

HOUSING & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

08 JANUARY 2024

OPEN

PRESENT:

Labour Group

Councillor G Rhind (Chair) and Councillor M Mulgrew (Vice-Chair)  
and

Councillors A Archer, S Harrison, A Haynes, J Jackson, D Pegg, D Shepherd and A Tilley.

Conservative Group

Councillors M Fitzpatrick, K Haines (substituting for Councillor D Corbin) and J Lowe.

Liberal Democrats

Councillor J Davies.

In attendance

Councillor R Pearson

Councillor N Tilley

Councillor A Wheelton.

HCS/54 APOLOGIES

The Committee was informed that apologies had been received from Councillor D Corbin (Conservative Group).

HCS/55 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Committee noted that no Declarations of Interest had been received.

HCS/56 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO 10

The Committee was informed that no questions from Members of the Public had been received.

HCS/57 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO 11

The Committee was informed that no questions from Members of the Council had been received.

**MATTERS DELEGATED TO COMMITTEE****HCS/58 SERVICE BASE BUDGET 2024-25**

The Head of Finance presented the report highlighting that the service developments were contained in Appendix 1 of the report and that a 2% increase had been factored into the Grants to Voluntary Bodies figures.

Members sought clarity on funding for Strawberry Lane, Rosliston, the availability of a tree register, impact to the budget from the Housing Services Review, play equipment funding, detail of the format of the report and funding for telecare installation.

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) informed Members that Parish Councils responsible for play equipment can access external grant funding in ways that the district council is not able to.

In response to a question from Members around the budgeting approach, the Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) informed Members that the technique used was an incremental budget process which was in line with the financial strategy and the Medium Term Financial Plan.

The Strategic Director (Service Delivery) informed Members that the Housing Services Review was at its initial stage and no factors had been identified to impact the budget and that a report would be brought to the Committee regarding the options for upgrades to telecare installations.

The Head of Cultural and Community Services confirmed that a map of all inspected trees was managed by Tree Officers.

**RESOLVED:**

- 1.1 *The Committee considered the proposed revenue budget for the Committee's services for 2024/25 as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report and recommended to the Finance and Management Committee for recommendation to Council for approval.***
- 1.2 *The Committee considered the proposed fees and charges for 2024/25 as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report and recommended to the Finance and Management Committee for recommendation to Council for approval.***
- 1.3 *The Committee considered the proposed Capital budget for the Committee's services, for 2024/25 as detailed in Appendix 3 of the report and recommended to the Finance and Management Committee for recommendation to Council for approval.***

**1.4 The Committee considered and approved a 2% increase for the 2024-25 Grants to Voluntary Bodies.**

HCS/59 **HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET 2024-25**

The Head of Finance presented the report and confirmed that guidance on rate setting had been received and that the final report would be updated accordingly.

The Chair noted the rent increase of 7.3%.

Members raised questions relating to several items of the report including a strategy for the repayment of the Housing Revenue Account debt, compensation claims for repairs and labour issues for works to void properties.

The Head of Finance confirmed that the revised repayment profile for the repayment of HRA self-financing debt was included in the Medium Term Financial Plan. The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) confirmed that the Treasury Management Strategy Statement would also set out this revised treasury plan.

The Strategic Director (Service Delivery) confirmed that the housing repairs procedures had been reviewed and that a report for Repairs and Maintenance Services would be brought to the Committee as the Novus contract ends early Summer 2024. The Strategic Director (Service Delivery) informed the Committee that there would be new strategies and models for responding to requests for repairs.

**RESOLVED:**

- 1.1 The Committee considered the options for Council House Rents for 2024/25 and agreed the preferred option of 7.3% following the Government's announcement of the Social Housing rent cap for 2024/25.**
- 1.2 The Committee considered the proposed revenue budget for the Housing Revenue Account for 2024/25 as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report and recommended to the Finance and Management Committee for recommendation for Council approval.**
- 1.3 The Committee considered the proposed Capital budget for the Committee's services for 2024/25 as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report and recommended to the Finance and Management Committee for recommendation for Council approval.**

**HCS/60 COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

The Strategic Director (Service Delivery) presented the work programme and informed Members that an updated programme would include urgent and time sensitive reports for the next meeting.

**RESOLVED:**

***1.1 The Committee considered and approved the updated work programme.***

**HCS/61 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 (AS AMENDED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT [ACCESS TO INFORMATION] ACT 1985)**

The Chairman may therefore move:

***That, in accordance with Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the Meeting as it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that there would be disclosed exempt information as defined in the paragraphs of Part 1 of the Schedule 12A of the Act indicated in brackets after each item.***

**HCS/62 ANY EXEMPT QUESTIONS RECEIVED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO 11**

The Committee was informed that no exempt questions from Members of the Council had been received.

The meeting terminated at 18:30hours.

COUNCILLOR G RHIND

CHAIR