

FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

29th April 2021

PRESENT:

Labour Group

Councillor Pearson (Chairman), Councillor Pegg (Vice-Chairman)
Councillors Rhind, Richards, Southerd and Taylor

Conservative Group

Councillors Brown, Churchill, Haines (substituting for Councillor Ford)
and Watson

Independent Group

Councillors Angliss and Fitzpatrick

In Attendance

Councillors Bambrick, Tilley and Wheelton.

FM/151 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Ford.

FM/152 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

FM/153 **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/154 **QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL PURSUANT TO COUNCIL
PROCEDURE RULE NO 11**

The Committee was informed no questions from Members had been received.

FM/155 **REPORTS OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

The Committee was informed that no reports of Overview and Scrutiny
Committee had been received.

MATTERS DELEGATED TO COMMITTEEFM/156 **COUNCIL TAX HARDSHIP FUND & SECTION 13A POLICY 2021-22**

The Head of Customer Services presented the Report to the Committee and requested approval for the recommendations within the Report. The Head of Customer Services summarised how the Hardship Fund had been used in 2020 and how the Council intended to support families in 2021

Members requested that ad hoc payments be considered for families when young people were in apprenticeships which would reflect the same consideration given to those in higher education.

RESOLVED:

- 1.1 The Committee approved that the balance on the 2020/2021 Covid Hardship Fund of £141,800.13 be carried forward to the 2021/2022 financial year.***
- 1.2 The Committee approved that £59,093 of the carry forward be used to support new claims from residents in 2021/2022, and that £40,000 be held back to support changes/new claims that date back to 2020/2021.***
- 1.3 The Committee approved the proposals to support residents in 2021/2022 using combined funds (totalling £99,093) through the variety of local Hardship measures as detailed in the report.***
- 1.4 The Committee delegated authority to approve the Section 13A policy that provides the Council with the framework to make the awards/deliver the Council Tax reduction schemes as detailed in the report to the Strategic Director (Corporate Resources).***

FM/157 **DISCRETIONARY HOUSING PAYMENT FUND 2021-22**

The Head of Customer Services presented the Report to the Committee and highlighted the reasons for the transfer of monies from the Council's Covid-19 Fund to the Discretionary Housing Payment Fund. The Head of Customer Services informed Members how the Fund would help vulnerable residents within the District.

RESOLVED:

The Committee approved the sum of £40,000 be transferred from the Council's COVID-19 fund to top up the Council's Discretionary Housing budget for 2021/2022. This was due to the fact that this year's allocation from the Government was 44.7% lower than 2020/2021's allocation, which was fully spent in year to support local residents in need.

FM/158 TRANSFORMATION AND BUSINESS CHANGE PLAN FINANCING AND MILESTONES

The Head of Business Change and ICT presented the Report and updated the Committee on the progress of the Business Change Plan. The Head of Business Change and ICT highlighted key milestones achieved until March 2021 and outlined the Housing Modernisation Programme and the changes proposed regarding the Vacancy Management Process.

Members proposed that Councillor Pegg be appointed as the Committee's Representative on the Transformation Steering Group and that the tablets replaced by laptops be donated to local schools within the District.

Members requested that future reports contain more detail about how the transformation projects deliver benefits for the residents of South Derbyshire.

RESOLVED:

- 1.1 The Committee considered progress as set out in the Transformation and Business Change Plan 2020 to 2024 and Annual Work Programme 2020-21.**
- 1.2 The Committee approved the funding of Business Change and Transformation projects, agreed by the Transformation Steering Group and outlined in the report.**
- 1.3 The Committee approved that the General Fund capital costs associated with implementing new systems be financed from the ICT/Business Change and Transformation Earmarked Reserves.**
- 1.4 The Committee approved that the HRA capital costs associated with implementing the upgrade to the Housing systems be funded from a specific Earmarked Reserve and the HRA General Reserve.**
- 1.5 The Committee approved that on-going license and maintenance costs be funded from within existing budgets in the General Fund as detailed in the report.**
- 1.6 The Committee approved an increase to the HRA revenue expenditure for on-going license and maintenance costs.**
- 1.7 The Committee approved that a fixed term post be recruited to help support the Housing system upgrades and be funded from the HRA General Reserve.**
- 1.8 The Committee approved that the recruitment to vacant posts, in services where investment in transformation was being implemented, be subject to the consideration of the Senior Leadership Team in accordance with the Vacancy Management**

Procedure. Opportunities would be considered on a case by case basis, as they arise.

1.9 The Committee agreed that subsequent efficiencies and budget savings from transformation projects be recorded and reported to Committee as part of quarterly performance reporting.

1.10 The Committee agreed the appointment of Councillor Dan Pegg as the Committee's Representative to sit on the Transformation Steering Group.

1.11 The Committee agreed that following the roll out of Laptops to all Councillors that the tablets being replaced be donated to local authority schools in the District.

FM/159 **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/160 **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.

COLLECTION RATES, DEBT RECOVERY AND WRITE-OFFS

The Committee approved the recommendation in the report.

REVIEW OF PLANNING SERVICES STRUCTURE

The Committee approved the recommendation in the report.

ROSLISTON FORESTRY CENTRE STAFFING

The Committee approved the recommendation in the report.

The meeting terminated at 19:40 hours.

COUNCILLOR PEARSON

CHAIRMAN