

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

CORPORATE SERVICES AND ECONOMIC GROWTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the **Corporate Services and Economic Growth Overview and Scrutiny Committee** held in the Chairman's Dining Room, County, Hall, Morpeth on Thursday, 23 November 2017 at 11.00 a.m.

PRESENT

Councillor D. Bawn
(Chairman, in the Chair)

COUNCILLORS

Grimshaw, L.
Parry, K.
Roughead, G.

Robinson, M.
Watson, J.
Wilson, T.

PORTFOLIO HOLDER

Oliver, N.

Corporate Services and Cabinet Secretary

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

A. Elsdon
S. Nicholson

Director of Corporate Resources
Scrutiny Co-ordinator

21. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors G. Castle, D. Ledger and M. Swinburn.

22. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Corporate Services and Economic Growth OSC, held on 28 September 2017, as circulated, be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

23. FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS

The Scrutiny Co-ordinator presented the latest Forward Plan of key decisions (November 2017 - February 2018). (Forward Plan enclosed with the signed minutes as Appendix A).

RESOLVED that the Forward Plan be noted.

24. CABINET REPORTS PREVIOUSLY CONSIDERED BY THE COMMITTEE

The Scrutiny Co-ordinator advised members of Cabinet decisions regarding issues previously commented on and been subject of report by this Committee. (Report enclosed with the signed minutes as Appendix B).

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

25. SCRUTINY OF CABINET REPORTS

The Committee were advised that the following reports, presented by Nick Oliver and Alison Elsdon, would be considered by the Cabinet on 12 December 2017. The Committee were asked to comment on the proposals contained in the reports.

(1) Potential Loan to Alexa's Animal Charity

This report provided details of a potential loan facility to Alexa's Animal Charity of up to £170,000 for the purchase of Patterson Cottage for use as boarding kennels. (Report enclosed with the signed minutes as Appendix C).

The Committee were assured that the potential loan would be secured by a legal charge against the property, thereby negating any other risks highlighted in the report.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet be advised that the Committee supports the recommendations contained in the report.

(2) Potential Loan to Haltwhistle Social Welfare Centre

This report provided details of a potential loan facility to Haltwhistle Social Welfare Centre of up to £150,000 for the pool plant refurbishment, along with an additional £10,000 to cover remedial work following pool tile survey. (Report enclosed with the signed minutes as Appendix D).

The Committee noted that the potential loan would be guaranteed by Haltwhistle Town Council and, given the community benefits that securing the facility would provide, felt that the proposal should be supported.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet be advised that the Committee supports the recommendations contained in the report.

(3) Setting of the Council Tax Base 2018/19

The purpose of this report is to advise Cabinet of the tax base calculation for 2018-19 for all domestic properties liable to pay council tax. The tax base must be

set by the statutory deadline of 31 January 2018. (Report enclosed with the signed minutes as Appendix E).

RESOLVED that the Cabinet be advised that the Committee supports the recommendations contained in the report.

(4) Estimated Year End Collection Fund Balances 2017/18 - Council Tax and Business Rates

This report advised members of the estimated year end balances on the Collection Fund in relation to both Council Tax and Business Rates for the year ending 31 March 2018. (Report enclosed with the signed minutes as Appendix F).

The Committee welcomed the estimated surpluses in relations to Council Tax and Business Rates as set out in the report.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet be advised that the Committee supports the recommendations contained in the report.

26. REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATOR

Corporate Services and Economic Growth Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme

The Scrutiny Co-ordinator presented the Committee's Work Programme. (Report enclosed with the signed minutes as Appendix G).

The Committee were advised of additional meetings on 4 December 2017 and 8 January 2018.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

27. INFORMATION REPORT - POLICY DIGEST

The Scrutiny Co-ordinator advised the Committee that the Policy Digest gave details of the latest policy briefings, government announcements and ministerial speeches which may be of interest to members. The report could be accessed through the service finder element of County Council's web site at www.northumberland.gov.uk.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

Chairman _____

Date _____