

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

15th January 2020

PRESENT:-

Conservative Group

Councillors Hewlett (Chairman) Brady (Vice-Chairman), Atkin, Corbin and Dawson

Labour Group

Councillors Bambrick, Gee and Mrs Stuart

OS/38 **APOLOGIES**

The Committee was advised that no apologies had been received.

OS/39 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ARISING FROM ITEMS ON AGENDA**

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

OS/40 **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/41 **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.

OS/42 **BUDGET SCRUTINY 2020**

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) delivered a presentation to the Committee outlining the key areas in the proposed budget for 2020/21 and the Medium-Term Financial Plan to 2024. This focused on the projected 5 year spending plan, the New Homes Bonus and Business Rates.

Members raised queries regarding when will the New Homes Bonus run out, procurement of services in relation to value for money and when and how is the procurement service monitored. The Strategic Director informed Committee that the New Homes Bonus is due to be replaced in 2021 and the current Local Plan provides for new housing to around 2030. The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) explained to Members that the Procurement Service is part of a Shared Service Arrangement which is managed by Chesterfield NHS Trust and

the contract is due to end 2021. The Procurement Service is currently monitored on a monthly basis and is reported to Finance and Management Committee on a quarterly basis. Following further discussion with Members it was agreed that the Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) bring back an update to the next Committee regarding the Procurement Service.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee noted the proposed budgets of the Council for 2020/21.

The Committee noted the medium-term financial plans of the General Fund and Housing Revenue Accounts.

OS/43 **IMPLEMENTATION OF UNIVERSAL CREDIT - UPDATE**

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) presented the report to the Committee updating Members that there had been an increase in Council Tenants moving onto Universal Credit. There are still a lot of tenants that remain on Housing Benefit and will not be transferred until the Government decides to migrate existing claimants onto Universal Credit. The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) outlined the impact the roll out of Universal Credit for tenants, the HRA, and on resources in the service area.

Members raised queries regarding the length of time it takes for Universal Credit to be paid and was there anything we could do to shorten the gap. The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) informed the Committee that there was very little the Council could do but there is a welfare group looking at the time it takes to process claims etc. and there has been a lot of lobbying of Government regarding this issue.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee noted the current position and progress in implementing actions for supporting tenants and potential claimants of Universal Credit.

That the Committee noted the impact on resources in Customer Services, Revenues and Benefits, together with planned actions to mitigate the risks associated with changes in working practices.

OS/44 **RECYCLING RATE – HOW CAN IT BE IMPROVED?**

The Head of Operational Services delivered the Report to the Committee and explained that South Derbyshire District Council's recycling and composting performance placed the Council in the top 50% of English Local Authorities. The Head of Operational Services informed the Committee that an appraisal will

need to consider how the Council can meet future recycling targets and compliance with any future legislation. It was clarified that supermarkets are not included in the Council's waste and recycling as they are covered separately by packaging waste regulations. The Head of Operational Services added that the current recycling contract is due to end in 2021 but an option was being considered to obtain an extension until 2023 when the new Environment Bill is expected.

Members raised a number of questions and queries including what does the Council do to reinforce the recycling message, can black bags be recycled, can small business have access to recycling bin collections and how can we reduce the amount of non-recyclable waste?

The Head of Operational Services and the Strategic Director (Service Delivery) informed the Committee that there is a Recycling A to Z on the Council's website with a lot of information and when bins are rejected for incorrect recycling and cross contamination then bins are labelled with the reasons why they have been rejected. The Committee were also informed that black bags cannot be recycled due to the black dye currently used. The Council is considering a number of options to reduce the amount of non-recyclable waste including collecting such waste less often.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee noted and discussed the information contained in this report.

That the Committee endorsed the use of the information contained in the report to inform the future scope of the Council's recycling service beyond the end of the Council's current recycling contract in October 2021.

OS/45 **COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

RESOLVED:

That the Committee considered and approved the updated work programme including Annexe 'A'.

OS/46 **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.

**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 8.00pm.

COUNCILLOR HEWLETT

CHAIRMAN