

FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

22nd July 2021

PRESENT:

Labour Group

Councillor Pearson (Chair), Councillor Tilley (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Mulgrew (substituting for Councillor Rhind), Richards, Singh, Southerd and Taylor

Conservative Group

Councillors Ackroyd, Bridgen, Lemmon, Redfern and Watson

Independent Group

Councillor Fitzpatrick

FM/17 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Rhind.

FM/18 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

FM/19 **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/20 **QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO 11**

The Committee was informed a question had been received from

FM/21 **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/22 **TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21**

The Head of Finance presented the Report to the Committee summarising the key points and highlighted the Council's strong cash position overall despite Covid-19 and Brexit. It was explained that money had been set aside each year to cover the Housing Revenue Account borrowing to be paid back.

RESOLVED:

- 1.1 *The Committee approved the Treasury Management Annual Report for 2020/21.***
- 1.2 *The Committee noted the Prudential Indicators and Limits for 2021/22 to 2025/26 as approved in February 2021.***
- 1.3 *The Committee approved the updated counterparty (lending) list as at 31st March 2021.***

FM/23 **FINAL CAPITAL OUTTURN 2020-21**

The Head of Finance presented the Report to the Committee and gave an overview of the General Fund and the Housing Revenue Account. Members were informed that the Capital Reserves, which included Section 106 Agreement Funding would be carried forward into future years and that there were lots of projects in the pipeline.

Councillor Fitzpatrick raised concern regarding the underspend of Section 106 Agreement Funding. The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) informed the Committee that a restructure had ensured that an officer would be in place to oversee the allocation of Section 106 Agreement Funding and that a new Head of Service had been appointed who had experience of delivering capital projects.

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 2020/21.***

FM/24 **FINAL REVENUE BUDGET OUTTURN 2020-21**

The Head of Finance delivered the Report to the Committee summarising the General Fund reserves, surplus and variances compared to the Budget. The Head of Finance noted that the Housing Revenue Account also showed a favourable position and informed the Committee that the spend of the Covid Pandemic Funding from Government would be reported to the Committee on a quarterly basis.

RESOLVED:

- 1.1 *The Committee approved the final outturn position for:***
 - *The General Fund Revenue Account 2020/21***

- ***The Housing Revenue Account 2020/21***
- ***The Collection Fund 2020/21***
- ***The Balance of Reserves as at 31 March 2021.***

1.1 *The Committee approved that the net appropriation of £5,081,382 in 2020/21 be made from the General Fund Reserve to other Earmarked Reserves and a net appropriation of £150,000 be made from the HRA General Reserve to Earmarked Reserves as detailed in the report.*

1.2 *The Committee noted the following contributions and adjustments that had been made to Bad Debt and Appeal Provisions in 2020/21:*

<i>Sundry Debtors</i>	<i>115,288</i>	<i>General Fund</i>
<i>Temporary Accommodation</i>	<i>8,902</i>	<i>General Fund</i>
<i>Housing Benefit Overpayments</i>	<i>53,374</i>	<i>General Fund</i>
<i>Council Tax Arrears</i>	<i>156,858</i>	<i>General Fund</i>
<i>Business Rates Arrears</i>	<i>234,102</i>	<i>General Fund</i>
<i>Business Rates Appeals</i>	<i>319,560</i>	<i>General Fund</i>
<i>Redundancy Provision</i>	<i>63,460</i>	<i>HRA</i>
<i>Redundancy Provision</i>	<i>3,000</i>	<i>General Fund</i>
<i>Planning Appeals</i>	<i>-15,000</i>	<i>General Fund</i>
<i>Housing Rent Arrears</i>	<i>64,501</i>	<i>HRA</i>

FM/25 CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) FINANCIAL IMPACT - UPDATE

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) presented the report to the Committee which contained information regarding support given to businesses and residents since March 2020 including additional help with Council Tax for vulnerable residents. The Committee was informed that extra funding for Business Grants was expected but the amount was still to be confirmed and that there would be other funds available to encourage people back into town centres.

The Chief Executive addressed the Committee advising that due to Covid-19 unemployment nationally had risen to over 6% but locally it was at 3.6% and that South Derbyshire District Council had worked hard to keep local unemployment as low as possible.

Members welcomed the good news regarding additional funding and enquired about how it would be publicised to encourage a greater take up. The Strategic Director informed the Committee that it had been publicised and would be again and agreed to email Members giving them information regarding the application process and applicable criteria for the Discretionary Community Fund.

RESOLVED:

The Committee approved the financial impact of Covid-19 and deployment of Government Funding as detailed in the report.

FM/26 **CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S DIRECTORATE SERVICE PLAN 2021-22**

The Chief Executive presented the report to the Committee and outlined the clarification provided on certain indicators following the previous Committee. The Chief Executive explained how the Covid-19 pandemic had impacted on all departments within the Council, including Economy and Growth.

At the request of Councillor Tilley, it was agreed by the Chief Executive that a report regarding outturns would be brought to the Committee.

RESOLVED:

The Committee noted the clarification provided.

FM/27 **SOCIAL MOBILITY UPDATE**

The Chief Executive presented the updated Report to the Committee outlining the additional information and highlighting the emerging focus on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on younger people and children for which further support would be needed in the future.

The Chair thanked the Head of Economic Development and Growth and the Chief Executive for the report

Councillor Tilley raised a query regarding destination data. The Chief Executive explained that destination data now only included leaving data when going into employment

RESOLVED:

The Committee noted the update provided.

FM/28 **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/29 **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.

VISITOR INFORMATION PROPOSALS

The Committee approved the recommendation in the report.

REGRADE OF POSTS – LICENSING OFFICERS (ENFORCEMENT)

The Committee approved the recommendation in the report.

FUTURE SERVICE DELIVERY AND EMPLOYMENT MODELS

The Committee approved the recommendation in the report.

The meeting terminated at 19:30 hours.

COUNCILLOR PEARSON

CHAIR