

Supplementary Information

HAVANT BOROUGH COUNCIL
SCRUTINY BOARD
30 January 2015

Dear Councillor

I am now able to enclose, for consideration at the next meeting of the Scrutiny Board on 30 January 2015, the following questions and responses regarding the Draft Revenue and Capital Budgets 2015-16.

Unfortunately I have been unable to obtain written answers to all the questions submitted and hope to be able to circulate these tomorrow.

| Agenda No | Item |
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| 6 | <u>Draft Revenue and Capital Budgets 2015-16 (Pages 1 - 2)</u> |
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Scrutiny Board 30 February 2015

| | Questions Raised By: | |
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| Page 1 | 1. Cllr Andrew Lenaghan | <p>As we have hand held computers could the Beachlands paper permit season ticket be abolished and the Registrations recorder on the system. I am sure we can overcome 2 registrations being allowed on a permit. The car parking attendants could then check quite quickly and accurately if the car is legally parked. This would overcome the wholly disproportionate charge for lost tickets which I am sure were put in place to alienate the public. If the system cannot cope and we have to continue with permits I would like to see this charge reduced to a reasonable charge to cover the admin cost only. Going by how quickly Councillor Permits are issued for parking I would have thought a maximum of £10 would be in order unless you can give a good reason for the charge.</p> <p><u>Response:</u></p> <p><i>Unfortunately, the handhelds will not allow the CEOs to record whether a vehicle is parked or not if these permit details were contained within it. Therefore it would not be possible to identify if both cars are parked at the same time. There are paperless options we could use but these will require investment in new IT to implement. Again we would need to remove the option for two registrations on the permit which has been a popular option.</i></p> <p><i>If supported by my Cabinet Lead I am happy to reduce the charge for lost permits to the same as the admin fee as that would cover the costs still.</i></p> |
| 2. | Cllr Andrew Lenaghan | <p>Our loyal long standing customers seem to be penalised with a larger % increase for Beach hut hire. I would like to see these stand still for a year following a few years of serious increases and disruption. This could be made up by increasing the daily hire charges which as a % are considerably less. The daily rate is seriously good value especially when you compare the daily summer rate to the winter rate. I don't know how many huts are involved or how we compare to other resorts, but I would have thought anything less than £150 per week was a bargain in the high season. I think this needs a serious strategy and marketing review as there seems very little science to the structure.</p> <p><u>Response:</u></p> <p><i>Cllr Briggs to provide a response at the Scrutiny Board.</i></p> |
| 3. | Cllr John Perry | <p>The Budget looks reasonable for 2015/16; however, I am unsure how the Council can comply with para 2.4 on page 75 of the Agenda if no projected cash flow statement has been prepared particularly since the reversal of depreciation of £2.26M and the reserve contribution of £0.3M on page 13; together with the £158k of bad debt provision release all produce revenue but no cash.</p> <p>Therefore I propose that that we request a projected cash flow statement to ensure that the budget is balanced and does</p> |

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| | | <p>not require excessive bank borrowings.</p> <p><i>Response:</i></p> <p><i>The specific answer to that is that the budget as set out in Appendix A has a section called “Statutory Adjustments” which meets the requirement of para 2.4 of ensuring the capital spending decisions impact on the revenue budget are included.</i></p> |
| 4. | Cllr John Perry | <p>I am also not happy with the proposed increase in the High Hedges complaint fee increase from £390 to £500; I would be happier with an increase to £400. Could I ask how many submissions were made in 2013/14 and 2014/15, and what is the cost of administration of them in those years?</p> <p><u><i>Response:</i></u></p> <p><i>We had 2 applications in 2013 with a fee of £270 paid for each. None in 2014.</i></p> <p><i>An assessment of time and cost was undertaken just before Christmas, and found that the total cost to the Council, even of a ‘straightforward case’, is £596.01, compared with the fee income of £270. Hence the decision to increase the fee to more closely reflect the actual cost.</i></p> |