

Cabinet
Wednesday 5 February 2020

Comments from the Overview and Scrutiny Commission
at its meeting on Monday 3 February 2020
OSC/285

1. Cabinet Agenda Item 6 – 2020/21 Budget and Council Tax

Comments and Recommendations

The Commission considered report FIN/491 of the Head of Corporate Finance.

During the discussion, the following points were expressed:

- Confirmation was provided that the report set out proposed growth elements and capital programme schemes, along with efficiencies, savings, latest investment interest projections and additional income being proposed.
- Several queries were raised with regards to the Income Generation Officer growth bid. It was confirmed that the permanent post was inclusive of on-costs and would cover the wide ranging services the council offered. It was felt important to ensure a balance so as not to limit facilities or services when generating income. It was commented that it would be useful to provide discounts for those in receipt of benefit, however some offers were already provided at certain council facilities and there was a need to generate income through other means. The Commission had within its function, terms of reference and remit to scrutinise the Transformation Plan.
- It was queried whether the Nuisance and Anti-Social Behaviour Team reduction may affect the current service provision. However it was noted that the council did not always have the power to resolve issues so certain requests were disseminated elsewhere.
- Specialist HR provision would assist the organisation in reviewing service areas, whilst providing necessary support.
- Confirmation was provided over the reduced retained business rates, council tax increase and the analysis of risks within the report.
- Recognition that the flooding programme had been reviewed and some schemes were no longer a priority and resulted in savings. Any further works required would be undertaken within the flooding emergency work programme.
- Clarification was provided over queries within the Housing Revenue Account, with particular reference to garages and sheltered major works.
- There was acknowledgement of the forthcoming budget pressures together with recognition that consultation would take place in the future.

Some 5 Members expressed their support, with the other 4 members preferring to abstain and reserve comments for the Full Council meeting later in the month. The Cabinet is asked to note that it was requested that the Commission's comments be conveyed to the Cabinet.

2. Cabinet Agenda Item 7 – Treasury Management Strategy 2020/2021

Comments and Recommendations

The Commission considered report FIN/493 of the Head of Corporate Finance.

Councillors made the following comments:

- Confirmation that the policy of investing according to the principles of security, liquidity, yield and ethical remains.
- It was confirmed that there had not been any consideration for further additions within the Ethical Investment Policy.

The Cabinet is advised that the Commission noted the report and requested the comments discussed be referred to the Cabinet.

Councillor Rana
Chair, Overview and Scrutiny Commission
3 February 2020