

PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

12 January 2017

PRESENT – Councillor Carson (in the Chair); Councillors L Hughes, Lyonette, Mills, MR Nicholson and Tostevin. (6)

APOLOGIES – Councillor Cossins, Wright and York. (3)

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE – Paul Howell and Yvonne Richardson, Friends of the Library and Christine Fishwick, Member of the Public. (3)

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE – Elizabeth Davison, Assistant Director Finance and Human Resource; and Karen Graves, Democratic Officer.

P21. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – There were no declarations of interests reported at the meeting.

P22. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN - Submitted – A report (previously circulated) of the Chief Officers Executive which had been considered by Cabinet at its meeting held on 13 December 2016, in relation to the Medium-Term Financial Plan for 2017/18 to 2020/21.

The Assistance Director, Finance, Human Resources and Policy reported that there were no proposals for further budget cuts with the proposed plan for 2017/18 and that any pressures could be contained by using capital receipts as a one off measure to relieve pressure on the revenue account.

Particular reference was made to two pressures within the remit of this Scrutiny Committee, namely, reduced income from Car Parking Charges and the loss of building cleaning and school meals provision in schools due to Academy conversions. Members also noted the current savings shortfall of £0.397m due to the delay in the relocation of the Library Service.

Members were reminded that many charges were statutory and/or ring-fenced and that the Council could only charge what the service costs e.g. Licensing and Environmental Health Services. Whilst consideration was given to the proposed increased charges to Eastbourne Sports Complex facilities Members noted that the Dolphin Centre charges were yet to be confirmed and would be considered by Cabinet in February.

Scrutiny requested clarification on the source of library income and sought assurances that any income from the Library would be retained if the service were to relocate to the Dolphin Centre.

Members of the public attended Scrutiny and sought clarification on increased pension contributions; available contingencies should a judicial review on Crown Street Library occur and whether the amount of £110k for Strategic Arts was core funding.

RESOLVED – That the current position be noted.