RESOURCES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 30th July, 2019

Present: Councillor Noordad Aziz (in the Chair),
Councillors Jean Battle (Vice Chair), Stephen Button, Andrew Clegg, Marlene Haworth, Patrick McGinley and Tim O'Kane
Co-optees: Paul Barton, Bernard Dawson and Ian Ormerod

In Attendance: Councillor Judith Addison
Councillor Munsif Dad, Portfolio Holder for Education, Leisure & Arts
Councillor Miles Parkinson, Leader of the Council

8 members of the Public, including: Mrs L. Allen, Mr N. Collingridge, Mrs G. Knight, Ms K. Whitehead, Mrs L. Wilson and one member of the media.

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84 Apologies for absence, Substitutions, Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

Apologies for absence were submitted from Councillor Terry Hurn.

Councillor Marlene Haworth acted as a substitute representative for Councillor Hurn.

The Chair Councillor Noordad Aziz and Councillor Patrick McGinley reported a declaration of interest in agenda item 7, Churchfield House. The Chair had booked the venue previously for personal engagements and Councillor McGinley was a member of the volunteer committee at the house.

There were no other reported declarations of interest or dispensations.

85 Minutes of Last Meeting

The Minutes of the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on the 14th March 2019 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

Resolved - That the Minutes be received and approved as a correct record.

86 Appointment of Vice Chair

With the meeting being the first Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the 2019-2020 Municipal year a Vice Chair was required to be appointed as this was not conducted at the Council AGM held in May earlier this year.

Resolved - That Councillor Jean Battle be appointed Vice Chair of the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the Municipal Year 2019-2020.

87 Appointment of Co-optees

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer submitted a report to inform Members of the Committee of the Co-optee appointments for Overview and Scrutiny Committees during the Municipal Year 2019-2020 made by Council at the AGM on the 16th May 2019.

Resolved **- (1) That the Committee noted the following reappointments of Co-optees to the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee:**
- Honorary Alderman Paul Barton
- Honorary Freeman Bernard Dawson
- Honorary Alderman Ian Ormerod

- (2) That the Committee noted the following re-appointment of Co-optees to the Communities and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee:
- Honorary Freeman Bernard Dawson

- (3) That the Committee noted the previous appointment of Honorary Alderman Doug Hayes as Co-optee to the Communities and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee, which covers the 2019/20 Municipal year.

- (4) That the Committee noted the amendment to Rule C2 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules as set out in the appendix to this report.

- (5) That the Committee noted the appointment of Gareth Molineux as new Co-optee to the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

88 Overview and Scrutiny Work Programmes

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer submitted a report to seek approval from Members of the Committee for the 2019-2020 Overview and Scrutiny Work Programmes and that the report was submitted to the next meeting of Cabinet in September 2019.

The Chair added that at a recent Audit Committee meeting Members had suggested that better signposting of the HBC Dog Warden service was required on the Council's website. Research on the subject would be conducted with a view to possible inclusion on the work programme should there be availability.

Resolved - That the 2019-2020 Overview and Scrutiny Committee work programme be approved and submitted to Cabinet.

89 Statutory Guidance on Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authorities

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer submitted a report to inform Members of the Committee of the publication of new statutory guidance on Overview and Scrutiny in local government.

Councillor Tim O' Kane stated the importance of the selection process of Members serving on the Overview and Scrutiny Committees to be separate from the Cabinet.

Resolved - That Members of the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee noted the update.

90 Requests for Support for the Operational Management of Council Buildings

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer submitted a report to consider three individual requests from external organisations for financial support towards the continued operational management of Council buildings.

Presentations were made from Gayle Knight (Hyndburn Arts Limited), Lynn Wilson (Churchfield House Ltd) and Nick Collingridge (Mercer House 1842).

A number of questions were asked at the meeting to all three organisations following their presentations:-

- How much money are you requesting?
- How will this money be spent?
- Why was this money not budgeted for?
- Have you requested this funding from sources other than the Council?
- What will the impact be if the Council do not provide funding?
- When is this funding required by?
- Is this a one off request? What plans do you have in place to ensure your financial sustainability?
- How much money have you previously received from the Council since you took on the facility, and what was the money for?
- Who are your current users?
- Do you have a pricing policy for facility hire? Are you charging enough to ensure the sustainability of the building?
- How much cash reserves / investments do you currently hold? (Please provide suitable evidence by way of Bank Statement, Letter from Bank etc)
- How many paid staff does your organization have and what are the annual salary costs?

A number of individual follow up questions were also put to each of the organisations represented at the meeting.

Resolved - That Cabinet be requested to note the following resolutions of the Committee:-

(1) That Cabinet provided urgent funding of £30,000 to Hyndburn Arts Ltd towards the continued operation of Oswaldtwistle Civic Theatre and Arts Centre:-

- Cabinet was also asked to consider providing some officer support to Hyndburn Arts Trust in terms of financial management in order to minimise the risk of the shortfall in funding occurring again in future years.

-The Committee requests that Hyndburn Arts Ltd report back to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in 12 months time.

(2) That Cabinet provided urgent funding of £10,000 to Churchfield House Ltd to contribute towards the u nexpected water costs and application for charitable status:-

- Cabinet was also asked to note that should Churchfield House Ltd manage to negotiate a reduction in challenging their water bill, the remaining balance would be returned

to the Council.

(3) That Cabinet make further enquiries to determine the request from Mercer House 1842, due to insufficient financial and other background information provided to the Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee which was requested in advance of the meeting. The Committee was therefore unable to make a recommendation for the request of £5,000.

Signed:……

Date: ……..……

Chair of the meeting
At which the minutes were confirmed