

FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

30th July 2020

PRESENT:

Conservative Group

Councillor Watson (Chairman), Angliss (Vice-Chairman) and Councillors, Mrs. Brown, Fitzpatrick, Ford, Roberts, MacPherson and Pegg

Labour Group

Councillors Dr Pearson, Rhind, Southerd, Taylor and Tilley (substituting for Cllr Richards)

FM/32 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Richards

IN ATTENDANCE

Councillors Mrs Wheelton

FM/33 **MINUTES**

The Open Minutes of the Meeting held on 13th February 2020 were taken as read, approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

RESOLVED:-

That the Open Minutes of the following Committee held on 13th February 2020 were approved as a true record:

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Minutes No's</u>
Finance and Management Committee	13.02.20	FM/111 – FM/127

FM/34 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

FM/35 **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/36 **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/37 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/38 FINAL REVENUE BUDGET OUT-TURN 2019-20**

The Head of Finance delivered the Report to the Committee summarising the main areas including Business Rates, Council Tax collections, the Housing Revenue Account, Reserves and the General Fund position.

The Chairman enquired about the Housing Benefit payment and the Head of Finance informed Members that an increased provision had been included

RESOLVED:**1.1 The Committee approved the final outturn position for:**

- *The General Fund Revenue Account 2019/20*
- *The Housing Revenue Account 2019/20*
- *The Collection Fund 2019/20*
- *The Balance of Reserves at 31st March 2020.*

1.2 The Committee noted that a net appropriation of £2,760,376 in 2019/20 was made from the General Fund Reserve to other Earmarked Reserves and a net appropriation of £110,566 was made from the HRA General Reserve to Earmarked Reserves as detailed in the report.**1.3 The Committee noted that the following contributions and adjustments had been made to Bad Debt and Appeal Provisions in 2019/20:**

Sundry Debtors	69,873	General Fund
Temporary Accommodation	-1,676	General Fund
Housing Benefit Overpayments	28,036	General Fund
Council Tax Arrears	-73,562	General Fund
Business Rates Arrears	-112,808	General Fund
Business Rates Appeals	-294,542	General Fund
Planning Appeals	19,500	General Fund
Housing Rent Arrears	117,827	HRA

FM/39 FINAL CAPITAL OUT-TURN 2019-20

The Head of Finance presented the report to the Committee noting the only change since the last report was to the Housing Revenue Account reserves.

RESOLVED:

- 1.1 *The Committee approved the final Capital outturn position for both the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account (HRA).***
- 1.2 *The Committee approved the final balance on Capital Reserves for 2019/20.***

FM/40 TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2019-20

The Head of Finance delivered the report to the Committee providing an update regarding the Counter Party List and the impact of Covid-19, nationally.

RESOLVED:

- 1.1 *The Committee approved the Treasury Management Annual Report for 2019/20.***
- 1.2 *The Committee noted the Prudential Indicators and Limits for 2020/21 to 2024/25 as approved in February 2020.***
- 1.3 *The Committee approved the updated counterparty (lending) list as at 4th June 2020.***

FM/41 VALUE FOR MONEY STATEMENT 2019-20

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) delivered the Report and informed the Committee how the report related to a new statement for the Committee to consider as part of the new CIPFA Financial Management Code, containing 17 standards. Members were advised that the Code would be applicable from April 2021, but whilst it would not be mandatory it was envisaged that most local authorities would implement it to show compliance and demonstrate best practice regarding financial management. The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) informed Members that the Value for Money Statement intended to demonstrate that systems and processes would be in place to deliver value for money.

Members raised queries about how the Council already delivered value for money, how the value for money would be tested. The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) informed Members that the Council had a duty under legislation to deliver value for money and explained that the statement would be a way to demonstrate how it underpins everything the Council undertakes. The Committee was informed that a new value for money test would need to be explicitly demonstrated in any proposal put forward by officers.

RESOLVED:

- 1.1 *The Committee considered and approved for publication the Council's Value for Money Statement for 2019/20.***

FM/42 CORPORATE ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN 2020-2024

The Head of Corporate Property presented an overview of the report to the Committee requesting approval for a new asset management plan to ensure the Council's assets remained fit for purpose and were managed efficiently. The Head of Corporate Property explained how the plan aligned with the Corporate Plan and how environmental initiatives would be embedded into property management going forward.

The Committee raised a query regarding the impact of Covid-19 regarding revenue and concern over disposal and acquisition of assets. The Head of Corporate Property informed Members that Business Grants had been supporting businesses during this period and to date there were no voids amongst the Council's portfolios due to Covid-19. The Head of Corporate Property explained that the cycle of buying and selling property was to ensure that assets were fit for purpose and only disposing of those assets that were unused, underused and that acquisitions made directly aligned with the Corporate and Asset Management Plans, and receipts from disposals were reinvested into the improvement of facilities.

RESOLVED:

Approval was granted by the Committee for the updated Corporate Asset Management Plan for 2020-2024.

FM/43 ANNUAL HEALTH & SAFETY REPORT 2019-20 AND ACTION

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) delivered the annual report to the Committee noting the work carried out by the Health and Safety Officer to ensure that the Council delivered services in a safe and proper manner. The Committee's attention was drawn to accidents and near misses detailed within the report and how lessons learned were used to manage future risks. of accidents. The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) asked the Committee to approve the action plan laid out in the report.

Committee raised a query regarding the health and safety performance of Novus, the Council's Housing Maintenance Contractor. The Strategic Director (Corporate Resource) informed Members that as part of contract management arrangements the Council received quarterly reports, including Health and Safety incidents from Novus.

RESOLVED:

- 1.1** *The Committee noted the key health and safety achievements and performance for the year ending 31 March 2020.*
- 1.2** *The Committee approved the Health and Safety Action Plan for 2020/21 as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report.*

FM/44 **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/45 **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.

EXEMPT MINUTES

Resolved:

The Exempt Minutes of the Finance and Management Committee held on 13th February 2020 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

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

The Committee was informed no questions had been received.

The meeting terminated at 7:05 pm.

COUNCILLOR P WATSON

CHAIRMAN