

OVERVIEW SELECT COMMITTEE

26 January 2016 at 6.00 p.m.

Present: - Councillors Dingemans (Chairman), English (Vice-Chairman), Ballard, Mrs Bence, Blampied, Mrs Daniells, Edwards, Mrs Harrison-Horn, Hitchins, Mrs Oakley, Mrs Rapnik, Warren and Dr Walsh.

Councillors L Brown, Bower, Chapman, Dendle and Elkins were also present for either all or part of the meeting.

[Note:- The following Councillors were absent during consideration of the matters referred to in the following Minutes – Councillor Edwards – Minute 458 (Part) to Minute 462; and Councillor Dr Walsh – Minute – 462 (Part)].

451. WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed Members and Officers to the meeting.

452. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Hughes and from the Leader of the Council, Councillor Mrs Brown, the Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Corporate Governance, Councillor Wensley and from the Cabinet Member for Customer Services, Councillor Wotherspoon.

453. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Monitoring Officer has advised Members of interim arrangements to follow when making declarations of interest. They have been advised that for the reasons explained below, they should make their declarations on the same basis as the former Code of Conduct using the descriptions of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.

Reasons

- The Council has adopted the Government’s example for a new local code of conduct, but new policies and procedures relating to the new local code are yet to be considered and adopted.
- Members have not yet been trained on the provisions on the new local code of conduct.

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- The definition of Pecuniary Interests is narrower than the definition of Prejudicial Interests, so by declaring a matter as a Prejudicial Interest, that will cover the requirement to declare a Pecuniary Interest in the same matter.

Where a member declares a “Prejudicial Interest”, this will, in the interests of clarity for the public, be recorded in the minutes as a Prejudicial and Pecuniary Interest.

There were no Declarations of Interest made.

454. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 24 November 2015 were approved by the Committee as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

455. COUNCIL BUDGET – 2016/2017

The Chairman welcomed the Head of Finance and Property to the meeting and invited him to work through the Council’s Budget for 2016/2017 highlighting what he felt were the significant areas that Members should be made aware of. He outlined that any comments that the Committee wished to make would be forwarded onto the next meeting of Cabinet taking place on 8 February 2016 before the Minutes from this meeting would be submitted to the Special Meeting of the Council on 23 February 2016.

The Head of Finance and Property then presented the Council’s Budget for 2016/2017 and explained the main strategic issues:-

- The General Fund Revenue Budgetary Summary showed a £823k proposed draw down from reserves for 2016/17 though it was pointed out that this included £1.560 m revenue funding towards a significantly enhanced capital programme.
- The Council was anticipating the receipt of significant Section 106 sums for maintenance covering an approximate period of 15 years in respect of a number of sites. However, it was explained that this would lead to additional revenue expenditure for play equipment which was not included in the Budget.

- A summary of the headline changes for the General Fund was provided and Members’ attention was drawn to the table in Paragraph 4.5 of the report which illustrated the key and major variations. Much of the additional expenditure related to additional employee costs such as the staff pay award; increases in superannuation and national insurance contribution rates; and the recently introduced planning market supplement.
- The major issue related to uncertainty over the reducing funding from Central Government. This had been well illustrated in the summary provided on page 19 of the report.
- Members were told that the Council needed to keep an eye on Retained Business Rates as it was difficult to accurately forecast appeal levels.
- New Homes Bonus continued to be a major risk and in view of the likely changes to be made which would result in significant reductions in this grant. The Committee was advised that a consultation document had been issued detailing the changes proposed which the Council was responding to. An assessment would be made following the conclusion of this exercise. One of the proposals was to pay a reduced level of grant to those authorities who had not adopted a Local Plan. The changes proposed would take effect in 2017/18.
- The last issue raised regarding the General Fund was the proposed increase of 1.95% in Council Tax. It was outlined that this rise was a common theme being proposed in other Council’s budgets.

The Head of Finance and Property then drew Members’ attention to the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and Capital, Asset Management and other Projects in terms of:

- The HRA included the newly approved £8 m build programme.
- This was the first year that HRA rents had been set at 1% below the current year’s level in accordance with the provisions of the Welfare and Reform Bill. This introduction had had a massive effect on the Business Plan.
- The HRA balance was expected to reduce steadily from April 2017 falling to below the recommended minimum level of £2m during 2020/21 allowing for no budgetary provision for major works needed at sheltered schemes or for any possible emergency works relating to the Council’s existing housing stock.

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- No provision had been made in respect of the proposed levy on the sale of high value dwellings to fund discounts for housing association tenants exercising their Right to Buy. This had recently been proposed by Central Government and would have significant consequences for the HRA, reducing its balances further.
- On Capital, this was inevitably dominated by the new Leisure Centre at Littlehampton though there were a number of schemes in the 2016/17 new investment programme that would be visible in the community and would benefit the District. These being Public Toilets works and the beach hut replacement programme.

The Chairman having thanked the Head of Finance and Property for his presentation, invited questions from Members which are as outlined below:-

- Concern was expressed over HRA balances in the future and the impact that this would have for the Council’s sheltered housing schemes. Members were alarmed that this meant that schemes such as Flax Mean, which had been highlighted as needing urgent major maintenance and updating work, would not receive the work required. The Head of Finance and Property could not comment further other than to add that there was nothing in the budget to cover this work. The Director of Customer Services confirmed that the money spent by the Council purchasing the new properties at Angel’s Nursery, Barnham had caused a major impact on the HRA. A revised HRA Business Plan was therefore needed and would be reported to Cabinet in due course.

Members were reminded that at Full Council on 13 January 2016 (Minute No. 427 – Cabinet 7 December 2016 – Minute No. 70 – Housing Revenue Account, Purchase of New Housing at Angel’s Nursery, Barnham) they had very recently agreed the funding to purchase these properties and had noted the impact on the financial position of the HRA. The Committee was urged to read the Minutes from this meeting which were available on the Council’s web pages. The risks attached to approving the funding for the 16 properties had clearly been made to Members and it was pointed out that Members had taken the decision with this knowledge.

- On the New Homes Bonus, the Committee was glad to see that the Council was responding to the consultation but was of the view that once completed it should be sent to the Council’s three local Members of Parliament as the changes proposed were serious. The Head of Finance and Property confirmed that deadline for the consultation was 10 March 2016.

- Concern was expressed over the proposed levy relating to the sale of high value dwellings and the risk to the Council in introducing the Local Authority Mortgage Scheme. Members stated that they needed to know the detail of these proposals. The Head of Finance and Property confirmed that the Local Authority Mortgage Scheme would be reported to Cabinet on 8 February 2016 and so Members would receive a copy this report in their despatch this week as part of the Cabinet agenda.
- Concern was expressed over how much the Council had to write-off in terms of uncollected Council Tax and Housing Rent and where could these figures be found within the budget. The Head of Finance and Property confirmed that this could not be shown as a separate item within the Budget as it was netted off the Council Tax collected and so he would provide the detail on this separately to Councillor Blampied. He outlined that although these sums looked like large numbers, the amount that the Council collected was £89 m and that the amounts written off equalled less than half of 1%. As the write-offs related to people who had either died, had become bankrupt or had disappeared it was impossible to pursue collection. The Council collected over 98% of its Council Tax each year and so the amounts being queried were quite small. The figures would be provided to Councillor Blampied to confirm this response.
- Concern was expressed over the Business Rates Retention Scheme; how this impacted the Budget; how great the risk was in terms of appeals; and whether the current position would change or remain the same? The Head of Finance and Property confirmed that all business rates would be retained by Local Government by 2020.
- How would the new build programme be monitored to ensure that the requirements of the “three year rule” would be met? It was explained that the programme would ensure that the money would be spent on time.
- Looking at the anticipated Section 106 sums, the Head of Finance and Property was asked where these sites were located? He stated that he thought this related to Policy Site 6 including play schemes but he confirmed that he would need to check this and let the Committee know if this was not the case.

The Committee in noting the contents of the Council Budget for 2016/2017 which would be considered by Cabinet at its next meeting on 8 February and then at the Special meeting of the Council on 23 February 2016 then

RECOMMEND TO CABINET

That the concerns expressed over the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) balances and the lack of funding available for vital maintenance works for the Council's Sheltered Housing Scheme be noted by Cabinet and taken into consideration when debating the Budget for 2016/2017.

456. CORPORATE PLAN 2013-2017 – QUARTER 2 PERFORMANCE OUT-TURN REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1 JULY TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2015

The Committee received and noted a report from the Executive Assistant to the Chief Executive which set out the Quarter 2 performance outturn for the Corporate Plan indicators covering the period 1 July to 30 September 2015.

The Executive Assistant to the Chief Executive reminded the Committee that the Corporate Plan indicators had been reviewed and approved in early 2013 and then again in early 2015, as part of a progress review, so some targets had been amended for the remaining two years of the Corporate Plan.

The Corporate Plan consisted of 18 indicators and it had been agreed by Cabinet that performance of these indicators would be reported to the Corporate Management Team (CMT) every quarter and to Cabinet and this Committee every six months. This report therefore set out the Quarter 2 performance out-turn for the period 1 April to 30 September 2015 and it provided data for 15 of the 18 performance indicators as three were measured on an annual basis.

The Executive Assistant to the Chief Executive confirmed that 7 out of the 15 performance indicators had either over achieved, or achieved the target set for them whereas 4 were behind target with 4 not achieving target. Appendix A to the report set out the detail which Cabinet had considered at its meeting held on 7 December 2015.

The Executive Assistant to the Chief Executive then highlighted some of the indicators reported. Having received this information the Committee then made comments on the following indicators:

Performance Indicator Number and Title	Q2 Status	Any amendment suggested to Target by CMT	Corporate Plan 2013-2017 Target April 2015-March 2017	Comments from OSC on 26.1.15
9 – PER020 – Overall Employment Rate (working-age)	Behind Target	No	85% - Actual Target Achieved – 82%	<p>Committee comments: In view of increased employment in the District, how could this target be under-achieving and not increasing? Were the figures correct? The Director of Planning & Economic Regeneration outlined that although many new business had started up, the figures for a lot of these would feature in the next Quarter report as it did take a while for businesses to feed figures in. The Committee felt that it would be useful to receive more information in the commentary regarding the national picture. The Director of Planning & Economic Regeneration followed this up with further additional information on the number of new jobs created between 2009 to 2014.</p>

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Performance Indicator Number and Title	Q2 Status	Any amendment suggested to Target by CMT	Corporate Plan 2013-2017 Target April 2015-March 2017	Comments from OSC on 26.1.15
18 – CSH006 - % of homelessness approaches where homelessness prevented	Not Achieving	No	80% - Actual Target Achieved – 69.60%	Committee comments: The Right to Buy Scheme was impacting these figures as the properties being sold were not being replaced with other forms of social housing. The Director of Customer Services confirmed that as at 22 January 2016, the Council had 845 applications on the Housing Register – the 43 new homes being built by the Council could potentially house 5.38% of current housing applicants.

Performance Indicator Number and Title	Q2 Status	Any amendment suggested to Target by CMT	Corporate Plan 2013-2017 Target April 2015-March 2017	Comments from OSC on 26.1.15
6 – PEP023 – % of Planning Appeals dismissed	Achieved Target	No	70% - Actual Target Achieved – 70%	Committee comments: This target appeared low – even though it had been achieved. The Director of Planning & Economic Regeneration stated that he had started to notice a trend when Planning Inspectors were being more forthcoming in allowing appeals and so more appeals had been lost recently. This trend would feature in the next set of figures.

Performance Indicator Number and Title	Q2 Status	Any amendment suggested to Target by CMT	Corporate Plan 2013-2017 Target April 2015-March 2017	Comments from OSC on 26.1.15
16 – DCN041 – Number of Families Assisted through the Think Family Programme	Not Achieving	No	110% - Actual Target Achieved – 23%	<p>Committee comments: How long does it take for a family to be turned around?</p> <p>The Chief Executive confirmed that the number of families who were currently being supported was 332 with 23 families who had been successfully turned around. The Council had a limited number that each Officer could work with. It was difficult to give a precise turn-around time as each family had different needs. The success rate had been phenomenal and antidotel evidence and case studies had proved that the work that the Think Family team was having a very positive impact.</p>

Performance Indicator Number and Title	Q2 Status	Any amendment suggested to Target by CMT	Corporate Plan 2013-2017 Target April 2015-March 2017	Comments from OSC on 26.1.15
4 – CSB001 – Time taken to process Housing Benefit/Council Tax Benefit new claims and change events	Over Achieving	No	8 days - Actual Target Achieved – 5.9 days	<p>Committee comments: Concern was expressed over the total number of new claims assessed and that the average time taken to process had been 18.5 days.</p> <p>The Director of Customer Services explained that part of the delay was chasing applicants for outstanding information at a time when more and more people were applying for benefits.</p>

The Executive Assistant to the Chief Executive stated that she would take the Committee's comment on board for consideration when compiling the next Quarterly Out-turn report.

(During consideration of this item, Councillor Dr Walsh declared a Personal Interest in respect of Indicator 16 (DCN041 – Number of Families Assisted through the Think Family Programme) in his capacity as a West Sussex County Councillor).

457. SERVICE DELIVERY PLANS (SDPs) QUARTER 2 PERFORMANCE OUT-TURN FOR THE PERIOD 1 JULY TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2014

The Committee received and noted a report from the Executive Assistant to the Chief Executive which set out the Quarter 2 performance outturn for the Service Delivery Plans (SDPs) performance indicators which were measured at 6 months (quarterly and six monthly targets) for the period 1 July April to 30 September 2014.

The Executive Assistant to the Chief Executive confirmed that the SDP indicators had been approved at the same time as the Corporate Plan indicators and they reflected the themes of the Corporate Plan that had been reviewed in early 2015. There were 51 SDP indicators and this report set out 37 of the 51 performance indicators as 14 were measured annually.

The Committee was advised that 20 out of the 37 performance indicators had either over achieved or achieved the target set for them. The performance out-turn report for this period had been attached as Appendix A and provided the detail of the 37 indicators; their level of performance against the target set; and the commentary from the relevant Officers to explain the current status of the indicators. This report had been considered by Cabinet at its meeting held on 7 December 2016.

The Executive Assistant to the Chief Executive then highlighted some of the indicators reported. Having received this information the Committee then made comments on the following indicators:

SDP Performance Indicator	Q2 Status	Any amendment suggested to Target by CMT	SDP Target 2015/16	Comments from OSC
CSC101 - % of telephone enquiries resolved at first point of contact in Arun Direct	Over Achieving	No	83% - actual target achieved – 85.90%	<p>It was suggested that Arun Direct should be congratulated on its performance.</p> <p>The Director for Customer Services ensured that he would pass on the Committee's thanks to the Arun Direct team.</p>

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<p>DCL010 – Number of Stage 2 Corporate Complaints Found to be justified or partially justified</p>	<p>Over Achieving</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>5 – actual target achieved 2</p>	<p>Why did the Committee no longer receive an annual report on Complaints and the status report from the Local Government Ombudsman?</p> <p>The Head of Democratic Services explained that due to the low number of complaints received, the Committee had agreed, when formulating its Work Programme 2014/2015 there was no longer the need to review this item annually.</p> <p>The Chief Executive confirmed that the number of complaints received was very low and that outturn was very successful. The Council's complaints were monitored closely and appropriate action was agreed in the limited cases where things had gone wrong.</p>
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SDP Performance Indicator	Q2 Status	Any amendment suggested to Target by CMT	SDP Target 2015/16	Comments from OSC
CSH042 – Average void turnaround time	Over Achieving	No	28 days - actual target achieved – 14 days	<p>Questions were asked as to whether the target of 28 days was high enough in comparing this to the result achieved and so perhaps this should be reviewed for the future.</p> <p>The Director of Customer Services would consider this in time for the next quarterly report.</p>

SDP Performance Indicator	Q2 Status	Any amendment suggested to Target by CMT	SDP Target 2015/16	Comments from OSC
DCN008 – Satisfaction with Arun Anti-Social Behaviour Team service	Not Achieving	No	70% - actual target achieved – 9%	<p>A criticism was made that there was no data available in this quarter and whether the figures obtained for the next report would be able to present a true measurement?</p> <p>The Executive Assistant to the Chief Executive outlined that last year's outturn would be provided at year end too for comparison purposes.</p>

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SDP Performance Indicator	Q2 Status	Any amendment suggested to Target by CMT	SDP Target 2015/16	Comments from OSC
CSC001 – Working days lost due to sickness absence	Not Achieving	No	7 days - actual target achieved – 8.72 days	<p>Questions asked were whether sickness levels were more prevalent in certain departments?</p> <p>The Chief Executive stated that sickness was not linked to specific areas. He outlined that he was always concerned about the effect that sickness levels had on general performance. He reminded Members that they had asked for a breakdown between long-term and short-term sickness levels the last time they had considered this item. As a result, effort had been made to address sickness using more effective management control and reinforced communication with return to work sickness interviews as there were staff that were genuinely sick and therefore needed help to improve their general well-being.</p>

SDP Performance Indicator	Q2 Status	Any amendment suggested to Target by CMT	SDP Target 2015/16	Comments from OSC
ESC061- Number of missed refuse collections per 100,000	Not Achieving	No	15- actual target achieved – 40.45	The target had been reviewed in line with the Cleansing Contract.
ESC062 – Number of missed recycling collections per 100,000	Not Achieving		15 – actual target Target achieved – 25.76	

SDP Performance Indicator	Q2 Status	Any amendment suggested to Target by CMT	SDP Target 2015/16	Comments from OSC
PEP009 – Number of days to determine application - Minor	Not Achieving	No	100 days - actual target achieved – 131 days	Concerns were expressed over the under achievement in the Planning Department. The Director of Planning & Economic Regeneration reminded Members of the decision that they had made at Full Council agreeing the payment of market supplements across 21 posts in the Planning Department to suppress the national problem of recruiting and retaining planning Officers. Members were reminded that Planning was currently operating with 9 vacancies in the department.

Finally, a general comment was made in that it was suggested that the SDP indicators be numbered within Appendix A in the future to make them easier to read. The Executive Assistant to the Chief Executive confirmed that this would be taken on board in compiling the next quarterly review.

The Chief Executive then made a Statement in relation to the Council's 2020 Vision work and how relative this was in looking at the Council's performance figures considered today. These had shown that in terms of performance to date the Council was working well and that a vast majority of its Corporate Plan and SDP targets were successfully being driven forward.

The Chief Executive referred to the 2020 Vision report and the recommendations that had been agreed at Full Council on 13 January 2016 which was to undertake the initial phases of work for the projects that had been identified. He stated that although the Council had good performance to date, Members needed to be very aware of the reduced capacity that Officers would have in the future, as much of their time would need to be dedicated on working on some of the Vision projects in order for the Council to meet its required target of saving £4 m in efficiency savings and in achieving income generation. The message being made was that all was well now, but when the Committee would be considering the next quarterly performance figures, it needed to bear in mind, when considering the results recorded, that staff numbers and Officer would reduce and so performance may well dip. The Committee needed to accept which areas of the Council could be affected.

(During the consideration of this item, Councillor Warren declared a Personal Interest in SDP Performance Indicator PEP011 – Average Number of days to determine application – Householder) in his capacity as Member of Littlehampton Town Council’s Planning & Transportation Committee.)

458. CABINET MEMBER QUESTIONS AND UPDATES

Councillor Dr Walsh thanked the Cabinet Member for Environmental Services, Councillor Chapman, for the written response that he had provided following his statement made at Full Council on 13 January 2016 in relation to the flood defence scheme in River Road, Littlehampton. He stated that he was happy with the answer given and was glad that the Environment Agency (EA) was moving matters forward.

Councillor Chapman provided the same update to the Committee. This stated that the Environment Agency (EA) had appointed a team to undertake a detailed site topography survey to determine if a set-back solution was viable for this site. If such a solution was viable, then the EA’s Asset Performance team would produce an outline design in order allow it to progress to construction. At the current time, the programme remained that they would be aiming for construction completion in autumn 2016.

Officers at the EA were in liaison with the riparian owners of the flood defence at Riverside Autos. When the (EA) had decided upon a design approach they would be meeting with the landowners again in order to agree a way forward.

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Councillor Mrs Daniells asked what percentage of the current waiting list for Council houses would the 49 homes which were to be built represent. In the absence of the Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Corporate Governance, Councillor Wensley, the Director of Customer Services responded to this question. He outlined that the Council had 845 applications on the Housing Register and that the new could potentially house 5.38% of the current housing applicants. Councillor Mrs Daniells asked if the construction of the additional housing could be justified in view of the impacts this would have on the HRA? The Cabinet Member for Housing, Councillor Elkins, responded. He outlined the many problems facing the HRA and that in view of these issues, this was why a revision of the HRA Business Plan was proposed to take on board and address the impacts. He outlined that if the money was not spent, then it would be lost and would have to be repaid to Central Government. Councillor Mrs Daniells asked if she could be supplied with a breakdown of each band on the housing register.

459. NOTES FROM THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT TASK AND FINISH WORKING PARTY HELD ON 9 DECEMBER 2015

The Chairman of the Working Party, Councillor Hitchins, presented the Minutes of the meeting of the Council Tax Support Task and Finish Working Party held on 9 December 2015.

In view of the need for the Council to have consider reviewing the scheme in Place for year 5 (2017) and the tough decisions that would need to be made, Councillor Hitchins, urged Members to attend the Council Tax Support Seminar being held for all Members of the Council on 9 February 2016/

The Committee then noted the minutes.

460. UPDATE FROM MEETING OF WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL'S HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE COMMITTEES (HASC) HELD ON 4 DECEMBER 2015 AND 20 JANUARY 2016

Firstly, the Committee received a verbal report back from Councillor Blampied following his attendance at the meeting of HASC held on 4 December 2015.

Councillor Blampied reported on two main areas discussed. Firstly, the Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust's improvement programme for mental health services and secondly, the South East Coast Ambulance Service's (SECAMS) presentation on current operations and response times.

In addition to this, Councillor Dr Walsh reported that the Committee had been concerned to learn that SECAMS had effectively given themselves an extra 10 minutes in response time without informing anybody of this. The Committee had received a strong reassurance that this would not happen again.

Secondly, Councillor Dr Wash updated the Committee following his attendance at the meeting of HASC held on 20 January 2016, which Councillor Blampied had been unable to attend.

The main areas discussed were:

- A report on strengthening Primary Care Services in West Sussex had been received and had had caused major concerns in terms of the increased challenges and demands being faced with an ageing population and people with complex and long-term conditions
- There was a dis-satisfaction amongst patients about when they could get an appointment to see their GP.
- There were major workforce pressures with an ageing work force with many clinicians due to retire in the next 5 years coupled with the fact that a wider skill mix was required
- The problems associated with housing costs for staff and their ability to support themselves whilst training in places such as West Sussex.
- The Healthwatch West Sussex Discharge Report - this had been good news in terms of inspections undertaken in the Arun District. There had been two failures in the north of the County. Twenty eight recommendations had been made which had been tabled to the meeting.
- Budget proposals for forthcoming year for WSCC – this saw very considerable reductions for adult social care and health. There was a huge reliance in terms of putting money into preventive medicine to save costs in the future and questions had been asked as to whether these figures could be delivered in the year.

461. UPDATE FROM MEETING OF THE SUSSEX POLICE & CRIME PANEL HELD ON 23 JANUARY 2015

The Committee received and noted a verbal feedback report from Councillor L Brown following his attendance at meeting of the Sussex Police & Crime Panel held on 23 January 2015.

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Councillor L Brown reported that the Sussex Police’s capital budget had been noted. A Working Group of the Panel had been looking into raising the precept for the coming year and had undertaken work on the Police and Crime Plan. Over the next four years £35 m of savings would need to be made.

The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) had provided a precept option for the year to the meeting. Sussex had the fourth lowest band and so the precept increase proposed was 3.4% which was the highest rate of increase that could be proposed without holding a referendum. The Panel had been informed that out of the 4,000 responses received most had been in favour of the precept increase and so it had been approved.

462. WORK PROGRAMME

In receiving an update on its Work Programme, the Committee was advised of the following changes:

- The final proposals on The Vision had been deferred to 7 June 2016;
- The Council’s Filming and Photographic Policy had been deferred to 7 June 2016. The Committee asked to receive an outline of what this Policy would cover so it could decide whether the Council’s existing Policy agreed by Full Council in 2014 needed expanding.
- The Social Media Policies for staff and Councillors would be considered at the next meeting of the Committee on 15 March 2016.

In view of the many concerns that the Committee had expressed in debating the Budget item earlier, all relating to the HRA, it requested to receive a report at its next meeting on 15 March 2016 providing an update on the planned review of the HRA Business Plan which was due to be reported to Cabinet on 31 May 2016. As this was the only opportunity that the Committee would have to receive such a report, it outlined that it would accept a verbal update as long as this covered the improvements and maintenance to sheltered housing schemes as this was the main concern of Members.

Finally, the Chairman asked a question about Agenda Item 2 (Declarations of Interest) and he asked if the Council’s Monitoring Officer could confirm when the wording explaining Declarations of Interest would be updated. The Head of Democratic Services confirmed that she would take up this point directly with the Legal team.

‘Subject to Approval at the Next Committee Meeting’

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The Committee then

RESOLVED

That a report is submitted to the next meeting of the Committee on 15 March 2016 providing an update on the planned review of the HRA Business Plan due to be reported to Cabinet on 31 May 2016, covering the improvements and maintenance to sheltered housing schemes as this was the main concern of Members.

(The meeting concluded at 8.02 pm.)