



### SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**16:35 to 18:15**

**19 July 2012**

Present: Councillors Stephenson (Chair), Manning (Vice chair), Bradford, Brimblecombe, Button, Galvin, Lubbock, Rogers, Sands (M), Stonard, Storie and Gee

Apologies: Councillor Lay

#### **1. APOLOGIES**

Apology received from Councillor Lay

#### **2. PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

None

#### **3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

#### **4. MINUTES**

Subject to a drafting change to item 3 to include a further two resolutions, amend the minute to include;

- d) request that the city council communications team helps promote the work of food banks via print and online media
- e) request that officers signpost food bank staff to potential new sources of funding
- f) clarify with food bank staff that the city council has debt advice officers available to provide guidance to food bank users in the future

**RESOLVED** to approve the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 5 July 2012

## **5. WORK PROGRAMME**

The chair explained that the committee had been contacted by a member of the public regarding flooding in part of the city. It was explained that the scrutiny officer would be providing a report with further details at the meeting in September.

**RESOLVED** to note the scrutiny committee work programme

## **6. NEW FINANCIAL REGIME FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT - PRESENTATION**

Councillor Waters, Deputy leader of the council, introduced the report.

The chief finance officer then provided an introduction to local government finance. In response to a member question, she explained that the council now had more control over the financing of the housing stock development. A thirty year business plan had been developed to run alongside financing the development of the council's housing stock..

The revenues and benefits manager then provided a presentation on the localisation of council tax benefit. It was noted that a working group had been set up to progress the development of the council's local scheme and that the scrutiny committee would pre-scrutinise the scheme prior to it going to cabinet in November.

The chief finance officer gave a presentation and facilitated discussion around business rates. In response to questions relating to the way the figures stated relate to the plans for the business improvement district (BID), it was explained that there was no relation and that the BID was administered separately.

The chair thanked the chief finance officer and the revenues and benefits manager.

**RESOLVED** that the deputy chief executive provide a member briefing regarding funding for housing provision.

CHAIR