

FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

24 November 2022

PRESENT:

Labour Group

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

Conservative Group

Councillors Dawson, Fitzpatrick, Ford, Lemmon, Smith and Watson

In Attendance

Councillor Wheelton
Councillor Bambrick

FM/66 **APOLOGIES**

The Committee was informed that apologies had been received from Councillor Tilley (Labour Group), and Councillor Churchill (Non-Grouped)

FM/67 **TO RECEIVE THE OPEN MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS:**

The Open Minutes of meeting held on 13 January 2022 were noted and approved as true record and signed by the Chair.

FM/68 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

FM/69 **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/70 **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/71 **REPORTS OF OVERVIEW SCRUTINY**

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

FM/72 **CORPORATE PLAN 2020-24: PERFORMANCE REPORT (2022-2023 QUARTER 2– (1 APRIL TO 30 SEPTEMBER))**

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) presented the report to the Committee and noted that all indicators were on track, sickness absence was falling and the number of Modern Apprenticeships was moving into double figures. The Committee was informed that commercialisation was the only red indicator which should be shared across all of the Council and that it was progressing as much as possible with the current resources.

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/73 **REVENUE FINANCIAL MONITORING 2022/23**

The Head of Finance presented the report to the Committee and noted that the pay award had not created a deficit but had changed the amount of reserves that would not have an immediate impact but could do so over the long term.

Members raised a query regarding agency costs.

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) informed the Committee that a report regarding agency costs was going Overview and Scrutiny Committee in January 2023.

RESOLVED:

- 1.1 The Committee considered and approved the latest revenue financial position for 2022/23 as detailed in the report.***
- 1.2 The Committee considered and approved the updated Medium Term Financial Plan.***

FM/74 **HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT REVENUE FINANCIAL MONITORING 2022-23**

The Head of Finance delivered the report highlighting the options appraisal and noting the impact of the pay award. The Committee was informed that variances to budget included the loss of rent due to voids that was expected to be in the region of £400K.

Members discussed the issue of voids and the related loss rental income and the need for the issue to be addressed as soon as possible and therefore proposed that it should be taken up by Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed that the Committee would take up the issue.

The Chief Executive advised the Committee that a report regarding voids would be presented to Overview and Scrutiny.

Councillor Southerd sought clarification regarding the moving of Careline to digital from analogue and if that meant a move from landline.

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) informed the Committee that the question would be referred to an officer for a technical response.

RESOLVED:

- 1.1 The Committee considered and approved the latest revenue financial position for 2022/23 as detailed in the report.***
- 1.2 The Committee approved that at an additional £23,000 costs for an options appraisal of Smallthorn Place in the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP).***

FM/75 **COLLECTION FUND 2022-23**

The Head of Finance presented the report to the Committee and summarised the key points noting that all was on track and on budget

RESOLVED:

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

FM/76 **CAPITAL FINANCIAL MONITORING 2022/23**

The Head of Finance addressed the Committee and presented the second quarter report noting that all was progressing as expected and that the Section 106 Agreement funded project options for spending were being appraised.

Members supported the report and looked forward to an update following the Section 106 Agreement spending appraisal.

RESOLVED:

- 1.1 The Committee considered and approved the latest capital financial position for 2022/23 as detailed in the report.***
- 1.2 The Committee noted that the balance of Section 106 Agreement Funding available for use by the Council for capital projects, as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report.***

FM/77 **TREASURY MANAGEMENT UPDATE 2022-23**

The Head of Finance delivered the report noting the good news on investments there were gaining with 3.5% interest on the Council's loans and informed the Committee that the Thurrock Council's loans would be repaid.

The Chair of the Committee noted the importance of the Thurrock Council finance reports and that the level of scrutiny was key for South Derbyshire District Council.

Councillor Wheelton sought clarity regarding loans with other councils

The Head of Finance confirmed that deposits with any local authority, were very low risk.

RESOLVED:

- 1.1 The Committee considered and approved the latest Treasury Management Update for quarter 2 2022/23 as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.***
- 1.2 The Committee approved the updated Counterparty List for investments and bank deposits as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report.***

FM/78 **A REVIEW OF SPECIFIC AND EARMARKED RESERVES**

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) presented the report to the Committee and noted the level of earmarked reserves that had been reported in a lot of detail which had never been reported before. The external funding and external investment spending reserves highlighted along with reserves where resources had been set aside awaiting the potential recall of underspent government funding. Members were asked to consider the request to that the level of reserves be kept under review until January 2023.

Members supported the recommendations to hold back on reserves and sought clarity regarding the financial settlement from the government.

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) confirmed that the government's financial settlement was expected during the week leading up to the Christmas period.

RESOLVED:

- 1.1 The Committee considered the Council's Specific and Earmarked Reserves and approved the recommendations regarding the potential reallocation and future utilisation regarding certain reserves as highlighted in Appendix 1 to the report.***

1.2 The Committee approved the level of Reserves to be kept under review pending the 2023/24 Budget Round and the impact on the Council's Medium-Term Financial Plan.

FM/79 **ANNUAL HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT 2021-22 AND ACTION PLAN 2022-23**

The Head of Organisational Development and Performance presented the report and sought approval for the action plan and acknowledgement of the work undertaken. The Committee was reminded how the landscape changed in March 2020 and how work had been put on hold in response to the pandemic.

The Head of Organisational Development and Performance summarised work undertaken during Covid including control measures for those attending the office, delivery of services and training, inspections and audits undertaken.

It was noted that there had been a reduction in RIDDOR and that any actions had been undertaken.

Members raised queries regarding support in relation to mental health and wellbeing and training.

The Committee was informed by the Head of Organisational Development and Performance that there were a number of male and female mental health 1st aiders across the Council supporting staff that the platforms for the delivery of training were being reviewed and advised that line managers were informed of non-attendance at mandatory training.

Members raised the importance of reporting near misses and how it should be actively encouraged.

Councillor Richards raised the issue regarding residents needing access to the building and what additional protection was required for reception staff.

RESOLVED:

1.1 The Committee noted the key health and safety achievements and performance for the year ending 31 March 2022.

1.2 The Committee approved the Health and Safety Action Plan for 2022/23 as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report.

FM/80 **COMMENTS, COMPLIMENTS, COMPLAINTS AND FOI REQUESTS: APRIL 2022 TO SEPTEMBER 2022**

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) presented the report to the Committee and noted the increase of compliments and the reduction in complaints received, it was further noted that there was a slight increase in Freedom of Information requests submitted.

RESOLVED:

- 1.1 The Committee noted and approved the comments, compliments, complaints, and Freedom of Information requests, as detailed in the report.***

FM/81 APPOINTMENT OF A RECRUITMENT AND SELECTION PANEL

The Chief Executive presented the report to the Committee noting its similarity to the report for the Strategic Director (Service Delivery). It was explained that due to the current political balance the total number of Members would be 6 along with Leading Officers and that the nominations would be confirmed by the Leader of the Council following consultation with group leaders.

RESOLVED:

- 1.1 The Committee approved that the appointment and recruitment into the post of Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) (SM02) be delegated to a panel of Six (6) Members from the Committee along with the Chair or Vice Chair of the employing Committee in accordance with the Appointment Procedure for the Chief Executive and Directors.***
- 1.2 The Committee confirmed that nominations for the Panel that reflected the current political balance of the Council would be confirmed by the Leader of the Council.***
- 1.3 The Committee approved that final arrangements regarding the recruitment and selection procedure to be followed including timescales, along with determining the selection process for the final appointment, to be agreed between the Chief Executive and Elected Members of the Panel.***
- 1.4 The Committee approved that the Chief Executive appoints an external recruitment partner to support the recruitment process in line with the Council's Financial Procedures rules.***

FM/82 D2N2 FUNDING PROGRAMME FOR A PILOT HYDROGEN FUELLED WASTE COLLECTION SERVICE – AMENDED RECOMMENDATION.

The Head of Environmental Services presented the report noting a change in location from that which was previously approved by the committee.

As Chair of Environmental and Community Services Committee Councillor Taylor endorsed the report that had been discussed and approved at the Environmental and Community Services Committee.

Councillor Fitzpatrick raised a query in relation to scuffing.

The Head of Environmental Services advised the Committee that the technical information would be sought and shared with Members.

Councillor Taylor and Councillor Wheelton requested that if available, could information from other local authorities such as Glasgow City Council that had experience of using hydrogen vehicles be made available.

RESOLVED:

1.1 The Committee accepted the amended terms of the D2N2 Future Funding Programmes Grant.

FM/83 **COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) presented the updated work programme to the Committee.

RESOLVED:

The Committee considered and approved the updated work programme.

FM/84 **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 13 January 2022 were received.

Exempt questions rule 11

The Committee was informed no questions had been received.

CUSTOMER SERVICES REVIEW OF STRUCTURE – GRADING OF POSTS

RESOLVED:

The Committee approved the recommendations in the report.

COMMERCIALISATION RESTRUCTURE OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

RESOLVED:

The Committee approved the recommendations in the report.

SHARED PROSPERITY FUND

RESOLVED:

The Committee approved the recommendations in the report.

REVIEW OF PLANNING SERVICE STRUCTURE

RESOLVED:

The Committee approved the recommendations in the report.

**DELETION OF QUANTITY SURVEYOR POST CREATION OF FINANCE
AND CONTRACTS OFFICER**

RESOLVED:

The Committee approved the recommendations in the report.

The meeting terminated at 19:15 hours

COUNCILLOR R PEARSON

CHAIR