

PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

EXTRACT OF MINUTES of the meeting held on Thursday, 5 January 2017

Present:

Voting Members: Councillor Liz Brighthouse OBE – in the Chair

Councillor Janet Godden (Deputy Chairman)

Councillor Sam Coates

Councillor Yvonne Constance OBE

Councillor Mark Gray

Councillor Patrick Greene

Councillor Jenny Hannaby

Councillor Stewart Lilly

Councillor Sandy Lovatt

Councillor Charles Mathew

Councillor John Sanders

Officers:

Whole of meeting Steven Jones, Policy and Performance Officer
Colm Ó Caomhánaigh, Committee Secretary

Part of meeting

Agenda Item	Officer Attending
5	Lorna Baxter, Chief Finance Officer

The Scrutiny Committee considered the matters, reports and recommendations contained or referred to in the agenda for the meeting, together with a schedule of addenda tabled at the meeting and agreed as set out below. Copies of the agenda, reports and additional documents are attached to the signed Minutes.

63/17 SERVICE AND RESOURCE PLANNING 2017/18 - 2020/21 AND CAPITAL BUDGET 2017/18

(Agenda No. 5)

Ms Baxter introduced the report which set out the main points arising from the Local Government Finance Statement which was published on the 15 December.

Members discussed the following points:

- The New Homes Bonus will only be paid on housing growth above 0.4% of the local authority's housing stock as opposed to the consultation proposal which was 0.25%. This and other changes will yield £241m nationally to fund the Adult Social Care Support Grant in 2017/18.

- The Government's proposal abating the Bonus in circumstances where planning permission for a new development has only been granted on appeal was criticised by some Members. The Government will consult on this in 2018/19.
- The changes in the Adult Social Care Precept and Grant will not mean more on-going money for Adult Social Care. £5m demographic funding which was to come from corporate resources can now be funded by the precept and grant. However, this £5m from corporate resources must be transferred to other funds in order to balance the budget. Members expressed frustration that more money could not be allocated to Adult Social Care but supported the Chief Finance Officer's approach given the current financial circumstances.
- Ms Baxter stressed that the 3% increase in the Adult Social Care Precept was a one-off measure for the next 2 years and so the money could not be used for on-going spending but could be used for up-front funding.
- Members asked if the extended rights under Home to School Transport (HST) would increase pressure on the Council finances. Ms Baxter stated that the grant was not new and if reduced would not put pressure on HST funding.
- Members expressed concern at the spiralling costs of Adult and Children's Social Care and urged that the two be considered together.
- Members also called for a greater role for councillors in the Transformation process.