17
Regulatory Services Performance Report - Quarter 1 2016/17

September (Additional Meeting)

Economic Development - A Review of the Local Economy & its Development
Water Supply - Importance & Role in the Strategic Planning Process

October

Park By-Laws - Review of the Implementation of New By-Laws in the Borough's Parks
Hemel Hempstead Town Centre - An Update on the Regeneration of the Town Centre
Tourism Services - An Update on the Council's Promotion of the Borough
Strategic Planning Site Allocations Document - A Report on its Examination in Public

November

Financial Outturn Report - Quarter 2 2016/17
Environmental Services Performance Report - Quarter 2 2016/17
Planning, Development & Regeneration Performance Report - Quarter 2 2016/17
Regulatory Services Performance Report - Quarter 2 2016/17

December

Budget 2017/18 - Preparation (Analysis of Provisions under the Committee's Remit)

January 2017

Housing & Planning Act - A Report on the Implications of the New Legislation
Development Control Efficiencies - Report on an Efficiency Drive within the Service
Regeneration Projects - Overview of the Council's Various Projects
Two Waters Update - A Report on the Development of a Strategic Plan for Two Waters

January (Additional Meeting)

Luton Airport - A Presentation on the Impact of its Development

Markyate GP Surgery - Considering the Failing/Resolution of a Planning Obligation

February

Budget 2017/18 - Last Committee Draft (Further Analysis of Relevant Provisions)

March

Financial Outturn Report - Quarter 3 2016/17

Environmental Services Performance Report - Quarter 3 2016/17

Planning, Development & Regeneration Performance Report - Quarter 3 2016/17

Regulatory Services Performance Report - Quarter 3 2016/17

Waste Services - Annual Report on the Council's Refuse Collection Services

Clean, Safe & Green - Annual Report on the Council's Streetcare Service

If anybody requires any more detail, then the agenda reports and minutes of these matters/debates are freely available on the Council's website.

Planning the committee's workload was hampered by changing circumstances, and it became necessary to hold two additional meetings. However, I am pleased that the committee rose to the challenge and that committee members continued to hone their oversight/scrutiny roles.

I would like to thank the Vice-Chairman, (particularly for chairing the June meeting when I was unavailable), the Committee, and Management/Staff for their support.

I would also like specifically to thank Katie Mogan for taking the minutes of our meetings, and Michelle Anderson for taking the minutes of the June Meeting when Katie was unavailable.

We haven't completed a full work programme for 2017-18 yet, but the Committee oversees/scrutinises the following council duties/matters:

- Strategic Planning (Local Plan)
- Development Control - Performance Only
- Building Control
- Economic Development
- Refuse Collection/Recycling
- Streetcare (Litter/Street Cleansing/Landscaping/Grounds Maintenance)
- Environmental Health
- Environmental Strategy (Climate Change Mitigation)

and if anybody would like to participate in our meetings, then they would be most welcome.



Councillor Alan Anderson,
Chairman, Strategic Planning & Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

Health in Dacorum Committee Report for 2016/17

The Committee looked at a wide range of issues across Dacorum.

When it was announced that the local NHS had decided against building a new hospital for West Hertfordshire on a greenfield site, the Committee held a special meeting on 7th November 2016 and questioned senior officers from West Herts. Hospitals Trust, Your Care, Your Future and the Hertfordshire Community Trust about the decision. The meeting was open to all Dacorum Borough Council members and both Committee members and non-members asked probing questions.

The Council Leader, Cllr Andrew Williams addressed the meeting, stating that this Council had always opposed the downgrading of Hemel Hempstead hospital. The provision of acute care in West Hertfordshire is a concern for the Borough Council so it will support the provision of acute services on a greenfield site and stick to the view that a new facility and not one on the Watford site is required.

For the first time, the Committee referred an item to full Council. In the referral, it put the motion to the Council "That Dacorum Borough Council shows its proactive support of maintaining a hospital presence in West Herts in general and Dacorum in particular in the most appropriate location to give the people of Dacorum the best possible care". The motion was passed.

The Health in Dacorum Committee looked at Get Set, Go Dacorum, a project funded by Sport England to encourage people to get involved in sport.

The Committee looked at health issues across Dacorum, not just in Hemel Hempstead. It considered the Markyate surgery, the closure of the Tring Clinic, the retirement of Dr Hall-Jones in Tring and the closure in the inpatient unit at Gossoms End.

It was brought to the Committee how in December 2017, the County Council was told suddenly and without warning that Herts Valleys Clinical Commissioning Group would be withdrawing the £8.5 million that it had been giving to the County Council to help maintain adult social care at current levels.

At the time of writing, the Committee is looking at scrutinising the opening hours of the Hemel Hempstead Urgent Care Centre.

I would like to thank the Vice Chairman , the substitute on the County Health Scrutiny Committee, the representative on the Hertfordshire Health and Wellbeing Board and all the Committee members and other contributors for considering, scrutinising and supporting health services for the people of Dacorum

Cllr Fiona Guest, Chairman, Health in Dacorum Committee