

FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

14th February 2019

PRESENT:-

Conservative Group

Councillor Harrison (Chairman), Councillor Watson (Vice-Chairman) and Councillors Billings, Mrs Coe, Ford and MacPherson

Labour Group

Councillors Rhind, Richards, Southerd and Taylor

FM/126 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillor Dr Coyle, Hewlett and Smith (Conservative Group).

FM/127 **MINUTES**

The Open Minutes of the Meetings held on 29th November 2018 were taken as read, approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

FM/128 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Ford declared a personal interest in Item 7 Council Tax Discount: Care Leavers, by virtue of being a County Councillor, advising he would not participate in the debate.

FM/129 **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/130 **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/131 **REPORTS OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Councillor Swann, as Chairman of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee delivered a verbal update to the Committee, noting its review of the budgetary matters. He reported that the Committee had carefully considered the budget reports and acknowledged the potential financial challenges facing the Council, but no matters of significance from an overview and scrutiny perspective were cited for further investigation.

Councillor Swann left the Meeting at 6.05pm

MATTERS DELEGATED TO COMMITTEE

FM/132 **COUNCIL TAX DISCOUNT: CARE LEAVERS**

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) presented the report which provided the update sought by this Committee at its last Meeting, on the approach being taken at other Derbyshire authorities on whether to grant an exemption. The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) advised that in addition to South Derbyshire, out of the other seven District/Borough Councils in the County, three had approved a scheme, subject to their internal authorisation process, two were yet to make any decision and two had indicated that they may not be implementing a scheme at this stage. The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) advised that Derbyshire authorities had been approached by Mr Terry Galloway, seeking support on this matter and subsequent correspondence had been appended to the report.

Members noted the update provided by the Strategic Director (Corporate Resources).

RESOLVED:

The Committee approved making a recommendation to Council for the exercise of a discretion under Section 13A (1) C of the Local Government Act 1992 to exempt by way of a discount Derbyshire County Council Care leavers from Council Tax.

FM/133 **FINAL BUDGET PROPOSALS 2019/2020 and FINANCIAL PLAN to 2024**

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) presented the report to Committee, outlining the Council's final budget proposals for 2019/20 and medium-term financial projections on its main revenue and capital accounts.

The Chairman added that the use of reserves to address projected budget deficits may be a risk, however there was time to address deficits and that a prudent approach should be continued in the meantime.

Councillor Southerd sought clarification on whether the cost of the restructure was within budget. The Strategic Director responded that it was and it had been included in the MTFP. .

RESOLVED:

The Committee approved:

1.1 That a Council Tax increase for 2019/20 of 1.95% be recommended to Full Council on 27th February 2019.

Abstentions: Councillors Rhind, Richards, Southerd and Taylor

1.2 That estimated net General Fund Revenue Expenditure totalling £13,023,967 for 2019/20 be recommended to Full Council on 27th February 2019.

1.3 That the Medium-term Financial Plan to 2024 on the Council's General Fund Revenue Account as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report be approved.

1.4 That the Financial Plan for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) to 2029 as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report be approved.

1.5 That the 5-year capital investment and financing plan to 2024 as detailed in Appendix 3 of the report be approved.

1.6 That the Council's National Non-Domestic Rate Return (NNDR 1) for 2019/20, showing retained business rates of £10,515,933 for 2019/20 and £13,123,996 for 2018/19 be noted.

1.7 That the report of the Council's Section 151 (Chief Finance) Officer under Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 be noted.

FM/134 **TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2019/20**

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

RESOLVED:

1.1 The Committee approved the Treasury Management Strategy for 2019/20.

1.2 The Committee approved the Prudential Indicators and Limits for 2019/20 to 2023/24.

1.3 The Committee approved the Investment Policy for 2019/20 including the associated counterparty (lending) list.

FM/135 **PROPOSED LOCAL COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME 2019/20**

RESOLVED:

The Committee approved:

1.1 That the existing Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme currently in place be continued and approved for 2019/20.

1.2 That the detailed parameters be submitted to Full Council on 27 February 2019 for formal adoption.

FM/136 **DISCRETIONARY BUSINESS RATES RELIEF**

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) presented the report to Committee providing an update on allocating the Council's budget for supporting businesses in South Derbyshire adversely affected by the 2017 Business Rates Revaluation whilst also considering the Council's Local Scheme for allocating Discretionary Business Rates Relief, together with the organisations that currently benefit from the Discretionary Scheme

RESOLVED:

The Committee approved:

1.1 That the updated Discretionary Business Rate Revaluation Relief Scheme for 2018/19 to support local businesses in South Derbyshire adversely affected by the 2017 Rating Revaluation List is approved.

1.2 That relief be awarded to a business based on the following scheme criteria:

- Its RV is less than £200,000.***
- Its Business Rates payable in 2018/19 has increased by 5% or greater when compared to 2016/17 (the base year).***
- The business does not qualify for any other relief, excluding the "Support for Pubs Scheme" in 2018/19.***
- The business is not part of a national chain or group of companies, i.e. it is a local business in the District.***
- Relief is limited to 55% of the total increase in rates payable between 2016/17 and 2018/19.***

1.3 That the updated scheme for 2018/19 be continued in 2019/20 based on the same criteria as detailed in 1.2 above, except that Relief is limited to 20% of the total increase in rates payable between 2016/17 (the base year) and 2019/20.

1.4 That the Council's Discretionary Business Rates Relief Scheme as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report including proposed amendments as highlighted are approved.

1.5 That discretionary relief is granted for a period of two years to cover the financial years 2019/20 and 2020/21.

1.6 That Relief granted to Active Nation is subject to evidence that the amount granted is invested back into the South Derbyshire facilities.

FM/137 **CHURCH GRESLEY CEMETERY – LAYOUT CHANGES**

The Cultural Services Manager presented the report to Committee.

RESOLVED:

1.1 The Committee approved to utilise £17,700 from the General Fund Repairs and Maintenance Reserve to remove two adjacent non-essential paths at Church Gresley Cemetery in order to use the recovered land to provide additional burial space therein as recommended by Housing and Community Services Committee on 29th January 2019.

1.2 The Committee approved to cease the practice of allowing people to pre-purchase graves within cemeteries managed by the District Council except where ground conditions restrict the use of double graves as recommended by Housing and Community Services Committee on 29th January 2019.

1.3 The Committee approved for officers to investigate the identification of possible cemetery space within the Swadlincote urban core as recommended by Housing and Community Services Committee on 29th January 2019.

FM/138 **COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

RESOLVED:

Members considered and approved the updated work programme.

FM/139 **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 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 11

The Committee was informed that no questions had been received.

COMMUNITY SAFETY ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

The Committee approved the recommendations in the report.

DIRECT ACQUISITION OF COUNCIL HOUSING IN ASTON ON TRENT

The Committee approved the recommendations in the report.

SWADLINCOTE MARKET

The Committee approved the recommendations in the report.

RESTRUCTURE OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

The Committee approved the recommendations in the report.

SENIOR MANAGEMENT RESTRUCTURE: CONSULTATION FEEDBACK

The Committee approved the recommendations in the report.

The meeting terminated at 7.00pm

COUNCILLOR J HARRISON

CHAIRMAN