Agenda Item 5

Recommendations from Policy and Resources Committee held on 23 January 2017

**PR89/16 FINANCIAL PLANNING – REVENUE SERVICES**

 The purpose of this report was to enable the Committee to recommend to Council the service levels and outputs it wishes to see in the medium to long-term and the associated revenue budget. This budget is a component part of the 2017/18 Council Tax calculations.

 Members noted that the business rates pool was to be dissolved as detailed in Paragraph 6.5.1 of the report. In the medium term financial plan it showed growth of £350,000 this year and £500,000 in future years.

 With regard to the prudent level of balances the Council should have, the Director of Finance advised this was £2m but in 2019/20 balances were projected to be around £1.4m to £1.5m. In order to ensure the balances remained at £2m money could be transferred from the economic impact fund.

 In response to a question with regard to the new homes being built or which had been built in the Leavesden ward, the properties required to pay Council Tax was based on what was projected in the Local Plan.

 RECOMMEND:

 That the report be noted.

**PR90/16 FINANCIAL PLANNING CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROGRAMME**

 The purpose of this report was to enable the Committee to recommend to the Council its capital investment programme, in the light of the available funding.

 RECOMMEND:

 That the report be noted.

**PR91/16 TREASURY MANAGEMENT**

 The purpose of this report is to enable the Committee to recommend to Council its Treasury Management Strategy for 2017/18 and 2019/20.

 Investments and property investments going forward to provide a better return in the future. With regard to the other bodies the Council were working with this included any other public body.

 RECOMMEND

 That the report be noted.

**PR92/16 FINANCIAL PLANNING – RECOMMENDATIONS**

 This report enables the Committee to make its recommendations on the financial plans to the Council on 21 February 2017.

 The Committee agreed to defer these recommendations for discussion and agreement at the Council meeting on 21 February 2017.

 RECOMMEND:

 That the item be referred to Council on 21 February 2017 for discussion and agreement.

**PR93/16 PROJECT INITIATION DOCUMENTS (PIDS) 2017/18**

 This report enables the Committee to comment to Council on the PIDs (Project Initiation Documents) for the three years commencing on 1 April 2017.

 The PIDs, often know as Growth Bids would normally be an attachment to the Strategic, Service and Financial Planning 2017-2020 report, which was part of the Policy and Resources Committee agenda on the 5 December 2016. At that time, given the number of agenda items, the Committee requested the PIDs return to them in January 2017.

 Members discussed the PIDs as follows:

 CCTV PID – no questions raised.

 Customer Contact Programme – no questions raised.

 Batchworth Lake Access Improvements PID – details to be provided on the annual revenue costs which stated would be reduced significantly. Officers to advise on the work that needs to be done and why there had been no work completed over the last 10 years.

 Blue Green Algae Control at the Aquadrome PID – £50k capital but there would need be an annual revenue cost of £21k.

 Watersmeet replacement of boilers project PID – the cost of the replacement boilers had already been raised as being high.

 Street Enforcement Project PID no questions raised.

Schemes Arising from Recommendations from Parking Services Member Working Group 2016/18 PID – no questions raised.

 Procurement of Civil Parking Enforcement Service PID – no questions raised.

Housing Benefit Processing Improvements PID – Noted it was not a statutory requirement, was a request of CEO to improve performance at Three Rivers only to be able to deal with new claims in 5 days and change of circumstances in 5 days. At end of December figures for new claims was at 17 days and change of circumstances at 10 days. The cost of the purchase of the laptops was too high at £8k. Could details be provided on the number of staff in the shared service. 40p per text was quite high.

 RECOMMEND:

That the service growth bids attached at Appendix 1 be noted and that Council be asked to consider and agree the bids.