

FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

25 August 2022

PRESENT:

Labour Group

Councillor Pearson (Chair), Councillor Rhind (Vice-Chair) and Councillors M. Mulgrew, Richards and Taylor.

Conservative Group

Councillors, Bridgen, Dawson, Fitzpatrick, Ford, Haines and Lemmon

Independent Group

Councillors MacPherson

Non-Grouped

Councillor Churchill

In Attendance

Councillor L Mulgrew
Councillor Smith
Councillor Wheelton

FM/32 **APOLOGIES**

The Committee was informed that apologies had been received from Councillor Southerd (Labour Group).and Councillor Ackroyd and Councillor Corbin (Conservative Group).

FM/33 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Committee was informed that Councillor Ford declared a personal interest in relation to FM/48 by virtue of being a County Councillor.

FM/34 **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/35 **QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO 11**

The Committee was informed that Councillor Richards raised the following question:

“I would ask the Chief Executive to advise Members of the Committee as to the present position regarding the recruitment of the Strategic Director (Service

Delivery), including the Members who will sit on the Sub-Committee regarding the appointment of the new Director.”

The Chief Executive informed the Committee that the position had been advertised and that there had been a number of potential applicants that had expressed an interest in the position. It was further confirmed that the recruitment process would be shared once potential candidates had been selected. It was also noted that the recommendation for the panel was to include the Chairs from Finance and Management, Housing and Community Services and Environmental and Development Committees.

Councillor Ford and Councillor Fitzpatrick sought further clarity following the confusion in relation to political proportionality at the previous Finance and Management Committee meeting.

Following further discussions in relation to the panel Members it was agreed that the Chief Executive would clarify the HR advice regarding the numbers and panel configuration and the Leader of the Council would consult with the Leaders of each political group.

FM/36 **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/37 **CORPORATE PLAN 2020-24: PERFORMANCE REPORT (2022-2023 QUARTER 1 – (1 APRIL TO 30 JUNE))**

Head of Organisational Development and Performance presented the report to the Committee and noted that 71% of objectives of the Corporate Plan were on track and that out of the 11 measures for the Committee 2 were red which were commercialisation and operational services. The Head of Organisational Development and Performance highlighted key areas within the report which included in the increase in apprenticeships in the Council and the risk register.

Members raised queries regarding the priority of commercialisation and residents being able to contact customer services.

The Head of Organisational Development and Performance Committee advised that a report would be brought to the Committee regarding the proposals for commercialisation of services and clarified that whilst social media use to contact the Council was increasing this was alongside traditional means of contact.

The Chief Executive addressed the committee and confirmed that commercialisation would be included as a priority in the advertisement for the Strategic Director (Service Delivery).

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/38 REVENUE FINANCIAL MONITORING 2022-23

The Head of Finance presented the report to the Committee explained that the deficit increase was due to the 2022/23 pay award. It was noted that agency costs were being offset by salary savings and vacancies and that the increase in fuel costs for older vehicles had been offset by increased income.

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 an additional £16,399 be set-aside as a provision in the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) due to the delay in the implementation of the Route Optimisation Project.

1.3 The Committee approved the additional costs of £216,887 to finance the 2021/22 pay award in the Medium-Term Financial Plan.

1.4 The Committee approved the increase to the provision of £135,454 for the 2022/23 pay award in the Medium-Term Financial Plan.

FM/39 COLLECTION FUND 2022-23

The Head of Finance presented the report the Committing noting that the tax base increase would mean a year-end surplus for Business Rates for 2022/23.

RESOLVED:

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

FM/40 HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT REVENUE FINANCIAL MONITORING 2022-23

The Head of Finance delivered the report outlining the updated financial plan's main variants of salaries and vacant posts, rent income that had been impacted by voids and rent rebates from the previous year. It was explained that the rent rebates had been subject to an Audit by the rent regulator that had discovered an error with the calculation of rents that had affected 80 properties, it was further noted the 26 out of 28 councils had been affected by a similar error.

RESOLVED:

The Committee considered and approved the latest revenue financial position for 2022/23 as detailed in the report.

FM/41 **CAPITAL FINANCIAL MONITORING 2022-23**

The Head of Finance presented the report to the Committee noting that schemes were progressing and on track for completion by the yearend.

Councillor Fitzpatrick sought clarity regarding Community Grants.

The Head of Finance confirmed that there were funds still available.

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 the balance of Section 106 Agreement funding available for use by the Council for capital projects as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report.

FM/42 **TREASURY MANAGEMENT UPDATE 2022-23**

The Head of Finance delivered the report to the Committee and explained that due to the increase in interest rates more income had been generated due to a good return on dividend loans.

Councillor MacPherson commended the report.

1.1 The Committee considered and approved the latest Treasury Management Update for quarter 1 2022/23 as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report.

1.2 The Committee approved the updated Counterparty List for investments and bank deposits as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report.

FM/43 **TRANSFORMATION AND BUSINESS CHANGE**

The Head of Business Change and ICT presented the report to the Committee outlining the continuation of work that supported the delivery of the Corporate Plan. The Committee was informed that following Covid, 4 key projects had been identified which were, planning system improvement, modernisation of the housing systems, an improvement programme for the depot and customer access to the Council.

Members raised queries regarding data storage and potential cyber-attacks, the timeframe for and impact on the Planning team's workload in relation to the improvements to the Planning system.

The Head of Business Change and ICT confirmed that during the last few years cyber-attacks had increased but that the Council had in place software that had repelled these attack and it was noted that there were data storage boxes off site and there was cloud back up in place for the servers. The Committee was informed that it was expected that the improvements would take in the region of 6 months and that the work commitments of the planning team would be considered.

RESOLVED:

The Committee considered progress as set out in the Transformation and Business Change Plan 2020 to 2024 and agreed the annual work programme 2022-23 following the mid-term review.

FM/44 **FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS AN ACTIVE SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP PE & SCHOOL SPORT APPRENTICE THROUGH AMBER VALLEY SCHOOL SPORT PARTNERSHIP (AVSSP)**

The Head of Cultural and Community Services addressed the Committee and outlined the main points of the report that had been approved by the Housing and Community Services Committee. It was noted that the role would be split between South Derbyshire District Council and Amber Valley Borough Council with half a day attendance at college.

RESOLVED:

1.1 The Committee approved a financial contribution set out in section 4 of the report, towards funding a PE and School Sport Apprentice post to be employed directly by the Amber Valley School Sports Partnership (AVSSP).

1.2 The Committee approved the recruitment of further PE and School Sport Apprentices through any appropriate partner moving forward, subject to service demand.

FM/45 **COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

The Strategic Director (Service Delivery) presented the report to the Committee.

RESOLVED:

The Committee considered and approved the updated work programme.

FM/46 **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.

BETTER CARE FUNDING ALLOCATION – FINANCIAL POSITION

The Committee approved the recommendations in the report.

CUSTOMER SERVICES UPDATE AND REVIEW OF STRUCTURE

The Committee approved the recommendations in the report.

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SALE OF TICKETS AND OTHER PRODUCTS

The Committee approved the recommendations in the report.

INSURANCE PROVISION: CONTRACT RENEWAL 2022 to 2027

The Committee approved the recommendations in the report.

STATUTORY MONITORING OFFICER – RESOURCING

The Committee approved the recommendations in the report.

The meeting terminated at 19:35 hours

COUNCILLOR R PEARSON

CHAIR