

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

17 January 2024

PRESENT:

Labour Group

Councillor S Bambrick (Chair) and Councillor M Gee (Vice-Chair)
and Councillors A Jones, G Jones and L Mulgrew.

Conservative Group

Councillors N Atkin, A Kirke and D Muller.

In Attendance

Councillor A Tilley
Councillor A Wheelton

OS/28 **APOLOGIES**

The Committee was informed that no apologies had been received.

OS/29 **MINUTES**

The Committee received the minutes of the meetings held on 14 June 2023, 30 August 2023 and 11 October 2023.

OS/30 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ARISING FROM ITEMS ON AGENDA**

The Committee was informed that no Declarations of Interest had been received.

OS/31 **QUESTIONS RECEIVED BY 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.

OS/32 **QUESTIONS RECEIVED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 11**

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

MATTERS DELEGATED TO COMMITTEE**OS/33 CONSOLIDATED DRAFT BUDGET 2024-25 AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN**

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) presented the report to the Committee highlighting the forecast for the General Fund, the Housing Revenue Account and the Capital Programme as presented at Finance and Management Committee on 23 November 2023. A final report would be prepared for the Finance and Management Committee on 15 February 2024 before being presented to Full Council on 28 February 2024.

Members sought clarification on several points in the report including the Council Tax calculations for property bands B and D, had Heads of Service accepted the new incremental budgeting process, an update on business rates retention, timeline for concurrent functions report, was there adequate resourcing to collect Council Tax arrears, the Fleet Replacement Plan, staffing costs and the projected pay award of 4%. Members were concerned that there could be an impact to ear marked reserves in future years due to the reported deficit of £670,000, that Careline funding of £130,000 had ceased to be provided by Derbyshire County Council and whether reserve funds could be taken from the District Council by Central Government.

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) confirmed that the final budget report would include an update on the Council Tax base figures and that budgeting techniques complied with the financial management practices and prescribed best practice code developed in line with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA). The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) confirmed to the Committee that the report indicated the draft position for business rates and that the statutory deadline for setting new rates was the end of January.

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) confirmed to the Committee that there was no concern from the Head of Customer Services regarding staffing levels to cover the collection of Council Tax arrears.

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) informed Members that reserves used to close the budget gap would not be used for recurring expenditure and that the details could be found in Appendix 2 of the report.

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) informed Members that reports for the Fleet Replacement Plan and Concurrent Functions would be presented at future meetings of the Environmental and Development Services and the Finance and Management Committee respectively.

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) noted Members concerns regarding the £350,000 proposed management restructure, the use of reserves for closing the budget gaps and investments in new projects and the withdrawal of Derbyshire County Council funding for Careline.

Councillor Atkin was concerned about improvement costs for Rosliston Forestry Centre and if funding had been included in the budget. Councillor Atkin suggested that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee could look at this work as part of next year's Work Programme.

The Chair noted the suggested project for the Committee.

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) informed Members that Appendix 6 of the report included the budget details for improvements at Rosliston Forestry Centre.

RESOLVED:

1.1 The Committee considered the proposed draft budget and associated information and provided feedback to the Finance and Management Committee.

1.2 The Committee noted the proposals and considered the material.

1.3 The Committee noted the Indicative Assurance Statement provided by the Section 151 Officer.

OS/34 **COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

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

The Chair suggested that Section 106 Funding Agreement for education be included as a report for the Work Programme at a future meeting of the Committee.

RESOLVED:

The Committee considered and approved the updated work programme.

OS/35 **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 would be 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.

OS/36 **EXEMPT QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL UNDER
COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO 11**

The Committee was informed that no exempt questions from Members of the Council had been received.

The Meeting terminated at 18:35 hours.

COUNCILLOR S BAMBRICK

CHAIR