

FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

14 March 2024

PRESENT:

Labour Group

Councillor R Pearson (Chair), Councillor L Singh (Vice-Chair) and Councillors S Harrison, G Rhind, M Mulgrew, B Stuart, S Taylor and V Redfern (substitute for Councillor N Tilley)

Conservative Group

Councillors M Ford, J Lowe (substitute for Councillor D Corbin, S Meghani and P Watson (substitute for Councillor M Fitzpatrick).

Liberal Democrats

Councillor G Andrew.

In Attendance

Councillor A Wheelton.

FM/110 **APOLOGIES**

The Committee was informed that apologies had been received from Councillor N Tilley (Labour Group) and Councillors D Corbin and M Fitzpatrick (Conservative Group).

FM/111 **TO RECEIVE THE OPEN MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETING:**

The Open Minutes of the Finance and Management Committee meeting held on 11 January 2024 were received and approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

FM/112 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

FM/113 **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/114 **QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO 11**

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

FM/115 **REPORTS OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY**

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

FM/116 **CORPORATE PLAN 2020-24: PERFORMANCE REPORT (2023-2024 QUARTER THREE 01 APRIL TO 31 DECEMBER)**

The Head of Organisational Development and Performance presented the report to the Committee and summarised the key elements of the report. It was noted that out of the eleven Corporate Measures that the Committee was responsible for, ten were on track and the only red one related to days lost through sickness absence. The Head of Organisational Development and Performance outlined the risk registered.

Councillor Meghani sought clarity regarding patterns of sickness absence and whether these related to a particular section of department of the Council.

The Head of Organisational Development and Performance informed the Committee that the cases related to long term sickness and there were no noticeable patterns in particular services. It was further explained that work continues to be undertaken to address ongoing issues.

RESOLVED:

- 1.1 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/117 **EQUALITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION POLICY**

The Head of Organisational Development and Performance presented the report to the Committee and highlighted the proactive approach that had been taken and the full range of engagement involved in developing the policy.

Councillor Singh and Councillor Taylor commended the report and noted the importance of dignity, quality and fairness within the workplace and the wider community.

Councillor Meghani sought clarity regarding the number of staff employed to work on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion matters.

The Head of Organisational Development and Performance addressed the Committee and explained how equality, diversity and inclusion was the responsibility of all officers and members. The Strategic Director confirmed that the Council currently employs one part time member of staff on a fixed term basis to focus on this, and this arrangement will come to an end in June 2024, with EDI work being managed by HR Officers going forward.

RESOLVED:

- 1.1 The Committee approved the Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion policy attached at Appendix 1 to the report.***

FM/118 **QUARTERLY BUDGET MONITORING 2023-24**

The Head of Finance presented the report to the Committee and outlined the recommendations for approval. The Head of Finance summarised the updated positions for the General Fund, business rates, the increased earmarked reserves and the Housing Revenue Account forecast.

Members commended the report and supported the officer's recommendations.

RESOLVED:

- 1.1 The Committee noted the position and provided any comments it had on the latest revenue and capital financial position for the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account for 2023/24.***
- 1.2 The Committee approved to waiver the fee of bulky collection for those residents that had been affected by the recent flooding.***
- 1.3 The Committee delegated authority to the Section 151 Officer to waive future charges connected to events of exceptional nature.***
- 1.4 The Committee accepted the grant funding of £100,000 from Derbyshire County Council relating to Children and Young People Emotional Health and Wellbeing and authorised the Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) to sign the grant agreement.***

FM/119 **TREASURY MANAGEMENT UPDATE 2023/24**

The Head of Finance presented the report to the Committee highlighting the Capital Finance review and the increase in the General Fund. The Head of Finance noted the changes to the Prudential Indicators.

Members commended the report and supported the officer's recommendations.

RESOLVED:

- 1.1 The Committee noted the latest Quarter 3 updates in respect of Treasury Management, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, Prudential Indicators and Limits, attached as Appendix 2 to the report and Counterparty List for investments and bank deposits, attached as Appendix 3 to the report.***

FM/120 **MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2024/25 – 2028/29**

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) presented the report to the Committee outlining how the strategy addressed budget gaps, depleted reserves over the medium term and provided a high-level position to safeguard the Council's financial position, with new initiatives, projects and efficiency savings. The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) sought approval of the recommendation within the report.

Councillor Taylor addressed the Committee and commended the strategy noting the tremendous work and Member engagement that had not previously seen and highlighted how the strategy gave the Council the opportunity to look forward and close the budget gap.

Councillor Wheelton sought clarity regarding wording on page 185 of the strategy in relation to the savings target.

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) advised the Committee that it was an inferred savings target that needed to be considered and that the wording could be changed to clarify this.

RESOLVED:

- 1.1 The Committee reviewed the Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2024/25 – 2028/29 and recommend it to Council for approval and delegated authority to the Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) in consultation with the Chair to make the necessary amendments and clarification to wording.***

FM/121 **COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) presented the report noting that a Levelling Up report would be added to the Work Programme for the April meeting.

RESOLVED:

The Committee considered and approved the updated work programme.

FM/122 **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 MEETING:

The Exempt Minutes of the Finance and Management Committee meetings held on 11 January 2024 were received.

QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO 11

The Committee was informed that no questions had been received.

SUNDRY DEBTOR, CTAX, NNDR, HOUSING BENEFIT OVERPAYMENT WRITE OFFS

RESOLVED:

The Committee approved the recommendations of the report.

ACQUISITION OF TWO BUNGALOWS IN REPTON

RESOLVED:

The Committee approved the recommendations of the report.

The meeting terminated at 18:35 hours.

COUNCILLOR R PEARSON

CHAIR