

FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

13th January 2022

PRESENT:

Labour Group

Councillor Tilley (Vice-Chair) and
Councillors Heath, Mulgrew, Rhind, Richards, Southerd and Taylor.

Conservative Group

Councillors, Bridgen, Brown, Haines, Redfern, and Watson.

Independent Group

Councillor Fitzpatrick.

In Attendance

Councillor Wheelton (Non-Grouped)

FM/111 **APOLOGIES**

The Committee was informed that apologies had been received from Councillor Pearson and Councillor Singh (Labour Group) Councillor Ackroyd and Councillor Lemmon (Conservative Group)

FM/112 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

FM/113 **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/114 **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/115 **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/116 SERVICE BASED BUDGETS 2022-23**

The Head of Finance presented the report to the Committee and highlighted the proposed fees and charges, including land charges, the service pressures due to the unexpected pay increase and the service areas year on year budget increase. The Head of Finance drew attention to the proposed 2% grant increase approved by Housing and Community Services Committee.

RESOLVED:

- 1.1 That the proposed revenue income and expenditure for 2022/23 as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report for the Committee's Services were considered by the Committee and to be included in the consolidated proposals for the General Fund.***
- 1.2 The Committee considered and approved the proposed fees and charges for 2022/23 as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report.***
- 1.3 The Committee gave consideration to the level of any increase in contributions to Parish Councils in 2022/23 for Concurrent Functions and approved a 2% increase.***

FM/117 COUNCIL TAX BASE AND SURPLUS 2022-23

The Head of Finance presented the report to the Committee and highlighted the collection fund, the tax base and the £2 million surplus due to the increase in the number of properties.

RESOLVED:

- 1.1 The Committee approved the Council Tax Base for 2022/23 of 36,702 (equivalent Band D) properties as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report.***
- 1.2 The Committee approved that A Council Tax Surplus of £2,000,000 for 2021/22 be declared on the Collection Fund and that the Council's proportion of £204,767 be transferred to the General Fund in 2022/23***

FM/118 CONSULTING ON REVISED LOCAL COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME 2022-2023: PROGRESS UPDATE

The Head of Customer Services presented the report to the Committee and highlighted the main points within the report. It was noted that the proposed changes made it easier for residents to apply and gave more support for lower income households whilst offering financial stability. It was further noted that the streamlined process would reduce debt recovery. The Head of Customer Services mentioned the wide consultation undertaken and explained that a number of responses were received by telephone but were not formally registered views and noted that whilst it would be good for the community the

impact of the changes would be monitored. The introduction of a proposed Hardship Fund and the next steps were outlined.

Members commended the report and looked forward to the next report in February. Members highlighted the importance of encouraging residents to respond to consultation.

RESOLVED:

1.1 The Committee noted the consultation activity carried out to date in relation to the proposed changes to South Derbyshire's Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme.

1.2 The Committee noted the views provided so far as part of the public consultation.

1.3 The Committee noted that a full report would be presented to Finance and Management Committee on 10 February 2022.

FM/119 **ANNUAL TRAINING REPORT 2020-21**

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) introduced the new annual report and highlighted the investment in training on the job, the availability of skilled qualifications for staff and how staff were encouraged to attend training. The ongoing investment in the Kick Start programme and the increase in the number of Modern apprenticeships were highlighted.

Members sought clarity regarding mandatory training for staff and Members and enquired about the opportunity for staff to undertake professional qualifications and what different platforms were used to deliver training.

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) explained that mandatory training was compulsory and should be undertaken by all members of staff and that Members were encouraged to also attend compulsory training such as Health and Safety.

The Chief Executive clarified that Members of Committees such as Planning and Licensing and Appeals etc. had to undertake the necessary training to ensure they had a competent skills set to and confirmed that the Council had a duty of care to ensure that both staff and Members had an understanding of Health and Safety policies and procedures. The Chief Executive further noted that the opportunity to gain professional qualifications was available to staff and that a variety of platforms were used to delivery training.

RESOLVED:

1.1 The Committee supported the priority areas for training and development that had been undertaken during 2021/22, which were linked to the delivery of the key priorities of the Council's Corporate Plan.

1.2 That Members noted the investment and outcomes made in learning and development activities during 2020/21.

1.3 The Committee approved that the Council would continue to provide employment opportunities under the national Modern Apprenticeships Scheme and the Kickstart programme

FM/120 **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/121 **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.

FUTURE SERVICE DELIVERY AND EMPLOYMENT MODELS UPDATE

The Committee approved the recommendations in the report.

The meeting terminated at 19:50 hours.

COUNCILLOR N TILLEY

VICE-CHAIR