

DISCLAIMER

The attached minutes are DRAFT minutes. Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information, statements and decisions recorded in them, their status will remain that of a draft until such time as they are confirmed as a correct record at the subsequent meeting.

BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMISSION
HELD ON 28TH FEBRUARY 2014 AT 9.30 AM**

P Councillor Hopkins (in the Chair)
A Councillor Brain
P Councillor Emmett
P Councillor Khan
P Councillor Naysmith
P Councillor Watson
P Councillor Weston
P Councillor Wright

RSC

131.2/14 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies were received from Councillor Brain and also from Councillor Gollop (Deputy Mayor) and Councillor Simon Cook (Assistant Mayor).

RSC

132.2/14 PUBLIC FORUM

None received.

RSC

133.2/14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared.

RSC

134.2/14 WHIPPING

None declared.

RSC

**135.2/14 MINUTES – RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMISSION – 3RD
FEBRUARY 2014**

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the meeting of the Resources Scrutiny Commission held on 3rd February, 2014 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**RSC
136.2/14 CHAIR'S BUSINESS**

None reported.

**RSC
137.2/14 WORK PROGRAMME**

The Chair confirmed that at the last agenda briefing the Party Leads present had agreed to cancel the 21 March, 2014 Resources Scrutiny Commission meeting due to relevant information for scrutiny not being available. The next meeting on 11 April, 2014 would still be held, as detailed on the revised Work Programme.

Arising from the Chair asking if scrutiny relating to the Review of Reserves could be brought forward to the April meeting the Commission were informed that this would not be possible, or desirable, as the information required to provide a final analysis and accurate detail relating to reserves would not be available at that time. A further request to provide available information was not considered appropriate as it would need to be updated again and therefore reconsidered a second time.

The Commission were advised that robust plans had been put in place to allow for improved information, including reserves, for the following and future financial years on a more timely scale. The importance and work of the Commission was fully acknowledged and supported by officers and this was cited as the reason why improved measures had been introduced for future years.

Some Members also reiterated their unease with the whole of the budget process and the lack of information for proper scrutiny.

RESOLVED – that the Work Programme be noted.

**RSC
138.2/14 REVENUE BUDGET AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME
MONITORING – 3RD QUARTER 2013/14**

The Committee considered a report of the Interim Service Director, Finance (agenda item no. 8) setting out the progress on the Council's overall financial performance, including against the approved revenue and capital budgets for the 2013/14 financial year as approved by Council on the 26th February 2013.

The Commission were informed that a balanced revenue budget was likely to be achieved although some slippage was anticipated in the Capital budget due to adverse weather conditions this winter which had a negative impact on some of the projects eg, Avonmouth Wind Turbine Project and Parks. The Commission also noted an amendment to the budget report, page 20, section 10 relating to Regeneration, where the figure of £112,108 quoted should be £12,108.

The Commission then asked questions and a summary of the points made/clarified are as set out below –

- The differential capital expenditure figure for St George new school at Avondale Road related to a revised estimate of costs. Officers in CYPS were still working on the final figure, information would be provided to members;
- Capital expenditure figures sometimes not clearly linked with the topic, officers to provide details to members wanting this information;
- 'running totals' information to be provided in future on capital schemes where delays had occurred;
- Clarification required regarding location of some school sites eg, St George and Whitehall areas and also information in respect of which Tier in the Capital Programme any scheme was in to be clearly shown in future reports;
- Greater clarification of Neighbourhood Partnership involvement to be shown in respect of regeneration projects.

RESOLVED – that, subject to the comments made, the report be noted.

RSC

139.2/14

2013/14 – QUARTER 3 PERFORMANCE PROGRESS REPORT

The Committee considered a report of the Service Director, Policy, Strategy and Communication (agenda item no. 9) giving an overview of progress against the Council's strategic priorities at the

end of quarter 3 (1st April 2013 to 31st December 2013) based on the information provided by directorates, as at 28th January 2014.

The Commission then asked questions and a summary of the points made/clarified are as set out below –

- Reference to waste treatment 'breakdowns' related to problems with the Contract rather than the treatment process. Members expressed serious concern about this due to the risk this could bring to the service and asked for a report to be brought to the next Resources Scrutiny Commission meeting for full consideration of the financial implications for the Council. The Chair of Resources agreed to write to the Chair of Neighbourhoods & Communities Scrutiny Commission requesting further information as this issue would also be considered at its meeting on 4 March, 2014;
- The number of households in temporary accommodation was highlighted as this could have an effect on long term capital expenditure to resolve the on-going homelessness issue. The Commission were advised that the main financial issue with this was a revenue budget impact from the cost of providing short term accommodation. It was noted that the Neighbourhoods & Communities Scrutiny Commission would be considering this issue at its meeting on 4 March, 2014;
- Following a question about the delay in delivering High-speed Broadband across the City the Commission were informed that this issue was being specifically considered by the Neighbourhoods & Communities Scrutiny Commission at its meeting on 4 March, 2014;
- Some Members asked for more detailed information in respect of the Council's House Building programme and asked that a report be brought to a future meeting of the Commission as soon as possible;
- Details relating to the increased overall satisfaction with highways and transport in Bristol, arising from the National Highways and Transport Public Satisfaction Survey, be provided to Commission Members as soon as possible;
- Information about highway structures that have outstanding structural repair issues eg, retaining walls and bridge structures where there is urgent repair work outstanding requested for the next meeting of the Commission on 11 April including costs of repair, number of sites and the current condition of them.

RESOLVED – that, subject to the comments made, the report be noted.

(The meeting ended at 11.05 am)

CHAIR