

FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (SPECIAL BUDGETARY)

9<sup>th</sup> January 2020

**PRESENT:**

**Conservative Group**

Councillor Watson (Chairman), Fitzpatrick (Vice-Chairman) and Councillors, Angliss, Mrs Bridgen (substituting for Cllr Mrs Brown), Ford, MacPherson, Roberts and Cllr Mrs Wheelton (substituting for Cllr Billings)

**Labour Group**

Councillors Dr Pearson, Rhind, Richards, Southerd and Taylor.

FM/99 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillor Billing, Mrs. Brown

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Councillors Atkin and Hewlett

FM/100 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Committee was informed no declarations of interest from Members of the Committee had been received.

FM/101 **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO 10**

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

FM/102 **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/103 **REPORTS OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

The Committee was informed there were no reports from Overview and Scrutiny.

**MATTERS DELEGATED TO COMMITTEE**

FM/104 **SERVICE BASE BUDGETS 2020-21**

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) presented the report to the Committee outlining the Committee's proposed base budget for 2020/21. The Committee was informed that it was proposed that the estimated income and expenditure was to be included in the consolidated budget of the Council for 2020/21 subject to the Council's overall medium-term financial position, which would be subject to a separate report on the Agenda.

The Committee was informed how the report set out proposals for the level of fees and charges under the responsibility of the Committee for the next financial year, 2020/21.

The Committee considered the report and supported the officer's recommendations.

**RESOLVED:**

- 1.1 The proposed revenue income and expenditure for 2020/21 as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, for the Committee's Services were approved for inclusion in the consolidated proposals for the General Fund.***
- 1.2 The Committee considered and approved the proposed fees and charges as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report for 2020/21.***
- 1.3 The Committee considered and approved an increase of 2% in contributions to Parish Councils in 2020/21 for Concurrent Functions.***

FM/105 **BUDGET REPORT 2020/21 INCORPORATING THE CONSOLIDATED BUDGET PROPOSALS AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN TO 2025**

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) presented the report to the Committee and summarised the Council's overall financial position following a detailed review of current income and expenditure on the General Fund. It was noted that the report detailed the Council's current spending and proposed base budget position for 2020/21 including proposed spending by Policy Committees.

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) requested that the Committee considered the proposed Council Tax Base for 2020/21, the projected Collection Fund position for 2019/20 and the planned Council Tax levels in 2020/21 and future years. The Committee were asked to consider the overall impact of the proposals on the General Fund's 5-year financial projection.

The Committee considered the report and supported the officer's recommendations.

**RESOLVED:**

- 1.1 The Committee approved the estimates of revenue income and expenditure for 2020/21 for the General Fund.***
- 1.2 The Committee considered and approved an increase of 2% in grants to voluntary bodies and payments to Parish Councils under concurrent functions for 2020/21.***
- 1.3 The Committee approved the Council Tax Base for 2020/21 of 34,474 (equivalent Band D) properties, as detailed in Appendix 3 to the report.***
- 1.4 The Committee approved that an estimated Council Tax Surplus of £800,000 be declared on the Collection Fund for 2019/20 and the Council's proportion of £83,200 be transferred to the General Fund in 2020/21.***
- 1.5 The Committee approved an increase of 1.95% in the rate of Council Tax for 2020/21, to be referred to Council on 26th February 2020.***
- 1.6 The Committee approved the updated 5-year financial projection on the General Fund to March 2025 as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, including associated assumptions and risks as detailed in the report.***
- 1.7 The Committee approved that efficiencies and budget savings continue to be pursued where opportunities arise to sustain the current financial position.***
- 1.8 The Committee approved that the decisions made in recommendations 1.1 to 1.7 are used as the basis for consultation with local residents, businesses, voluntary and community groups, etc. and are subject to review by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.***

FM/106 **COUNCIL TAX PREMIUM ON LONG TERM EMPTY PROPERTIES**

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) presented the report to the Committee and summarised the details regarding discretion given to local billing authorities that allowed the Council Tax Premium on long term empty properties to be increased. The Committee was informed how the discretion was introduced in the Rating (Property in Common Occupation) and Council Tax (Empty Dwellings) Act 2018.

The Committee considered the report and supported the officer's recommendations.

**RESOLVED:**

***The Committee considered and approved to increase the Council Tax Premium to 200% on properties empty for between 5 and 10 years from 1 April 2020.***

FM/107 **COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

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

**RESOLVED:**

***Members considered and approved the updated work programme.***

FM/108 **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 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 11**

The Committee was informed no questions had been received.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH RESTRUCTURE UPDATE**

***The Committee approved the recommendation in the report.***

The meeting terminated at 6:40 pm.

COUNCILLOR P WATSON

CHAIRMAN