

FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

23 November 2023

PRESENT:

Labour Group

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

Conservative Group

Councillors D Corbin, M Fitzpatrick, M Ford and S Meghani.

Liberal Democrats

Councillor G Andrew.

In Attendance

Councillor A Wheelton.

FM/59 **APOLOGIES**

The Committee was informed that apologies had been received from Councillor M Mulgrew (Labour Group).

FM/60 **TO RECEIVE THE OPEN MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS:**

The Open Minutes of the meetings held on 27 April 2023, 08 June 2023, 20 July 2023, 24 August 2023, 05 October 2023, and the meeting of the Audit Sub-Committee held on 06 September 2023 were noted and approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

FM/61 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

FM/62 **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/63 **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/64 **REPORTS OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY**

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

FM/65 **CORPORATE PLAN 2020-24: PERFORMANCE REPORT 2023-24 QUARTER 2 (1 APRIL TO 30 SEPTEMBER)**

The Head of Organisational Development and Performance presented the report to the Committee noting that there were no changes to the risks and that overall performance was good.

Members raised a query regarding Health and Safety training and the review of the Health and Safety Policy.

The Head of Organisational Development and Performance informed the Committee that the Health and Safety Policy was being reviewed along with the Risk Register in light of the newly appointed Health and Safety Officer, who recognised the importance of Health and Safety training.

Councillor Taylor addressed the Committee and highlighted that Health and Safety issues were reviewed by the Employee Health and Safety Committee and explained how it considered all incidents and near misses.

RESOLVED:

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

FM/66 **QUARTERLY BUDGET MONITORING 2023-24**

The Head of Finance presented the report to the Committee noting the key areas of the report.

Members considered the report and commended the level of detail and information it contained.

Councillor Meghani and Councillor Fitzpatrick discussed the possible merits of an executive summary.

RESOLVED:

1.1 The Committee noted the position and provided any comments regarding the latest revenue and capital financial position for the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account for 2023/24.

FM/67 **TREASURY MANAGEMENT UPDATE 2023-24**

The Head of Finance presented the report to the Committee and sought approval of the recommendations.

The Committee considered the report and supported the recommendations.

Councillor Andrew sought clarification regarding the pattern of debt repayments.

The Head of Finance addressed the Committee and explained that the cycle of planned debt repayments related to the 2012 Self-Financing loans and that they were included in the Housing Revenue Account's Medium Term Financial Plan.

RESOLVED:

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

FM/68 **CONSOLIDATED DRAFT BUDGET REPORT 2024/25 AND MEDIUM-TERM FINANCIAL PLAN TO 2028/29**

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) addressed the Committee presented the report to the Committee and summarised improvements made and savings expected.

Councillor Rhind commended the report and noted that it contained nothing that Members had not been made aware of.

Members raised queries regarding net zero costs, the vision for budget gaps and contract procurement costs.

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) informed the Committee that there was nothing new linked to the estimates for the net zero costs and that the vision was about building resilience within the Council regarding budget gaps. It was explained that effective financial contract management would lead to savings.

Members raised further queries regarding the proposed Council Tax increase and the £400K in relation to parish Concurrent expenses.

The Head of Finance advised the Committee that the Council Tax forecast was based on figures provided by the government.

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) reiterated that the Concurrent expense grants to Parish Councils would remain at the 2023/24 levels in 2024/25 and that information regarding Parish Concurrent expenditure in Appendix 1 of the report would be made clearer in the next report.

RESOLVED:

- 1.1 The Committee noted the draft budget and associated information.**
- 1.2 The Committee approved the draft budget for consultation with the Council's relevant Committees, rate payers and the public.**
- 1.3 The Committee noted the proposals considered material.**
- 1.4 The Committee noted the Indicative Assurance Statement provided by the Section 151 Officer.**

FM/69 **HOUSING COMPLIANCE IN CONJUNCTION WITH NEW REGULATOR CONSUMER STANDARDS**

The Strategic Director (Service Delivery) presented the report to the Committee noting the financial implications and sought approval of the recommendations.

Members commended Housing Officers for their presentation of the report to Housing and Community Services Committee earlier in the month.

The Committee considered the report and supported the recommendations.

RESOLVED:

- 1.1 The Committee accepted the proposals outlined in the Financial Implications part of the report in order to meet key legal and regulatory requirements.**
- 1.2 The Committee approved the expenditure proposals outlined in the report following approval by Housing and Community Services Committee on 16 November 2023**
- 1.3 The Committee delegated authority to the Strategic Director (Service Delivery) to procure the software and surveys recommended in the report, using an approved procurement option.**

FM/70 **COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) presented the report.

RESOLVED:

- 1.1 The Committee considered and approved the updated work programme.**

FM/71 **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 Finance and Management Committee held on the 27 April 2023, 08 June 2023, 20 July 2023, 24 August 2023 and 05 October 2023 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.

LAND AT ALBERT VILLAGE

RESOLVED:

The Committee approved the recommendations in the report.

PREMISES IN SWADLINCOTE

RESOLVED:

The Committee approved the recommendations in the report.

PENSION STRAIN CONTRIBUTION – FLEXIBLE RETIREMENT REQUEST

RESOLVED:

The Committee approved the recommendations in the report.

BETTER CARE FUNDING ALLOCATION – FINANCIAL POSITION

RESOLVED:

The Committee approved the recommendations in the report.

LONG TERM LEASE OF PHILIP RICHARDSON MEMORIAL FIELD TO NETHERSEAL PARISH COUNCIL

RESOLVED:

The Committee approved the recommendations in the report.

TRANSFER OF SPORTS PAVILION TO WILLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

RESOLVED:

The Committee approved the recommendations in the report.

The meeting terminated at 18:55 hours.

COUNCILLOR R PEARSON

CHAIR