

Chair - Councillor R P Cooke

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

Councillors:

A R G Brown

M G Dodson

A T A Godfrey

A S Harp

M V Holmes

R A James

R Kenney

J A Nixon

P Roycroft

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

Mr I Curran

Mr N Raby

Mr R Simpson

Dr T Redpath

Mr L Booth

Mr P Gammon

Mr R Wolfe

Mrs S Warren

Mr A Bailey

- Head of Finance
- Head of Law and Administration
- Head of Human Resources and Property Services
- Head of Operations
- Corporate Business and Partnerships Manager
- Corporate Contracts Manager
- Neighbourhood Services Group Manager
- Revenues and Benefits Manager
- Corporate Projects Manager
- Scrutiny Officer

RSC48 Minutes

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 20 August 2020, were submitted and signed.

RSC49 Scrutiny of the Waste Contract

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Operations that provided an update to members on the performance of the outsourced Recycling and Waste Collection Services and Processing of Dry Recycling Contract for 2019 – 2020.

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee:-

- (a) The contract be subject to robust contract management measures by the Council;
- (b) Performance against the contract be regularly reported to the Council and highlighted in this report.

RSC50 **Recovery Programme Update**

The Committee considered a report by the Corporate Business and Partnerships Manager concerning an update regarding the work that had been undertaken as part of the Recovery Programme

The Corporate Business and Partnerships Manager introduced the report by explaining that the council continued to be in the response phase of the pandemic, at the same time as trying to plan for recovery. This was a particularly challenging time for everyone as England enters a second lockdown.

The arrangements that the council had implemented for recovery were reported at the last meeting and during the last quarter, work has commenced on the individual workstreams for Economic, Community, Organisational and Financial recovery. Specific progress relating to the Economic and Community Recovery workstreams were reported directly to the relevant scrutiny committees and this report provided an update of the overall progress made for the whole programme. There were huge difficulties that lay ahead for each of the workstreams as the Council attempted to navigate through a second lockdown whilst dealing with both response and recovery priorities combined with economic and financial uncertainty.

Following the introduction, the Committee discussed the following aspects of the report:-

- A thank you to all the staff of Stafford Borough Council for their dedication to the welfare of residents during the lengthy crisis
- The provision of IT equipment to facilitate effective home working
- The degree to which the current remote working arrangements could become permanent
- The availability of Business Support Grants during Pandemic

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee, the report, as set out, be noted.

RSC51 **Financial Plan 2020-21 - 2023-24**

This matter had been considered by Cabinet meeting at its meeting on 5 November 2020 and was submitted to this Committee for consultation.

Considered the report of the Head of Finance (V1 4/11/20) which presented an updated financial forecast for the Council for the next three years together with a forecast outturn for 2020-21.

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

- The degree to which Government funding fully compensated for lost revenue
- The need to use the Council's Reserves
- The need to know the results of the Government's Spending Review
- The impact of the Pandemic on the New Homes Bonus and Business Rates
- The latest situation in relation to the Business Rates Pool
- The impact of potential efficiency savings, including an expansion of Shared Services
- The impact of the postponement of the Government's White Paper on Devolution

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee:- the decision of the Cabinet as set out in Minute no CAB120/20, regarding the Financial Plan 2020-21 - 2023-24, be noted.

RSC52 **Fees and Charges Review 2021**

This matter had been submitted to the Cabinet at its meeting held on 5 November 2020 and was submitted to this Committee for consultation.

Considered the report of the Head of Finance (V1 20/10/20) which proposed to the Council the Fees and Charges for 2021.

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee, the decision of the Cabinet as set out in Minute no CAB121/20, regarding the proposed Fees and Charges Review for 2021, be noted.

RSC53 **Gender Pay Reporting**

Considered the report of the Head of Human Resources and Property Services that compared and considered the Council's Gender Pay Reports for 31 March 2019 and 31 March 2020 - 2019 Gender Pay Report, published March 2020 and 2020 Gender Pay Report, yet to be published.

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee, the Committee support the ongoing management of its employees to ensure that it was able to recruit and retain females in technical, professional and senior management roles in order to safeguard the reduction of the Gender Pay Gap as required under the statutory regulations.

RSC54 Corporate Business Plan 2021 – 2024 Consultation

The Committee considered the report of the Corporate Business and Partnerships Manager (V1 02/11/2020) in relation to the refresh of the Corporate Business Plan for 2021 – 2024.

The Corporate Business and Partnerships Manager explained that this was the second iteration of the Corporate Business Plan in this format and it detailed the Council's aspirations for economic growth, community wellbeing, financial sustainability and incorporates a new business objective that focused upon climate change and green recovery. A public consultation exercise was currently underway in respect of the plan and Members were encouraged to participate in the consultation that could be found at <https://www.staffordbc.gov.uk/corporate-plan> Members were asked to note that the consultation period ended on 13 December 2020.

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee, the report be noted.

RSC55 Quarter 2 Performance Reporting

The Committee considered the performance and financial management details for those areas within the remit of the Committee for the quarter 2 period up to 30 September 2020.

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee, the performance and financial management data relating to areas of activity within this Committee's remit be noted.

RSC56 Review of the Constitution

Considered the report of the Head of Law and Administration (V1 4/11/20) relating to the need to review the Council's present Constitution and a mechanism with which to undertake such a review. The report also sought the Committee's views on whether to consider an outstanding proposed amendment to the Council Procedure Rules separately or as part of the forthcoming Review.

The Committee confirmed the following the following dates and times of the meetings in which to undertake the Review of the Constitution:-

- 5.30 pm on Monday 11 January 2021
- 5.30 pm on Monday 1 February 2021
- 5.30 pm on Thursday 11 February 2021 (Followed by the scheduled Resources Scrutiny Committee on that evening to confirm the amendments)

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee, a Task and Finish Review Working Group be established in order to undertake a review of the Council's Constitution, and that the outstanding proposed amendment to the Council Procedure Rules be included within the forthcoming review.

RSC57 Work Programme - Resources Scrutiny Committee

Considered the report of the Interim Head of Law and Administration, which presented the Resources Scrutiny Committee's Work Programme (V1 4/11/20) for the forthcoming meetings up to February 2021.

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee, the Work Programme (4/11/20) be approved, subject to the amendments made during the meeting.

CHAIR