

Chair - Councillor R P Cooke

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

Councillors:

M G Dodson

A T A Godfrey

M V Holmes

R A James

P W Jones

R Kenney

J A Nixon

P Roycroft

R M Sutherland

Leader of the Council - Councillor P M M Farrington

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 T Clegg	-	Chief Executive
Mr B Kean	-	Head of Finance
Mr I Curran	-	Head of Law and Administration
Mr P Kendrick	-	Head of Technology
Mr N Raby	-	Head of Human Resources and Property Services
Mr R Simpson	-	Head of Operations
Dr T Redpath	-	Corporate Business and Partnerships Manager
Miss M Smith	-	Economic Growth and Strategic Projects Manager
Mr R Wolfe	-	Revenues and Benefits Manager
Mrs H Smith	-	Lead Housing Options Officer
Mr A Bailey	-	Scrutiny Officer

RSC39 Minutes

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 9 June 2020, as published in Digest No 266, were submitted and signed.

RSC40 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A R G Brown (Substitute R M Sutherland) and A S Harp (Substitute P W Jones).

RSC41 **COVID19 Pandemic Recovery Panning**

The Committee considered a report by the Chief Executive concerning the Council's approach to recovery and reform, from the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Chief Executive introduced the report by explaining that the Borough Council had worked in partnership with stakeholders and communities to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Having dealt with the immediate response to COVID-19 and the Government led lockdown, it was now time to consider how the Borough Council, working with partners, key stakeholders and communities, maintained the resilience of critical services, reintroduced other services (where appropriate) and, critically, planned for longer term recovery of the Borough.

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

- The need to ensure that social distancing was observed in all public places in order to avoid more local outbreaks and how this was being monitored by Environmental Health Officers
- Acknowledgement of the hard work undertaken by officers
- Membership of the Recovery Working Groups
- The fact that the Council's Environmental Health Officers had been recognised as an exemplar in the management of local COVID-19 outbreaks

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee, the report, as set out, be noted and that recovery and reform be integrated into the work programme of Resources Scrutiny Committee.

RSC42 **Members' Item - Covid-19 Pandemic Essential Actions and Recovery Planning**

Councillor A T A Godfrey had submitted an item under Paragraph 2.8 of the Scrutiny Committee Procedure Rules regarding the Labour Group of Stafford Borough Council's submission in relation to Covid-19 Pandemic Essential Actions and Recovery Planning.

Councillor A T A Godfrey presented a report on behalf of Stafford Borough Council's Labour Group that called upon the Council to implement a number of Essential Actions that were designed to alleviate the current problems being experienced by residents within the Borough and help to ease potential problems post the Covid-19 pandemic crisis.

The Committee provided a full and detailed response to the essential actions outlined in the report that covered the areas of Environmental Health, the Local Economy and Supporting Our Communities.

RSC43 Resources Portfolio - Final Accounts 2019/2020

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Finance in relation to the Final Accounts position for the Resources Portfolio for the financial year ended 31 March 2020.

Members were informed that the revenue outturn for the Resources Portfolio for 2019/2020 was £49,115 less than the budget of £6,377,770 and the capital outturn for 2019/2020 was £43,862 less than the budget of £97,780.

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee, the Final Accounts position for the year ended 31 March 2020 be noted.

RSC44 Members' Item - Local Housing Allowance

Councillor A T A Godfrey had submitted the following item under Paragraph 2.8 of the Scrutiny Committee Procedure Rules:-

"Can the Cabinet Member for Resources please update the Committee on Stafford Borough Council's position in regard to the Local Housing Allowance scheme."

The Cabinet Member - Community Portfolio responded by providing an explanation and background for the Local Housing Allowance Scheme whilst drawing attention to the need for private landlords to submit their rent details.

RSC45 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 2020.

The Committee discussed the following financial matters contained within the report with the Head of Finance:-

- A record of thanks to all staff for all work undertaken during the COVID-19 Pandemic
- Community Portfolio Staffing Variations
- Financial Outturn 2020/21

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.

RSC46 Complaints Monitoring 2019/20

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Law and Administration in relation to Corporate Complaints and complaints referred by the Local Government Ombudsman during 2019/20.

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

RSC47 Work Programme - Resources Scrutiny Committee

Considered the report of the Head of Law and Administration, which presented the Resources Scrutiny Committee's Work Programme for the forthcoming meetings up to February 2021.

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee, the Work Programme be approved.

CHAIR