

FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

25th November 2021

PRESENT:

Labour Group

Councillor Pearson (Chair), Councillor Tilley (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Mulgrew, Rhind, Richards, Southerd and Taylor.

Conservative Group

Councillors Ackroyd, Bridgen, Lemmon, Redfern, and Watson.

Independent Group

Councillor Fitzpatrick.

In Attendance

Councillor Wheelton (Non-Grouped)

FM/90 **APOLOGIES**

The Committee was informed that apologies had been received from Councillor Singh (Labour Group)

FM/91 **TO RECEIVE THE OPEN MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS:**

The Open Minutes of meetings held on 10th June 2021, 22nd July 2021, 3rd August 2021 and 26th August 2021 were noted and approved as true record and signed by the Chair.

FM/92 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Committee was informed that no declarations of interest had been received.

FM/93 **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO 10**

The Committee was informed that no questions from members of the public had been received.

FM/94 **QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO 11**

The Committee was informed no questions from Members of the Council had been received.

FM/95 **REPORTS OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

The Committee was informed that no reports of Overview and Scrutiny Committee had been received.

MATTERS DELEGATED TO COMMITTEE**FM/96 CORPORATE PLAN 2020-24: PERFORMANCE REPORT (2021-2022 QUARTER 2 – APRIL TO 30 SEPTEMBER)**

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) presented the report to the Committee and highlighted the two indicators in red which were the contact centre calls which had increased due to Covid and the rateable value which had been reduced, due a revaluation of town centre properties.. It was noted that the sickness absence days continued to go down and that the number of apprenticeships had increased to six.

Members raised queries regarding telephone calls to Customer Services. The Head of Customer Services informed the Committee that the increase in calls received were as a consequence of Covid-19.

RESOLVED:

1.1 That the Committee approved progress against performance targets set out in the Corporate Plan 2020 - 2024.

1.2 The Committee reviewed the Risk Register for the Committee's services.

FM/97 GENERAL FUND REVENUE MONITORING 2021-22

The Head of Finance presented the report to the Committee highlighting the increased deficit due to a pending pay award that was being negotiated and the areas of risk including, business rates, a new recycling contract, vacancies, planning, land charges and benefit errors.

The Members raised queries regarding the Land Charges and Business Rates risks. The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) confirmed that business rates was an area of concern due to the potential decline in economic conditions. The Chief Executive informed the Committee that there was concern regarding the Land Charges during the transition period of transferring into different systems but assured Members that the Council had been fast tracked by the Land Registry to resolve the issues as quickly as possible and noted that Land Charges would not, in the future, be a primary function of the Council and therefore reduced the liability.

The Chair requested an update report to come back to the Committee regarding Land Charges

Councillor Richards raised queries in relation to the possible increase of pay and the national living rise.

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) advised the Committee that if these were increased then the Council would have to amend the medium to long term plans but noted that an increase of the national living wage could impact on all councils.

RESOLVED:

The Committee considered and approved the latest revenue financial position for 2021/22 as detailed in the report.

FM/98 **HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT REVENUE FINANCIAL MONITORING 2021-22**

The Head of Finance presented the report that had been separated out from General fund report and noted that the Housing Revenue Account could also be impacted by the potential pay rise and highlighted the risk regarding Careline.

Councillor Watson raised concern regarding the defect reported by the Fire Service and that the Council had placed tenants in unsafe properties. The Head of Finance clarified that this related to a particular set of circumstances regarding an individual and not particularly the property they were living in.

RESOLVED:

The Committee considered and approved the latest revenue financial position for 2021/22 as detailed in the report.

FM/99 **COLLECTION FUND 2021-22**

The Head of Finance presented the report which had been separated from General Fund report which included precept rates and parish council precepts and it was noted that the overall fund was expected to be in surplus at the end of the financial year.

RESOLVED:

The Committee considered and approved the latest Collection Fund position as detailed in the report.

FM/100 **CAPITAL FINANCIAL MONITORING 2021-22**

The Head of Finance presented the report to the Committee noting one overspend with the General Fund and that overall there were no concerns. The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) informed the Committee the General Melbourne Sports Park overspend was due to contract variations.

The Chair and Councillor Richards raised queries regarding the Peartree Court Enforcement Notice that found in favour of the Council.

The Strategic Director (Service Delivery) informed the Committee that the courts found in favour of the Council regarding a claim made by the Contractor which meant that the settlement offer to the contractor would be reduced.

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services advised the Committee that it was an arbitrary claim and the amount included in the counter claim which was yet to be agreed by contractor

It was agreed that once resolved an exempt report would be brought back to the Committee.

Members enquired about the funding for the Melbourne Sports Park works and the Strategic Director (Service Delivery) confirmed that the works on the pitches would be funded from the Section 106 Agreements funding.

RESOLVED:

- 1.1 The Committee considered and approved the latest capital financial position for 2021/22 as detailed in the report.***
- 1.2 The Committee noted the balance of S106 available for use by the Council for capital projects as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report.***
- 1.3 The Committee approved an increase in the General Fund contribution to works at Melbourne Sports Park of £4,558.***

FM/101 **TREASURY MANAGEMENT UPDATE 2021-22**

The Head of Finance presented the report that gave a detailed national picture regarding Covid-19 and Brexit and how that would affect the Council. The Committee was also informed that the Council does not budget for high interest returns and that the long-term property fund investment was still achieving around 4% return.

RESOLVED:

- 1.1 The Committee considered and approved the latest Treasury Management Update for quarter 2 2021/22 as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report.***
- 1.2 The Committee approved the updated Counterparty List for investments and bank deposits as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report.***

FM/102 **COMMENTS, COMPLIMENTS COMPLAINTS & FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUESTS 01 APRIL 2021 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2021**

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) presented the report to the Committee outlining the increased number of complaints received during the previous 6 months and the delayed response times in relation to Freedom of Information Requests.

Members raised concerns regarding the increased complaints, the decrease in compliments and the statutory response times in relation to Freedom of Information Requests.

RESOLVED:

The Committee considered and noted the comments, compliments, complaints and FOI requests, as detailed in the report.

FM/103 **SOCIAL MOBILITY – SUPPORTING ASPIRATIONS ACTION PLAN**

The Head of Economic Growth presented the report to the Committee outlining the most salient points and explained how it linked in with the South Derbyshire Partnership and focused on healthy life styles.

Members raised queries regarding apprenticeships.

The Head of Economic Growth advised the Committee that the Council was promoting apprenticeships with employers in the District and the Chief Executive explained that he had insisted that a local contractor be used in relation to the demolition of the Bison factory and that it had been confirmed that a local contractor working with Burton College had been appointed.

RESOLVED:

The Committee approved the development of a Supporting Aspirations Action Plan for South Derbyshire.

FM/104 **COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) presented the report to the Committee.

RESOLVED:

The Committee considered and approved the updated work programme.

FM/105 **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 (AS AMENDED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT [ACCESS TO INFORMATION] ACT 1985)**

RESOLVED:-

That, in accordance with Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the Meeting as it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that there would be disclosed exempt information as defined in the paragraphs of Part 1 of the Schedule 12A of the Act indicated in brackets after each item.

TO RECEIVE THE EXEMPT MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS:

The Exempt Minutes of the Meetings held on 10th June 2021, 22nd July 2021, 3rd August 2021 and 26th August 2021 were received.

TO RECEIVE QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 11

The Committee was informed no questions had been received.

REGRADE OF POST – HOUSING PROJECT OFFICER (ELECTRICAL)

The Committee approved the recommendations in the report.

FUTURE SERVICE DELIVERY AND EMPLOYMENT MODELS UPDATE

The Committee approved the recommendations in the report.

HGV DRIVERS

The Committee approved the recommendations in the report.

The meeting terminated at 20:05 hours.

COUNCILLOR PEARSON

CHAIR