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**LEWES
TOWN
COUNCIL**

To: **Cllrs Chartier; Daly; Dean; Eiloart; Murray (S); O'Keeffe; Rudkin; Turner**

A Meeting of the **Finance Working Party**, to consider the Council's budget and Council Tax precept for 2013/14, will be held on **Monday 26th November 2012**, in the **Yarrow Room, Town Hall, Lewes** at **6:30pm** which you are requested to attend.

S Brigden, Town Clerk
14th November 2012

AGENDA

1. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME*

To consider any questions received regarding items on the agenda for this meeting.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

To receive apologies from members of the Working-party who are unable to attend.

3. MEMBER'S DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

To note declarations of any personal or prejudicial interests in matters on this agenda.

4. MATTERS WITHIN THE REMIT OF THE WORKING-PARTY

To note the remit of the working party :

The working party is asked to examine the detail of estimated expenditure and income for the Council's operations, and to agree a budget and level of Council Tax precept for the 2013/14 year, for recommendation to Council.

Further: Council has asked that the Working Party consider the request of Lewes Town Partnership for continued financial support (*see minute extract overleaf – the Chairman of Lewes Town Partnership will attend to represent the request*) and also that it considers either identification of a budget-head, or allocation of a sum of money, in the 2013/14 budget; to be spent with the involvement of local people (Public Participatory Budgeting) (*see minute extract overleaf*).

5. DRAFT BUDGET and COUNCIL TAX PRECEPT 2013/14

To consider draft budget information and all relevant background data**

** *working papers and background material are provided for members of the Working Party only, and will also be available on computer at the meeting for live analysis and modelling.*

***NB: POTENTIAL EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

As this Working Party is likely to discuss low-level detail of the Council's finances, it is possible that, during the meeting, personal details related to past and present employees, and proposed expenditure on contracts for supply of goods and services (potentially commercially-sensitive) may be disclosed.

Should these circumstances arise; the chairman will be obliged to move:

“That in view of the confidential nature (*specified*) of the business to be transacted during the remainder of the meeting, pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960; any members of the press or public present be excluded and instructed to withdraw”



**QUALITY
TOWN**

For further information about items on this agenda please contact the Town Clerk at the above address.

Distribution: Cllrs Chartier; Daly; Dean; Eiloart; Murray (S); O'Keeffe; Rudkin; Turner (all Cllrs: for information)

Copies for information: T/hall; LTC website; Lewes Library, Sx. Express, E.Argus, Mayor's Chaplain, Sx. Police, N Baker MP, LDC, ESCC, Fr'ds of Lewes

NOTES for Finance Working party 26th November 2012

Minute extracts; Council meeting 11th October 2012:

WORKING PARTIES AND OUTSIDE BODIES:

b] *Lewes Town Partnership – review of funding*: Members considered Report FC009/2012 (*copy in minute book*) reminding Members of their decision in 2011 to review financial support for Lewes Town Partnership (LTP). There was a lengthy discussion on this matter, and various suggestions put forward including a reduction in the amount given. It was acknowledged that the LTP was originally set up in response to government requirements for a popular forum in every locality, empowered to refer to statutory bodies the opinions and aspirations *etc* of their community. There was general support, but several Members felt that the Council's Finance Working Party should review the funding.

After some debate **it was resolved that:**

FC2012/76.2 The Chairman of Lewes Town Partnership should be asked to present their case for continued funding to the Finance Working Party, who will consider this matter and report to Council.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING:

Members considered a motion (*NOM014/2012, copy in the minute book*) proposing that, following the presentation to the last Council meeting on the subject of Public Participatory Budgeting (PPB), the Council should allocate some funds for this purpose. It was recognized that PPB could play an important role in empowering people to get involved in decision making in their local area. The Council had already taken steps in this direction when it set aside funds for the Lewes YouthBank scheme, whereby young people proposed projects and decisions were made by peer-groups of young people about allocation of the money. There was some discussion around the practicalities, or otherwise, of several ideas; one being co-option to the Council's Grants Assessment Panel. It was generally agreed that the existing framework for miscellaneous grants should not be altered in such a way. Rather; options could be explored as to any areas of expenditure where public involvement could be encouraged.

Following a debate **it was resolved that:**

FC2012/78.1 The Finance Working Party is asked to consider either identification of a budget-head, or allocation of a sum of money, in the 2013/14 budget; to be spent with the involvement of local people.

FC2012/78.2 A working party comprising Cllrs I Eiloart, R Murray, S Murray, R O'Keeffe and Dr M Turner be set up to decide how a Public Participatory Budgeting system might best be organised and report back to Council.