

Chair - Councillor R P Cooke

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

Councillors:

A R G Brown

R A James

M G Dodson

R Kenney

A T A Godfrey

J A Nixon

A S Harp

P Roycroft

M V Holmes

Cabinet Member - Councillor J M Pert - Community and Health Portfolio

Cabinet Member - Councillor J K Price - Environment Portfolio

Cabinet Member - Councillor R M Smith - Resources Portfolio

Cabinet Member - Councillor C V Trowbridge - Leisure Portfolio

Officers in attendance:-

Mr B Kean

- Head of Finance

Mr I Curran

- Head of Law and Administration

Mr B Kean

- Head of Finance

Mr N Raby

- Head of Human Resources and Property
Services

Mr R Simpson

- Head of Operations

Mr P Kendrick

- Head of Technology

Dr T Redpath

- Corporate Business and Partnerships
Manager

Mr A Bailey

- Scrutiny Officer

RSC58 Minutes

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 19 November 2020, as published in Digest No 271, were submitted and signed.

RSC59 Apologies

An apology for absence were received from Councillor P Roycroft.

RSC60 General Fund Revenue Budget 2020-21 to 2023-24 and Capital Programme 2020-21 to 2023-24

This matter had been considered by Cabinet at its meeting held on 3 December 2020 and was submitted to this Committee for consultation.

Considered the report of the Head of Finance (V1 3/12/2020) regarding the General Fund Revenue Budget 2020-21 to 2023-24 and Capital Programme 2020-21 to 2023-24.

The report set out the draft budget for 2021-22 as well as indicative budgets for 2022-23 and 2023-24 and associated issues and also includes current indications of the impact that this will have on Council Tax. Indicative budgets for 2021-22 and 2022-23 were prepared as part of the 2020-21 budget process and have been updated as part of this year's process with the budgets then being extrapolated to create a new budget for 2023-24.

The Head of finance reported that great uncertainty existed in relation to cost of service provision (Net Expenditure) due to the impact of COVID 19 not only in 2020-21 but its ongoing impact. Whereas Government funding for the Council over the medium term is unknown with the 2021-22 Financial settlement still outstanding and a new funding regime being introduced for 2022-23 and subsequent years.

The report set out the Council's forecast financial position for the next three years, incorporating the best estimate of Net Expenditure and Financial Resources available to the Council over the three-year period. The Actual resources for 2021-22, as identified in the Local Government Settlement will be included in the updated January Budget Report to Cabinet. 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 Head of Finance:-

- Congratulated the Finance Team on the achievement of a financial forecast that was beyond the Council's control
- An explanation of the loss of income due to COVID19 and the reimbursement available from the Government
- An explanation of the level of risk for parking income
- Clarification of the level of risk for homelessness
- An explanation of the high risk for waste and recycling targets
- Clarification of staff turnover savings and concern for the welfare of staff

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee, the decision of the Cabinet as set out in Minute No CAB125/20, regarding the General Fund Revenue Budget 2020-21 to 2023-24 and Capital Programme 2020-21 to 2023-24, be noted.

RSC61 Resources Portfolio - General Fund Revenue Budget 2020/2021 - 2023/2024 and Capital Programme 2020/2021 - 2023/2024

This matter had been considered by Cabinet at its meeting held on 3 December 2020 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 2020/2021 - 2023/2024 and the draft Resources Portfolio Capital Programme for 2020/2021 - 2023/2024.

The report set out the variations between the indicative budgets for 2021/2022 and 2022/2023, as set last year, and the proposed budget for 2021/2022 and the draft budget for the following years to 2023/2024, as well as the proposed Capital Programme 2020/2021 - 2023/2024.

The Committee discussed the following aspects of the report with the Cabinet Member (Resources Portfolio), the Head of Finance and the Corporate Business and Partnerships Manager:-

- Clarification of the new Climate Change Post
- An explanation of Third-Party Payments

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee, the decision of the Cabinet as set out in Minute No CAB126/20, regarding the draft detailed Resources Portfolio revenue budget for 2020/2021 - 2023/2024 and the draft Resources Portfolio Capital Programme for 2020/2021 - 2023/2024, be noted.

RSC62 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 11/12/20) for the forthcoming meetings.

The Committee discussed the following potential items for inclusion in their Work programme:-

- Freedom Leisure Annual Report
- Chargeable Garden Waste Adoption

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee, the Work Programme (V1 11/12/20) be approved, subject to the amendments made during the meeting.

CHAIR