

Chairman - Councillor E G R Jones

Present (for all or part of the meeting):-

Councillors:

L B Bakker-Collier

A S Harp

I E Davies

J Hood

A T A Godfrey

D B Price

Cabinet Member - Councillor K S Williamson - Resources Portfolio

Cabinet Member - Councillor F A Finlay - Environment and Health Portfolio

Cabinet Member - Councillor R M Smith - Leisure Portfolio

Also in attendance - Councillor B M Cross

Officers in attendance:-

Mr N Raby - Head of Human Resources

Mr A Welch - Head of Law and Administration

Mrs E Fullagar - Chief Accountant

Mrs T Redpath - Corporate Business and Partnerships Manager

Mr R Simpson - Customer Services Group Manager

Mrs S Pote - Customer Services Manager

Mr A Bailey - Scrutiny Officer

RSC26 **Minutes**

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 10 December 2018, having been published in Digest No 250, were submitted and signed.

RSC27 **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M G Dodson, R J Draper, R A James, A J Perkins (Substitute Councillor D B Price) and P Roycroft (Substitute L B Bakker-Collier).

RSC28 **Provisional Local Government Settlement 2019-20**

The Head of Finance provided the Committee with the details as contained in the 2019-20 Provisional Local Government Financial Settlement, including the outcome of the Business Rates pilot bid, together with the provisional New Homes Bonus Allocations for 2019-20.

The Committee's attention was drawn to the achievement of a £1 million Business Rate Pilot windfall and a higher than anticipated New Homes Bonus, although there was still a high degree of financial uncertainty after 2019-20.

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee, content of the report be noted and due consideration be given to the impact of the settlement in the determination of the Budget for 2019-20 to 2021-22.

RSC29 General Fund Revenue Budget 2018-19 to 2021-22 and Capital Programme 2018-19 to 2021-22

This matter had been considered by Cabinet on 6 December 2018 and was submitted to this Committee for consultation.

Considered the report of the Head of Finance (V1 7/1/19) relating to the current position of the General Fund Revenue Budget for 2018-19 to 2021-22 and the updated capital programme for 2018-19 to 2021-22.

The report set out the draft budget for 2019-20 as well as indicative budgets for 2020-21 and 2021-22, plus associated issues and current indications of the impact that this would have on Council Tax. Indicative budgets for 2019-20 and 2020-21 were prepared as part of the 2018-19 budget process and had been updated as part of this year's process with the budgets then being extrapolated to create a new budget for 2021-22. The report set out the Council's financial position for the next three years, incorporating the financial resources available to the Council over the three year period. Actual resources for 2020-21 and 2021-22 would not be known until the Autumn of 2019. The report also set out the updated Capital Programme and the capital resources available to the Authority to finance that capital programme.

The Committee discussed the following aspects of the report with the Cabinet Member (Resources Portfolio) and the Chief Accountant:-

- Clarification of the Growth Bids
- The reasons for the higher than anticipated Bereavement Services income
- Concern over the need to increase Council Tax by 1.9%
- Discussed the level of funding for the Stone Leisure Projects, where it was clarified that the legal costs of the Leisure Centre were always included within the original estimates
- Gratitude for the Council's investment in Stone
- The Council had chosen that the Borough would be a housing growth area
- The need for the Council to remain efficient through reduced costs without reduced services
- Confirmed that the staffing budget assumed a certain level of vacancy rates

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee, the decision of the Cabinet, as set out in Minute No CAB36(i)/18, regarding the General Fund Revenue Budget for 2018-19 to 2021-22 and the updated Capital Programme for 2018-19 to 2021-22, be noted.

RSC30 Resources Portfolio - General Fund Revenue Budget 2018/2019 - 2021/2022 and Capital Programme 2018/2019 - 2021/2022

This matter had been considered by Cabinet on 6 December 2018 and was submitted to this Committee for consultation.

Considered the report of the Head of Finance regarding the draft detailed Resources Portfolio revenue budget for 2018/2019 - 2021/2022 and the draft Resources Portfolio Capital Programme for 2018/2019 - 2021/2022 (V1 9/11/18).

The report related to the following:-

- The detailed portfolio revenue budget;
- The variations between the indicative budgets for 2019/2020 and 2020/2021, as set out last year, and the proposed budget for 2019/2020 and the draft budget for the following years to 2021/2022;
- The proposed Capital programme 2018/2019 - 2021/2022.

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee, the decision of the Cabinet, as set out in Minute No CAB36(ii)/18, regarding the draft detailed Resources Revenue Portfolio budget for 2018/2019 - 2021/2022 and the draft Resources Portfolio Capital Programme for 2018/2019 - 2021/2022, be noted.

RSC31 Gender Pay Gap

Considered the report of the Head of Human Resources regarding the Gender Pay Gap for the Council, which was based on the staffing analysis as at 31 March 2018 and indicated a positive trend since it was first reported in March 2018 based on staffing numbers as at 31 March 2017.

The Committee discussed the following aspects of the report with the Head of Human Resources:-

- The Council's Gender Pay Gap as compared with other local authorities
- The high calibre of all of the Council's officers
- The need for this report to be considered by the Committee on an annual basis

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee, progress of the Council's Gender Pay Gap be noted.

RSC32 Work Programme - Resources Scrutiny Committee

Considered the report of the Head of Law and Administration, which presented the Resources Scrutiny Committee's Work Programme (V1 20/1/19) for the forthcoming meetings up to February 2019.

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee, the Work Programme (V1 20/1/19) be approved.

CHAIRMAN