



Strategy and Resources Meeting

Tuesday 18th April 2023

The Trinity Centre

7:00pm

Present:

Cllrs Ward (Chairman), Cooper, Parkin and Raut.

In Attendance:

Olive O'Sullivan – Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Mary Watkins – Finance Manager.

There were no members of the press or public present.

74 Apologies for Absence

The CEO reported apologies received from Cllrs Cairns, Mackey, Pears and apologies for lateness from Cllr Pocock.

Resolved to accept the apologies received.

75 Declarations of Interest

No declarations made.

76 Exclusion of the Press and Public

This motion was not taken and there was no update from the HR Sub Committee due to the meeting being rescheduled.

77 Minutes of the Previous Meetings

Resolved to confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting of the Strategy and Resources Committee held on 14th February 2023.

7:02pm Cllr Raut entered during this item.

78 Matters Arising

No matters arising.

79 Questions from Members

No questions had been submitted.

80 Annual Return and Financial Year 2022/23

Cllr Parkin asked for clarification on the £1 valuation on the Asset Register for transfers of the land surrounding Walmley War Memorial and Forge Farm allotments. It was confirmed that all items on the Asset Register are recorded at purchase value. Any assets that do not have a purchase price are



recorded at the Proxy Value of £1. The value of each asset on the Asset Register does not change year to year.

Cllr Ward gave his thanks to officers for the prompt production of the end of year accounts.

Resolved to note the Annual Governance Statement, Accounting Statements and unaudited Statement of Accounts.

81 Internal Audit Report

Cllr Ward noted the report raised no issues for consideration and thanked officers for their hard work.

Resolved to note the Internal Audit report for the financial year 2022/23.

82 Free Public Wi-Fi Network

The CEO advised Committee that Proximity Futures had sent through a usage report for the WiFi, broken down by centre.

- [Usage Report](#)

The CEO reported that the average bandwidth speed on the BT line was 80mb and that downloads are restricted to 5mg per connection to ensure all users can access WiFi. The Wi-Fi was well used in all areas and all five Local Centres had shown an increase in use in the last calendar year. The annual cost of £19,356 equates to an annual cost of less than 6p per user.

Cllr Ward spoke in support of the proposal as it added to the offer in the Town Centre and across the town.

Cllr Raut also supported the proposal and suggested that Committee may wish to look at increasing the speed and capacity in the future.

Cllr Parkin noted that residents may not be fully aware of the scheme and that the Town Council and Councillors should promote this via Social Media channels.

Resolved to recommend to Full Council continuation of the free public WiFi Scheme with Proximity Futures for a further three years.

Resolved to approve a virement of £3,000 from the budget contingency to the Wi-Fi maintenance budget for 2023/24.

83 Bank Reconciliations

Resolved to note the bank reconciliations from February and March 2023.

84 Date of the Next Meeting

20th June 2023 at the Trinity Centre.

85 Exclusion of the Press and Public

a) Human Resources Sub-Committee Update

This item was not discussed.



The meeting ended at 7:17pm.