

STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL

FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes

WEDNESDAY, 7 FEBRUARY 2024

PRESENT: Councillor G Taylor (Chair)

Councillors J Cox, A Hart, A Parkes, D Pascall and M Worthington

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor C Atkins, P Barks, A Church, M Gledhill, K Hoptroff, C Jebb, D Price, D Proudlove, P Roberts, M Spooner, L Swindlehurst, M Swindlehurst, C Wood, N Yates and L Malyon

APOLOGIES: Councillors C Brady, E Fallows, M Johnson and E Wain

26 **NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS, IF ANY.**

The following substitutions were made:-

Councillor Church for Councillor Brady
Councillor Roberts for Councillor Fallows
Councillor Spooner for Councillor Johnson

27 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

None were declared

28 **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 5th December 2023 be approved.

29 **WORK PROGRAMME**

A discussion took place on how individual topics would be brought to the meeting and be analysed in depth. The order of priority in which Heads of Department would attend would be agreed after the meeting.

RESOLVED:

1. That the work programme be noted.
2. For the Heads of Service to be programmed in to attend future meetings of the Committee.

30 **THIRD QUARTER FINANCE, PROCUREMENT & PERFORMANCE REPORT**

The Committee was informed of the Council's overall performance, procurement and financial position for the period ending 31st December 2023 (Third Quarter 2023/23). Detailed analysis was set out in the appendices to the report and was summarised in paragraph 3.3 of the report.

It was noted that the projected overspend was predominantly concerned with the increased cost base and was detailed in paragraph 4.4 of the report..

A discussion took place around the use of regional data to be included in future reports. This would include local procurement rates from other councils.

It was noted that the Performance report was generally positive. Discussion took place around providing performance data as a comparative against previous years, although it was recognised that this may not always be useful due to, for example, service changes.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Third Quarter 2023/24 financial, procurement and performance position as detailed in Appendices A, B, C and summarised in paragraph 3.3 of the report be noted.
2. An update to be provided in relation to Cornhill and improved rail links.

31 **2024/25 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN & BUDGET SETTING**

The Committee considered a report that set out the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) which presented the Council's priorities in the context of the likely resources available, providing a financial context to decision making. The MTFP was reflective of the current financial position of the Council and is based on latest economic forecasts, and assumptions around the timing and level of capital and revenue expenditure and income.

Discussions centred around comparatives for insight data, improvement in reserves and the sustainability of the final position There was also discussion around the required need for a productivity plan which, whilst there is no detail of what is needed yet, the Council's efficiency programme is considered to give a good starting point.

Members debated parking revenue, the impact of increased car park charges on residents/businesses, parking enforcement and the use of local knowledge and trends to improve each ward within the district. The importance of remaining competitive with other comparable towns was mentioned.

RESOLVED:

- 1) In variance to the Fees and Charges schedule (Appendix C), the Panel recommended a 10 pence increase to the base level of all parking charges in the District with other tariffs rising in line with the percentage that this increase yielded (rounded up to the nearest 10 pence increment);
- 2) That members supported the following **recommendations** to Council:

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- Approves the General Fund Budget for 2024/25 as detailed in **Appendix A (section 7)**
- Approves the revised Medium-Term Financial Plan (2024/25 to 2027/28) as detailed in **Appendix A**, including the revised Capital Programme (attached at Annex A)
- Approves the Capital Strategy 2024/25 as set out in **Appendix B**
- Approves the proposed Fees and Charges for 2024/25 as detailed in **Appendix C**
- Approves the proposed Procurement Forward Plan for 2024/25, providing the authority to procure based on procurement activity detailed in **Appendix D**
- Approves a Band D Council Tax of £168.02 for 2024/25 (2.99% change from 2023/24)
- Approves a Band D Council Tax of £54.50 for Leek and £10.96 for Biddulph for 2024/25 (2.99% change 2023/24) in respect of Special District Expenses
- Notes the Chief Finance Officer's view that the level of reserves are adequate for the Council based on this budget and the circumstances in place at the time of preparing it (**Appendix A, Annex B**)

32 **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

The Chair moved:-

“That, pursuant to Section 100A(2) and (4) of the Local Government, 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings whereby it is likely that confidential information as defined in Section 100A (3) of the Act would be disclosed to the public in breach of the obligation of confidence or exempt information as defined in Section 101 (1) of part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act would be disclosed to the public by virtue of the Paragraphs indicated.”

33 **CCTV UPDATE**

Members received a presentation on the Communities, Culture and Climate Change service area including detailed information on CCTV.

34 **APPLICATION FOR WRITE OFF OF NON- RECOVERABLE DEBTS**

Members considered applications for the write off of non-recoverable debts.

The meeting closed at 3.50 pm

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_____ Chairman _____ Date