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Minutes

Meeting of : Finance and Governance Committee
Date : 14 January 2019
Meeting held in : The Guildhall, Salisbury
Commencing at : 6:30 pm

Present:

Chair: Cllr L Sirman

Vice Chair: Cllr K Daley

Cllrs: S Berry, T Corbin, S Hocking, Dr M McClelland, J Nettle, M Osment, and I Tomes.

Officers: Annie Child, Estelle Sherry and Janine Whitty

550. Apologies:

Cllr C Corbin gave her apologies and was substituted by Cllr T Corbin.

551. Public Questions/Statement Time:

There were no questions submitted from the public.

552. Councillor Questions/Statement Time:

There were no questions or statements submitted from councillors.

553. Minutes of Previous Meeting:

The minutes of the last meeting of the Finance and Governance Committee held on 15 October 2018 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

554. Declarations of Interest:

Cllr I Tomes declared that as a Charter Market trader he would not comment regarding 2019/20 Budget setting fees and charges for the Charter Market.

555. Dispensations:

No dispensations were requested.

556. Chairman's Announcements:

There were no Chairman's announcements.

557. Quarter Three Budget Monitoring:

558. The Committee considered the report from the Responsible Finance Officer, and it was:

Resolved to:

558.1. Amendment to 2.7 of report delete "30 September 2018" and insert "31 December 2018".

558.2. The Committee noted and approved the budget monitoring statements for the end of quarter 3.

559. Budget Setting 2019/20:

The Responsible Finance Officer, Estelle Sherry, provided a report summary and asked for it to be noted that considerable work has been undertaken to present an affordable budget with financing through a combination of precept, trading income and services fees, and borrowing through the Public Works Loan Board. The Council has determined that the precept will remain as set in last financial year, at a Band D rate of £208.

Cllr Nettle highlighted a what difficult year 2018/19 has been for the city following the Novichok incident and that the focus for this coming year is to encourage tourism and footfall back into the city, as well as working closer with the community to ensure local people are being better represented. He also hoped to see the street cleaning project expand further to those wards outside of the city centre. He agreed that the proposed budget shows that the capital projects are on target and that the budget is fit for purpose, asking councillors to support this proposal. He also thanked the RFO and all council officers for their work during the last financial year.

Cllr Corbin thanked Cllr Nettle for his kind words and requested the RFO run through the budget highlighting any significant changes.

Cllr Osment was pleased to hear that the council hoped to engage more with the community going forward. He also wished to highlight again the concerns regarding the continued City Safety Scheme and that it is very costly. Cllr Tomes agreed and questioned if the council is getting value for money.

Cllr Hocking thanked councillors for their feedback concerning this scheme and encouraged them to comment further prior to Full Council if they wish. He also confirmed that security steward's project is due to be reviewed, alongside the environmental officers, noting that the outcome of the BID re-ballot may have an impact for these projects.

The Committee considered the report from the Responsible Finance Officer, and it was:

Resolved to:

559.1. Note the capital and revenue budget as proposed.

559.2. Approve the capital and revenue budget proposals for 2019/20.

6 Councillors approved, 3 Councillors abstained.

559.3. Recommend to Full Council on 21 January a precept of £3,016,222 for the financial year of 2019/20.

534. Matters, if any, which by reason of special circumstances the Chairman decides should be considered as a matter of urgency:

No matters were raised.

1 members of the public was present.

1 members of the press was present.

The meeting closed at 7:03pm.