

FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

26th August 2021

PRESENT:

Labour Group

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

Conservative Group

Councillors Ackroyd, Bridgen, Lemmon, Redfern and Watson.

Independent Group

Councillor Angliss (substituting for Councillor Fitzpatrick).

FM/43 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Fitzpatrick (Independent) and Councillors Richards and Southerd (Labour).

FM/44 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

FM/45 **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/46 **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/47 **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/48 CORPORATE PLAN 2020-24 PERFORMANCE REPORT (2021-2022 QUARTER 1-1 APRIL TO 30 JUNE)**

The Head of Organisational Development and Performance presented the report to the Committee which outlined the status of the 16 measures which the Committee was responsible for. Members were informed that an Internal Audit had led to an updated Risk Management Framework and new Risk Register templates that had been approved by the Audit Sub-Committee. The Head of Organisational Development and Performance noted that updates had been provided for all risks and there was currently no major issues to 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.

1.3 The Committee agreed that the new Risk Register templates be reviewed following approval at the Audit Sub Committee in June 2021 and noted that they will replace the existing Risk Registers.

1.4 The Committee agreed that the Corporate Performance measure for P2.4A be amended from 'South Derbyshire's ranking in the Social Mobility Commission's Social Mobility Index increases' to 'Deliver the objectives identified in the South Derbyshire Partnership Social Mobility Action Plan.'

FM/49 REVENUE FINANCIAL MONITORING 2021-22

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) presented the Report to the Committee outlining the financial position in relation to the in-house delivery of recycling services, staffing through the use of consultants, an increase in planning fees and COVID-19 expenses funded by government grants. The committee was informed that the Housing Revenue Account was currently on budget and although rental income was down in the Housing Revenue Account, Council Tax collection rates were reported as good with a surplus expected on the Collection Fund.

The Chair acknowledged the content of the Report with an observation that although there were some concerns these would be monitored.

RESOLVED:

1.1 The Committee considered and approved the latest revenue financial position for 2021/22 as detailed in the report.

1.2 The Committee agreed that an additional £50,000 per annum be set-aside as a provision in the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) due to changes to the Recycling service.

FM/50 **CAPITAL FINANCIAL MONITORING 2021-22**

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) presented the Report to the Committee highlighting the underspending on projects approved during 2020/21, and the overspend for drainage works at Melbourne Sports Park for which Section 106 funding was being investigated.

Members enquired if there was a project aligned to funding for Swadlincote Woodlands and highlighted disappointment that the Disabled Facilities Grant showed an underspend and the amount of time taken to distribute Section 106 Agreement funding.

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) advised that projects took some time to plan, procure and implement and that a nature reserve had been approved at Swadlincote Woodlands.

The Chair requested a report of progress of individual Section 106 projects. The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) explained that the Appendix to the Report was being added to each time with additional information and suggested that Members highlight specific projects that were to be included in the report in order that more detailed information could be provided separately.

RESOLVED:

1.1 The Committee considered and approved the latest capital financial position for 2021/22 as detailed in the report.

1.2 The Committee approved an increase to the Budget for the Green Homes Grant.

1.3 The Committee noted the balance of S106 available for use by the Council for capital projects as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report.

FM/51 **TREASURY MANAGEMENT UPDATE 2021-22**

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) presented the report to the Committee advising of an interest rate slightly above 0% and that long-term investments in the Property Fund were receiving between 3% and 4% in dividends.

Members enquired if further funds could be considered for the property fund. The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) confirmed that the Finance Team would look into this option.

RESOLVED:

- 1.1 The Committee considered and approved the latest Treasury Management Update for quarter 1 2021/22 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/52

DEVELOPING AND CONSULTING ON REVISED LOCAL COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME 2022-2023

The Head of Customer Services presented the report to the Committee highlighting the inefficiency in the current scheme for both claimants and the Council and that it was no longer aligned to Universal Credit and other Welfare Reforms. . The Committee was informed that three options would be analysed, and results would brought back to Committee in October.

Members enquired which residents and stakeholders would be included in any modelling and requested that any consultation documentation be clear and simple to use.

The Head of Customer Services confirmed that current claimants and council tenants would be included in the modelling process along with partnership groups and that the consultation modules would be made clear.

The Chair observed that detailed results would be interesting and encouraged Members to take a key role in reviewing the results and providing feedback.

RESOLVED:

- 1.1 The Committee approved the proposal to develop a draft revised Local Council Tax Reduction scheme (LCTRS) and acknowledged that the development of the scheme will involve consulting residents and stakeholders on a variety of potential models.***
- 1.2 The Committee approved the various scheme changes/considerations to be included in the consultation models to be brought back to Finance and Management Committee for approval on 7th October 2021 prior to consultation.***
- 1.3 The Committee approved the proposed timeline for the development of the proposed revised LCTRS.***
- 1.4 The Committee approved a maximum spend of £10,000 on support services to develop the proposed LCTRS, to be funded from the Welfare Reform Reserve.***

FM/53 **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/54 **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.

ANNUALISED HOURS CONTRACTS – ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROJECT

The Committee approved the recommendation in the report.

BETTER CARE FUNDING ALLOCATION – FINANCIAL POSITION

The Committee approved the recommendation in the report.

FORMER TENANT WRITE OFF

The Committee approved the recommendation in the report.

CUSTOMER SERVICES PROVISION AT THE CIVIC OFFICES

The Committee approved the recommendation in the report.

COLLECTION RATES, DEBT RECOVERY AND WRITE OFFS (Q1 2021 – 2022)

The Committee approved the recommendation in the report.

PAYROLL SERVICE

The Committee approved the recommendation in the report.

The meeting terminated at 19:40 hours.

COUNCILLOR PEARSON

CHAIR