

FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

12 January 2023

PRESENT:

Labour Group

Councillor Pearson (Chair), Councillor Rhind (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Tilley, Richards Southerd and Taylor.

Conservative Group

Councillors Dawson, Fitzpatrick, Ford, Lemmon, Smith and Watson

Non-Grouped

Councillor Churchill

In Attendance

Councillor Atkin
Councillor Wheelton

FM/92 **APOLOGIES**

The Committee was informed that no apologies had been received from

FM/93 **TO RECEIVE THE OPEN MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS:**

The Open Minutes of the meeting held on 10 February 2022 were noted and approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

FM/94 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Committee was informed that no declarations of interest had been received

FM/95 **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO 10**

The Committee was informed that no questions from members of the public had been received.

FM/96 **QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO 11**

The Committee was informed that no questions from members of the council had been received.

FM/97 **REPORTS OF OVERVIEW SCRUTINY**

The Committee was informed that no questions from members of the council had been received.

FM/98 **SERVICE BASE BUDGETS 2023 / 2024**

The Head of Finance presented the report to the Committee and highlighted the variances for employee costs that included restructuring and professional fees and also included potential increased costs for the external audit. It was explained that investment income would be expected to be a surplus and noted that the increased pension contributions for 2023/24 would require a new valuation. It was recommended that the Parish Council increase for concurrent functions be 2%.

RESOLVED:

- 1.1 The Committee considered the proposed revenue income and expenditure for 2023/24 as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report for the Committee's Services and approved for inclusion in the consolidated proposals for the General Fund.***
- 1.2 The Committee considered and approved the proposed fees and charges as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report for 2023/24.***
- 1.3 The Committee approved a 2% increase in contributions to Parish Councils in 2023/24 for Concurrent Functions.***

FM/99 **COUNCIL TAX BASE 2023/24 AND SURPLUS 2022/23**

The Head of Finance presented the report to the Committee and outlined recommendations and noted that the Council Tax base had increased due to the increased number of properties.

RESOLVED:

- 1.1 The Committee approved the Council Tax Base for 2023/24 of 37,663 (equivalent Band D) properties as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report.***
- 1.2 The Committee approved that a Council Tax Surplus of £500,000 for 2022/23 be declared on the Collection Fund and that the Council's proportion of £50,000 be transferred to the General Fund in 2023/24.***

FM/100 **ANNUAL STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2020-21**

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) presented the report to the Committee and explained that the auditors had approved the accounts of March 2021 and raised no issues. The Committee was requested to approve the accounts to allow sign off for publication.

It was noted that the Audit Sub-Committee had raised concerns regarding financial governance with accounts being signed off so late and that a report would be brought to the Finance and Management Committee on 09 February 2023.

RESOLVED:

1.1 The Committee approved that the Council's Annual Statement of Accounts for 2020/21 as per Appendix 1 of the report and were signed by the Chair of the Committee for publication.

FM/101 **PROPOSED CONTINUATION OF BANDED COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME FOR 2023-2024**

The Head of Customer Services presented the report and outlined the scheme and the changes for the Ukrainian refugees. The Committee was informed that since the publication of the report the government had announce new funding which added a further £50 to Council Tax claims.

Councillor Richards commended the very detailed report and the exemplar service offered by the Council.

RESOLVED:

1.1 The Committee supported the continuation of a banded Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2023/2024, as well as other changes proposed, that included:

- ***Up rating to the applicable amounts in line with the prescribed scheme but with the exception of non-dependent deduction for working age which would remain at £5.00 for 23/24 for all cases.***
- ***Align with Housing Benefit regulations for Ukrainian Refugees regarding habitual residence to allow the payment of council tax support.***
- ***Adopt the prescribed scheme for Mixed Aged Couples.***
- ***Adopt any other changes within the prescribed scheme in accordance with the statutory instrument due to be published in January 2023.***
- ***Current funding of £20,000 from the Welfare Reform Fund be continued to be set aside in 2023/2024 for hardship cases.***

1.2 The Committee recommended to Full Council the continuation with a Council Tax Reduction banded scheme and approved all other changes proposed on 22 February 2023 date.

FM/102 DECARBONISATION OF THE COUNCIL'S HOUSING STOCK

The Head of Housing presented the report to the Committee and sought approval of recommendations following approval by the Housing and Community Services Committee on the 05 January 2023. It was noted that following a successful bid for the first wave of funding a project was underway that included 100 Council properties. It was explained that the second wave of funding would be split 50:50 with Council and would enable the Council to undertake more work per property than it would be able to without the funding. The Committee was informed that the Council had received positive feedback from residents.

RESOLVED:

- 1.1 The Committee ratified the approval of the report given by the Housing and Community Services Committee on 5 January 2023.***
- 1.2 The Committee approved the Council bidding for funding of £1.8 million from "Wave 2.1" of the Government's Social Housing Decarbonisation Grant fund informed by the findings of Nottingham City report on energy efficiency and subsequent bid for Wave 1 funding.***
- 1.3 The Committee approved that, in the event the bid was successful, the Council agreed to make the required landlord contribution of 50% of the total cost of improvements that would be delivered by the scheme (approximately £876,000 over 3 years***
- 1.4 The Committee approved that in the event of a successful bid that the Council approved the acceptance and receipt of any bid funding***
- 1.5 The Committee agreed that the financial implications of submitting the bid be referred to the Finance and Management Committee for approval.***

FM/103 COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) presented the report to the Committee

RESOLVED:

The Committee considered and approved the updated work programme.

FM/104 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 (AS AMENDED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT [ACCESS TO INFORMATION] ACT 1985)**RESOLVED:-**

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.

TO RECEIVE THE EXEMPT MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS:

The minutes of the 10 February 2022 were received.

Exempt questions rule 11

The Committee was informed no questions had been received.

REVISED STRUCTURE – STRATEGIC HOUSING TEAM

RESOLVED:

The Committee approved the recommendations in the report.

COLLECTION RATES, DEBT RECOVERY AND WRITE OFFS

RESOLVED:

The Committee approved the recommendations in the report.

FUTURE SERVICE DELIVERY AND EMPLOYMENT MODELS UPDATE

RESOLVED:

The Committee approved the recommendations in the report.

PREMISES IN MELBOURNE

RESOLVED:

The Committee approved the recommendations in the report.

LAND AT NETHERSEAL

RESOLVED:

The Committee approved the recommendations in the report.

LONG TERM LEASE TO EGGINTON PARISH COUNCIL

RESOLVED:

The Committee approved the recommendations in the report.

The meeting terminated at 20:10 hours

COUNCILLOR R PEARSON

CHAIR