

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 R M Smith - Resources Portfolio
Cabinet Member - Councillor J K Price - Environment Portfolio

Also present - Councillor M Phillips

Officers in attendance:-

Mr B Kean	-	Head of Finance
Mr I Curran	-	Interim Head of Law and Administration
Mrs T Redpath	-	Corporate Business and Partnerships Manager
Mr P Gammon	-	Neighbourhood Services Group Manager
Mr R Wolfe	-	Revenues and Benefits Manager
Mrs V Ashcroft	-	Principal Corporate Business and Partnership Officer
Mr A Bailey	-	Scrutiny Officer

RSC9 Minutes

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 25 July 2019, due to be published in Digest No 259, were submitted and signed.

RSC10 Consultation on Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme

This matter had been considered by Cabinet on 1 August 2019 and was submitted to this Committee for consultation.

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Finance (V2 12/8/19) that related to the following:-

- The need to review the Council's Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme (LCTRS)
- An explanation of the proposed features of a new Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme

- Sought the necessary approvals and delegations to instigate a formal consultation process, subject to detailed cost forecasting and the scheme principles explained in this report

The Committee discussed the following aspects of the report with the Revenues and Benefits Manager:-

- Confirmation that the changes to the scheme are intended to be budgetary neutral
- Clarification that Council is working in partnership with other Staffordshire District Councils and a specialist consultant
- The Council has a statutory requirement to approve a Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme.

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee, the decision of the Cabinet, as set out in Minute No CAB22/19, the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme, be noted.

RSC11 **Resources Portfolio - Final Accounts 2018/2019**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Finance (V1 25/7/19) in relation to the Final Accounts position for the Resources Portfolio for the financial year ended 31 March 2019.

Members were informed that the revenue outturn for the Resources Portfolio for 2018/2019 was £185,930 less than the budget of £6,378,600 and the capital outturn for 2018/2019 was £8,515 less than the budget of £800,000.

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

- The reasons behind the £186,000 favourable variance
- The turnover provision for vacancies

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee, the Final Accounts position for the year ended 31 March 2019 be noted.

Councillor A T A Godfrey declared a Personal Interest in the following item as it related to additional costs to the weighbridge as part of the Waste Contract.

RSC12 **Performance Reporting 2019-20**

The Committee considered the performance and financial management details for those areas within the remit of the Committee for the quarter 1 period up to 30 June 2019.

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

- 3.3.3 - Develop a contract management and procurement training package - the reasons as to why the Contract and Procurement Manager position had not been filled
- Clarification of the implications of the Business Rates Revaluation in Stafford Town Centre and income from the New Homes Bonus
- The implications of the Local Authority Fair Funding Review
- An explanation for the Stone Leisure Centre Car Park Compensation Costs
- An explanation of the additional Waste Contract Costs and works to the Weighbridge
- Clarification of the EU Preparation Grant
- An explanation of the additional Election Costs

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.

RSC13 **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 6/8/19) for the forthcoming meetings up to February 2020.

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee, the Work Programme (V2 6/8/19) be approved.

CHAIR