

FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

2nd July 2020

PRESENT:

Conservative Group

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

Labour Group

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

FM/01 **APOLOGIES**

The Committee was informed that no Apologies had been received

IN ATTENDANCE

Councillors Mrs Wheelton

FM/02 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Ford declared an interest in relation to FM/14, by virtue of being a County Councillor.

FM/03 **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/04 **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/05 **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/06 **CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) FINANCIAL IMPACT**

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) delivered the report to the Committee, summarising how additional funding received from the Government, in relation to Covid-19 had been allocated and shared with a variety of businesses, residents and households within the District. The Head of Finance explained the need for a £100K to be set aside to support local businesses and organisations that will not meet the criteria for Government backed funding.

Councillor Dr Pearson asked what had been put in place to mitigate risks of fraud and misuse of the additional funding. The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) explained that the Council ensured that thorough checks were carried out upfront to ensure that the funding went to the correct businesses and bank accounts.

RESOLVED:

- 1.1 The Committee noted the financial impact of Covid-19 and deployment of Government Funding as detailed in the report.***
- 1.2 The Committee approved criteria and process for utilising the Covid-19 funding allocation as detailed in the report.***
- 1.3 The Committee approved that a Council Tax Discount of up to £300 be awarded to working-age claimants eligible for Local Council Tax Support in 2020/21 and that the cost be funded from the Government's Hardship Fund as detailed in the report.***
- 1.4 The Committee approved that the Council's Section 13(a) Discretionary Policy under the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report, to provide support to households and residents facing significant financial hardship***
- 1.5 The Committee approved that the proposal to review the current Local Council Tax Support Scheme in 2020 be deferred until 2021.***
- 1.6 The Committee agreed that further reports be brought back to the Committee to provide an update on the financial situation and to assess the longer-term impact of Covid-19 as it emerges.***
- 1.7 The Committee agreed that an initial assessment be made to ascertain the impact on the Council's Base Budget and Medium-Term Financial Plans.***

FM/07 **REVENUE FINANCIAL MONITORING 2019/20**

The Head of Finance presented the report giving an overview of the Council's year end position, with the caveat that some areas were to be finalised and would be reported to the Committee in July.

RESOLVED:

The Committee considered and approved the latest revenue financial position for 2019/20 as detailed in the report

FM/08 **CAPITAL FINANCIAL MONITORING / PROVISION OUT-TURN 2019/20**

The Head of Finance presented the report explaining that the report was due to come before the Committee in March but was delayed due to Covid-19. The Head of Finance clarified that very little had changed since the year end position highlighting a slight variation on reserves.

Councillor Mrs. Brown asked for clarity about what the Private Sector Housing budget consisted of. The Head of Finance explained that it relate to the Better Care Fund and includes the Disabled Facilities Grants and other projects which keep people in their own homes and prevent people needing to go into care homes or other facilities.

RESOLVED:

The Committee considered and approved the latest capital financial position for 2019/20 as detailed in the report

FM/09 **TREASURY MANAGEMENT UPDATE 2019/20**

The Head of Finance gave a brief overview of the report explaining that it reflected the position as at the end of April 2020 and summarised the impacts of Covid-19 and Brexit on the District.

RESOLVED:

1.1 The Committee considered and approved the latest Treasury Management Update for quarter 4 2019/20 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/10 **HOMELESSNESS / ROUGH SLEEPING**

The Head of Housing Services presented the report highlighting the need for retrospective approval for a report that went to the Chief Executive regarding the block booking of temporary accommodation to deal with homelessness

during Covid-19 outbreak and sought approval for funding to continue to support those that had been housed during the outbreak.

Councillor Dr Pearson raised concern about the location of the establishment used for temporary accommodation, as it was outside of South Derbyshire. The Head of Housing Services explained that this hotel was chosen as it was within reasonable distance and provided the services needed. The Head of Housing Services asked Members to bear in mind that this would only be a very temporary solution and people were moved as soon as possible.

RESOLVED:

- 1.1 That the Committee retrospectively approved the granting of permission to make a “block booking” of the Three Queens Hotel to be used as temporary accommodation for homeless households affected by the Covid19 outbreak. This is following the Chief Executive’s prior approval under his delegated authority during the suspension of Council and Committee meetings due to the pandemic.***
- 1.2 That the Committee retrospectively noted that the commissioning of this service was subject to an exemption from the Contract Procedure Rules, under Sections 4 and 5***
- 1.3 The Committee agreed that following approval by the Chief Executive and approval of the Housing and Community Services Committee, the financial elements including the required exemption from Contract Procedure Rules be subject to further ratification at the Finance and Management Committee.***
- 1.4 That the Committee approved a contribution of £10,000 from existing Homelessness budgets towards the continued support for households that have been accommodated in temporary accommodation.***

FM/11 **COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

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

RESOLVED:

Members considered and approved the updated work programme.

FM/12 **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.

LAND IN SWADLINCOTE

The Committee approved the recommendation in the report.

DIRECT PROVISION OF DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICES AND ASSOCIATED EXEMPTION FROM CONTRACT PROCEDURE RULES

The Committee approved the recommendation in the report.

STRUCTURAL REVIEW: ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

The Committee approved the recommendation in the report.

The meeting terminated at 7:30 pm.

COUNCILLOR P WATSON

CHAIRMAN