

FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

9th July 2020

PRESENT:

Conservative Group

Councillor Watson (Chairman), Angliss (Vice-Chairman) and Councillors, Mrs. Brown, Fitzpatrick, Ford, Mrs, Haines (substituting for Cllr Roberts) MacPherson

Labour Group

Councillors Dr Pearson, Rhind, Richards, Southerd and Taylor.

FM/17 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Roberts

IN ATTENDANCE

Councillors Mrs Wheelton

FM/18 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Committee was informed no declarations of interest from Members of the Committee 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 no questions from Members of the Council had been received.

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 CORPORATE PLAN 2020-24: PERFORMANCE REPORT (2019-2020 QUARTER 4 – 1 JANUARY TO 31 MARCH)**

The Head of Organisational Development and Performance presented the report to the Committee explaining that the Corporate Plan 2020-24 performance was baseline data and the performance data would be reported in the next quarterly report. The Head of Organisational Change gave an overview of the Risk Register highlighting one risk that move from amber to red, within the Strategic Risk Register, due to Covid-19

RESOLVED:

1.1 The Committee considered 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/23 EVALUATION OF CAPITAL PROJECTS

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) delivered the Report to the Committee explaining the need to develop the Council's Capital Evaluation Process to prioritise Capital Resources Bids. The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) informed Members that the Report contained templates that would be used to assess and score such bids, to prioritise those which support the Corporate Plan 2020-24 and pass a value for money test. Lastly, the Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) asked that the Service and Financial Planning Working Group be reconvened, to enable it to consider and score the bids with a report to the Committee later in the year.

Members raised asked for clarity regarding the timescales for bids, terms of reference and membership of the Working Group. The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) advised Members that it was anticipated that a Report for the approval of bids would come back to the 8th October Committee and that the terms of reference would be to 'score and recommend bids for approval'. The membership of the panel was clarified as the Chairman of Finance and Management Committee, the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council and the Leader and Deputy Leader of the opposition group.

RESOLVED:

1.1 The Committee agreed that the prioritisation of new capital expenditure be subject to the Evaluation system as detailed in the report.

1.2 The Committee agreed that the Service and Financial Planning Working Group (SFPWG) is convened to consider bids for capital investment in accordance with the Evaluation system.

1.3 The Committee agreed that the SFPWG submits investment proposals back to this Committee for consideration following the evaluation process

FM/24 **TRANSFORMATION AND BUSINESS CHANGE PLAN 2020 TO 2024**

The Head of Business Change and ICT presented the Report to the Committee which provided a focus and formality to the changes happening and a road map for the future that would sit beside the Corporate Plan. The Head of IT and Business Change requested that a Member of the Committee be nominated to sit on the Transformation Steering Group. The Head of IT and Business Change also highlighted to Members that the budget for the new Booking System had sat within a line for ICT, as it was anticipated that MS Tools would be used for this system but a different supplier had been sourced so the budget line for this had changed and although there was an underspend for licensing applications last year it would be used this year for the Booking System.

Councillor Brown asked for comfort that elderly residents would not be overlooked and would be factored into any decisions as not all have access to IT. The Head of IT and Business Change assured Members that residents were at the heart of decisions made and that whilst there is a move to deliver services using digital technologies it does not mean a complete removal of services this would be done on a case by case basis.

RESOLVED:

1.1 The Committee approved the Transformation and Business Change Plan 2020 to 2024 as detailed in the report.

1.2 The Committee approved the Governance arrangements to monitor implementation and report on progress, as detailed in the report.

1.3 The Committee appointed Councillor Angliss to sit on the Transformation Steering Group.

FM/25 **SPONSORSHIP**

The Chief Executive presented the report to the Committee explaining how the guidance formalised what the Council already undertook but would ensure that when future sponsorship is sought it would be ethical and in line with the Corporate Plan.

Members raised queries regarding future sponsorship from large companies within the District and if there was any known impact of sponsorship considering the current economic projection. The Chief Executive informed the Committee that the Council would welcome sponsorship from large

businesses within the District and that the Council would always seek sponsorship that was proportionate to businesses economic position.

RESOLVED:

The Committee approved the Sponsorship Guidance contained in Appendix A of the report.

FM/26 **COMMENTS, COMPLIMENTS, COMPLAINTS & FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUESTS 01 OCTOBER 2019 TO 31 MARCH 2020**

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) presented an overview of the Report to the Committee, highlighting the links within the report for further information.

RESOLVED:

The Committee considered and noted the comments, compliments, complaints and FOI requests, as detailed in the report.

FM/27 **CORPORATE EQUALITIES ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20**

The Head of Organisational Development and Performance delivered the annual report and highlighted the amount of Safeguarding and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion work carried out across the Council, and requested for the agreement of Members for the areas of work to be divided into 2 workstreams.

Members agreed that this report clearly demonstrated how Safeguarding and Equality Diversity and Inclusion are valued across the whole Council.

RESOLVED:

1.1 The Committee approved the Corporate Equalities and Safeguarding Annual Report for 2019/20 as detailed in Appendix A of the report for publication.

1.2 The Committee agreed that two workstreams be created covering Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and separately for Safeguarding.

1.3 The Committee agreed that a new Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Plan 2020 to 2024 be developed and reported to this Committee in the Autumn.

FM/28 **COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) presented the report to the Committee.

RESOLVED:

Members 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.

REGRAIDING OF POST - SENIOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

The Committee approved the recommendation in the report.

The meeting terminated at 7:05 pm.

COUNCILLOR P WATSON

CHAIRMAN