

Chair - Councillor R P Cooke

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

Councillors:

J A Barron	J Hood
A R G Brown	W J Kemp
A P Edgeller	J A Nixon
A S Harp	P Roycroft
M V Holmes	

Cabinet Member - Councillor R M Smith - Resources Portfolio

Cabinet Member - Councillor C V Trowbridge - Leisure Portfolio

Also in Attendance:-

Councillors A T A Godfrey (Observer) and A N Pearce.

Mr J Rowe - Freedom Leisure, Regional Director
Mr K Murray - Freedom Leisure, Area Manager

Officers in attendance:-

Mr B Kean - Head of Finance
Mr I Curran - Head of Law and Administration
Mr R Simpson - Head of Operations
Mr P Gammon - Neighbourhood Services Group Manager
Mr R Wolfe - Revenues and Benefits Manager
Mrs S Pote - Customer Services Manager
Mr L Booth - Corporate Contracts Manager
Mr A Bailey - Scrutiny Officer

RSC24 Minutes

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 18 November 2019, published in Digest No 262, were submitted and signed.

RSC25 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M G Dodson (Substitute A P Edgeller), A T A Godfrey (Substitute W J Kemp), R Kenney (Substitute J Hood), R A James (Substitute J A Barron) and J K Price (Environment Portfolio).

**RSC26 Freedom Leisure Performance Monitoring Report - Contract Year 2
January - November 2019**

Mr J Rowe and Mr K Murray representing Freedom Leisure, presented to the Committee the Freedom Leisure Performance Monitoring Report - Contract Year 2 - January - November 2019.

Mr Murray raised the following points during his presentation:-

- Executive Summary
- Financial Performance
- Participation
- Stafford Active Communities
- Gatehouse Theatre
- Heritage
- Stafford Leisure centre
- Stone Leisure Centre
- Rowley Park
- Human Resource and Training
- Summary and Questions

The Committee discussed the following aspects of the report and presentation with the representatives from Freedom Leisure:-

- Colleague Satisfaction Survey
- Staffing Requirements
- Training for Cleaning
- Car Parking Charges
- Participation
- Sponsorship
- Gatehouse Theatre Supplies
- Pantomime Feedback
- Complaints System
- Health and Safety Reporting
- Classic Car Show
- Swimming Galas
- Leisure Centre Vending Machines
- Community Involvement Events
- Staff Newsletter

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee, the Freedom Leisure Performance Monitoring Report - Contract Year 2 be noted.

RSC27 Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme

Considered the report of the Head of Finance (V2 20/12/19) which:-

- Reminded Members that the consultation exercise regarding the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme ended on 2 January 2020

- Undertook to present Members the results of the consultation exercise prior to the presentation of the draft scheme for approval of Council, at its meeting due to be held on 28 January 2020
- Gave Members an explanation of the new scheme that was proposed and being consulted upon.

The Committee discussed the following aspects of the report with the Cabinet Member (Resources Portfolio) and the Revenues and Benefits Manager:-

- The cost of the scheme to the Council
- Assistance for those whose discount would be reduced
- Eligibility criteria
- Procedures for review
- Confirmation that the Citizens Advice Bureau were satisfied with the proposed scheme

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee:- the Committee support the proposed Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme, which simplified the claim process for customers and provided increased support to the more vulnerable residents.

RSC28 **General Fund Revenue Budget 2019-20 to 2022-23 and Capital Programme 2019-20 to 2022-23**

This matter had been submitted to the Cabinet at its meeting held on 5 December 2019 and was submitted to this Committee for consultation.

Considered the report of the Head of Finance (V4 17/12/19) which presented the current position of the General Fund Revenue Budget for 2019-20 to 2022-23 and the updated Capital Programme 2019-20 to 2022-23.

The report set out the draft budget for 2020-21 as well as indicative budgets for 2021-22 and 2022-23 and associated issues and also included current indications of the impact that this would have on Council Tax. Indicative budgets for 2020-21 and 2021-22 were prepared as part of the 2019-20 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 2022-23. The report set out the Council's forecast financial position for the next three years, incorporating the best estimate of Financial Resources available to the Council over the three year period. Actual resources for 2021-22 and 2022-23 would not be known until the Autumn of 2020. 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), the Head of Finance and the Head of Operations:-

- Reduced Bereavement Services income
- Changes to the Recycling and Waste Collection Service
- Station Gateway Delivery Plan
- CCTV Operating System Replacement
- Victoria Street Car Park improvements
- Leisure Equalisation Reserve
- Shared Services Transformation

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee, the decision of the Cabinet as set out in Minute no CAB56/19, regarding the General Fund Revenue Budget for 2019-20 to 2022-23 and the updated capital programme 2019-20 to 2022-23, be noted.

RSC29 Resources Portfolio - General Fund Revenue Budget 2019/2020 - 2022/2023 and Capital Programme 2019/2020 - 2022/2023

This matter had been submitted to the Cabinet at its meeting held on 5 December 2019 and was submitted to this Committee for consultation.

Considered the report of the Head of Finance (V3 16/12/19) which set out the draft detailed Resources Portfolio revenue budget for 2019/2020 - 2022/2023 and the draft Resources Portfolio Capital Programme for 2019/2020 - 2022/2023.

The report set out the following:-

- The detailed portfolio revenue budget
- The variations between the indicative budgets for 2020/2021 and 2021/2022, as set last year, and the proposed budget for 2020/2021 and the draft budget for the following years to 2022/2023
- The proposed Capital Programme 2019/2020 - 2022/2023

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee, the decision of the Cabinet as set out in Minute no CAB57/19, the draft detailed Resources Portfolio revenue budget for 2019/2020 - 2022/2023 and the draft Resources Portfolio Capital Programme for 2019/2020 - 2022/2023, be noted.

RSC30 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 11/12/19) for the forthcoming meetings up to February 2020.

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee, the Work Programme (V1 11/12/19) be approved.

CHAIR