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COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council meeting held at 6.00pm on Thursday 27th January 2022 in the Wheeldon Hall, Highfields School, Lumsdale, Matlock DE4 5NA.

PRESENT

Councillor Sue Bull - In the Chair

Councillors: Jacqueline Allison, Robert Archer, Jason Atkin, Matthew Buckler, Martin Burfoot, Sue Burfoot, Neil Buttle, David Chapman, Tom Donnelly, Graham Elliott, Richard Fitzherbert, Steven Flitter, Helen Froggatt, Chris Furness, Clare Gamble, Dawn Greatorex, Alyson Hill, Susan Hobson, David Hughes, Stuart Lees, Tony Morley, Michele Morley, Peter O'Brien, Garry Purdy, Mike Ratcliffe, Mark Salt, Andrew Shirley, Peter Slack, Alasdair Sutton, Colin Swindell, Steve Wain and Mark Wakeman.

Paul Wilson (Chief Executive), Tim Braund (Director of Regulatory Services), Rob Cogings (Director of Housing), Karen Henriksen (Director of Resources), James McLaughlin (Director of Corporate & Customer Services), Jim Fearn (Communications & Marketing Manager), Lee Gardner (Legal Services Manager), Jason Spencer (Democratic Services Manager) and Tommy Shaw (Business Support Assistant).

At the beginning of the meeting the Council stood for a minute of silent tribute to the former Leader of the Council Councillor Lewis Rose OBE who passed away on 6 January 2022. Verbal tributes were then given by Group Leaders and a round of applause was given in appreciation of Councillor Lewis Rose's extensive years of service in local government.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: Richard Bright, Paul Cruise, Dermot Murphy and Andrew Statham.

258/21 - MINUTES

It was moved by Councillor Jason Atkin seconded by Councillor Andrew Shirley and

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 25th November be approved as a correct record.

The Chairman declared the motion **CARRIED**.

259/21 - PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No representations were received under Public Participation.

260/21 – INTERESTS

Item 10 – DERBYSHIRE CLAUSE POLICY AND PROCEDURE

Councillors Helen Froggatt and Mark Wakeman declared a pecuniary interest in Item 12, as they resided in a property subject to the Derbyshire Clause. Councillors Froggatt and Wakeman left the room during consideration of this item.

261/21 - LEADERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor Gary Purdy, Leader of the Council, made the following statement:

“The loss of a loved one is always a time for grief and sadness. But the recent despicable attack upon a loving family home in Station Road, Langwith Junction, Shirebrook by a Burglar resulted in the Murder of Mrs Freda Walker and former Bolsover District Councillor and Chairman Kenneth Walker who is now fighting for his life in Hospital. This Council sends our sincere condolences to Family, Friends and Council colleagues at this very difficult time.

The Organisational Update released on Friday 21 January 2022 once again reveals a large amount of work being carried out by our dedicated staff and makes a more than pleasant change from the waste issues affecting us still. If you have not already done so I commend that you read it and appreciate just what this Authority is achieving under still difficult circumstances. As I have said before, there is hardly any feedback from Members when this publication is released and Officers are wondering if in fact it is worth putting together. I believe so because it is a valuable record of what this Authority is achieving. I bid a warm welcome to new Members of staff that have joined the Authority and congratulate Chris Whitmore and Gareth Griffiths on their promotions.

I apologise once again to those residents suffering from the non-collection of waste bins. Whilst waste collection is back to normal in many areas of the District, we still have some pockets that are causing issues. This is through circumstances beyond our control but our Officers are working hard from all angles to resolve the problem.

A couple of weeks ago I was invited by County Cllr Trevor Ainsworth, also of Amber Valley Borough Council to a meeting at Belper with Pauline Latham MP whose area covers Belper. There is real concern for the keeping of the UNSESCO Inscription of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage site due to the current very poor state of Belper Mill and the fact that Masson Mill, Matlock Bath has had to close as a consequence of the Pandemic and its main retailer supporter, Edinburgh Woollen Mill declaring itself Bankrupt. The UNESCO Inscription was implemented as short a time ago as 2001 and is already under threat. Make no mistake that given the fact that UNESCO has taken an Inscription away from Liverpool and that Stonehenge is under threat if the new road scheme proposed goes ahead then there is a real need to do all that we can to keep the World Heritage statues. Pauline is to invite the Minister responsible Nigel Huddleston MP to the area to visit the Mills under threat.

You will note Members that I sent out data slides on the SPARSE meetings I was on last Monday. The data reveals the stark fact that Rural area residents are taxed much higher than their Urban counterparts, but suffer with much less benefits, amenities and services. This Authority will play its part together with other rural Authorities in the Country in addressing these anomalies with Government through the SPARSE pressure group.

I am led to understand that the White Paper on Devolution is to be published soon by SOS Michael Gove MP and we wait in anticipation to see what it means for our Authority. Our case for a County Deal has been presented to Government and after two years hard work by County Council Officers on Vision Derbyshire, Derbyshire Leaders and Chief Executives, I guess that its fingers crossed time.”

262/21 - CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor Steve Wain, Civic Chairman, made the following statement:

“On the 14th of January 2021 Bakewell rotary club and the woodland trust invited me to a tree planting event on the riverbank at Bakewell agricultural Centre. We planted over 50 trees, which I understand is the start of a larger initiative plant trees in the Bakewell area. I thank all parties involved for a very enjoyable and sunny day.

On Sunday, the 16th of January my wife and I attended the collation and installation of Honorary and Lay Canons at Derby Cathedral. I was there to represent Derbyshire Dales and support Emily Brailsford from Saint Giles Church in Matlock who was made of a Lay Canon that evening.

On Tuesday, the 18th of January myself and my wife, visited the latest installation called in the mix at the Level in Rowsley. The Level, is an Arts Council England Portfolio which challenges perceptions and traditional notions of art culture and societal divisions. They produce and promote art that is powerful and of relevance to all in society, art that is not afraid to be different.

I would encourage other Councillors to visit this facility at Rowsley which unfortunately is fearful that may have funding cuts in the latest round from Derbyshire County Council.”

263/21 – COMMITTEES

It was moved by Councillor Tom Donnelly seconded by Councillor Jason Atkin and

RESOLVED That the non-exempt minutes of the Committees listed in the Minute book, for the period 12th October 2021 to 18th November 2021 be received.

Voting:

For	32
Against	1
Abstention	0

The Chairman declared the motion **CARRIED**.

264/21 - QUESTIONS (RULE OF PROCEDURE 15)

Question from Councillor Peter O'Brien to Councillor Garry Purdy, Leader of the Council:

“As Leader of the Council you will, like all Members, be aware of the unsatisfactory refuse collection service that our residents have endured over the past months, and that officers have recently acknowledged that the service provided by the contractor has been poor and financial penalties issued.

In the light of this, will you support a scheme for an appropriate level of compensation for residents, and work with Group Leaders and the Chief Executive to agree the details of a proposal, for consideration by the Council?”

Councillor Purdy provided the following response:

No. Any consideration of compensation to residents would be something for Members to consider at a future Council meeting when other facts are known, perhaps at or after the extraordinary Council meeting that is to consider the outcome of the Independent Waste Review.

In addition, Members should be aware that such a compensation scheme could be time-consuming to devise and implement at a time when officer resources are already stretched to capacity.

The Council has not previously given council tax refunds where residents are dissatisfied with the standard of service that they have received. The main reason for this is that Council Tax is a tax, much like income tax and VAT, and not a charge for different services.

Though the Council is applying KPI's this is an ongoing process and the final amount is still to be determined and Serco have the right to challenge the penalties determined by the Council.

Income from the KPI penalties has not yet been agreed with Serco or entered in the council's accounts. It has not yet been included in a revised budget for 2021/22 and has not yet been committed to be used for any particular purpose.

It will be for councillors to determine how this additional income will be used. Councillors have already agreed that residents who subscribed to the garden waste service in 2021 will be charged £35, rather than £50, for the service in 2022/23 to compensate for the problems experienced this year. In addition, some of the KPI income might be required to offset unforeseen expenditure or lost income on the waste service in 2021/22 (such as from reduced recycling credits), which have not yet been quantified and could be significant. Any remaining income could be set aside in a reserve to fund future liabilities, such as the replacement of waste collection vehicles, which is expected to require around £4m in 7 years' time.

Question from Councillor Peter O'Brien to Councillor Garry Purdy, Leader of the Council:

“In September 2020, on your recommendations the Council agreed that a site on Knabhall Lane in Tansley should be taken forward as a permanent site for travellers; and that it should be used in the interim as a temporary site. The Council's Corporate Plan subsequently identified March 2022 as the date by which the necessary planning application(s) for the development should be determined.

In the light of the fact that 17 months later no planning application has yet been submitted, let alone determined, can you confirm that it is still your intention that the proposals for a) a temporary traveller's site and b) a permanent site on Knabhall Lane should be actively pursued?”

Councillor Purdy provided the following response:

In accordance with the resolution of Council on 2nd September 2020, Officers have been progressing the provision of a temporary and a permanent Traveller site at Knabhall Lane, Tansley.

As a pre-cursor to the formulation and submission of an application for planning permission, the Council has commissioned works to secure the clearance of materials and temporary structures on the land. Due to the presence of a previously unidentified badger sett, a further Ecological Survey has been undertaken and a land contamination survey has been undertaken – the result of which are currently awaited. Upon receipt of these results and the quantification of anticipated costs of any remediation that may be deemed necessary, further reports will be brought back to Members.

265/21 – EMPTY HOMES PREMIUM AND UPDATE TO COUNCIL TAX DISCRETIONARY DISCOUNTS POLICY

The Director of Housing introduced a report which detailed the impact of the empty homes premium adopted by Council in 2018. From 1st April 2019 the Council had charged a 100% premium (i.e. double council tax) on homes empty and unfurnished for more than 2 years. The report explained that the Council had the ability to increase the premium for long term empty homes by 200% for homes empty for 5 years or more and 300% for homes empty for 10 years or more.

A public consultation exercise ran for 6 weeks ending at the end of October 2018, the results of which were heavily publicised and showed strong support for the adoption of an increased premiums for empty homes. Therefore, Members' approval was sought to adopt the higher levels of empty homes premium with effect from 1st April 2023.

Members were asked to agree changes to the Council's policy for council tax discretionary discounts (under section 13A 1 (c) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992) to allow more flexibility to award a council tax discount to offset the empty homes premium where the applicant provided evidence that the properties were genuinely on the market for sale or rent, without the need to provide evidence of undue hardship. These discretionary discounts were explained to Members in detail by the Director of Resources.

It was moved by Councillor Garry Purdy, seconded by Councillor Mike Ratcliffe and

RESOLVED

1. That the Council notes the impact of the 100% council tax empty homes premium.
2. That the Council notes the results of the public consultation on the adoption of the 200% and 300% premiums and the changes to the Council's policy for council tax discretionary discounts (under section 13A 1 (c) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992).
3. That the Council continues to apply a council tax empty homes premium of 100% in respect of any dwelling that has been unoccupied and substantially unfurnished for at least 2 years but less than 5 years, except where statutory exemptions apply.
4. That, with effect from 1st April 2023, the Council will apply a council tax empty homes premium of 200% in respect of any dwelling that has been unoccupied and substantially unfurnished

for at least 5 years but less than 10 years, except where statutory exemptions apply.

5. That, with effect from 1st April 2023, the Council will apply a council tax empty homes premium of 300% in respect of any dwelling that has been unoccupied and substantially unfurnished for at least 10 years, except where statutory exemptions apply.
6. That the revised Policy for council tax discretionary discounts (under section 13A 1 (c) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992), attached as Appendix 4 be approved.

Voting:

For	30
Against	2
Abstention	1

The Chairman declared the motion **CARRIED**.

266/21 – DERBYSHIRE CLAUSE POLICY & PROCEDURE

As they had declared a pecuniary interest, Councillors Mark Wakeman and Helen Froggatt left the meeting during consideration of this item.

The Legal Services Manager introduced a report which sought Member approval of the draft Derbyshire Clause policy which provided a clear framework for decision making and administrative processes associated with Derbyshire Clause dispensations.

On 16 December 2020, the Community and Environment Committee agreed to consult on a new policy and procedure to streamline the decision making process in relation to the Derbyshire Clause dispensation. On receipt of consultation responses the Committee made the following recommendations to Council:

- a) Subject to Council approving the proposed policy, to recommend that Council delegate authority for decision making according to the policy for Derbyshire Clauses to the Director of Corporate and Customer Services, Legal Services Manager, Principal Solicitor or Solicitor.
- b) To recommend to Council that authority be delegated to the Licensing and Appeals Committee to consider appeals against such decisions.
- c) To recommend to Council to approve charging a fee for Derbyshire Clause dispensations, set at £465.

Council approval was therefore sought for the policy and new procedure, this was considered the most appropriate way to speed up the decision making process through delegated powers in line with an approved policy framework set by Members, whilst also allowing dissatisfied applicants to submit an appeal to Members to review a decision.

It was moved by Councillor Tony Morley, seconded by Councillor Susan Hobson and

RESOLVED

(unanimously)

1. That the Derbyshire Clause Policy be approved.
2. That authority be delegated to the Licensing and Appeals Committee and appropriate Sub-Committee to consider appeals against such decisions.
3. That the Licensing and Appeals Committee be given authority to review and amend the Derbyshire Clause Policy

4. That authority be delegated to the Director of Housing to determine requests on the Derbyshire Clause in accordance with the approved policy.
5. That authority be delegated to the Director of Housing to refer any decision directly to the Sub-Committee of the Licensing and Appeals Committee where a decision is required that would not comply with the approved policy.
6. That the fee for Derbyshire Clause dispensations be set at £465.
7. That authority be delegated to the Director of Corporate and Customer Services and Legal Services Manager to determine any outstanding requests of dispensation in line with the approved policy, which were received prior to the approval of the delegations above at no charge unless the applicant chooses to appeal to the Licensing and Appeals Committee.
8. That authority be delegated to the Director of Housing to make minor changes to the policy and to amend the policy in line with any clarification given by Members following a decision made by the Licensing and Appeals Sub-Committee.

The Chairman declared the motion **CARRIED**.

At 7.20pm, following consideration of this item, Councillors Helen Froggatt and Mark Wakeman returned to the meeting.

267/21 – COUNCIL HOUSING UPDATE REPORT

The Director of Housing introduced a report which advised Members of progress on the Council's housing programme. Having previously selected Nottingham Community Housing Association as the Council's Development and Management Agent in December 2020, Members were informed of the work which had been progressing to bring forward the first homes delivered in 2021/22.

It was moved by Councillor Chris Furness, seconded by Councillor Tom Donnelly and

RESOLVED That progress on the Council Housing programme be noted.

Voting:

	27
For	1
Against	5
Abstention	

The Chairman declared the motion **CARRIED**.

268/21 – LOCAL COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME FOR 2022/23

The Director of Resources introduced a report which provided information relating to proposed changes to the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme for the financial year 2022/23. The report sought Council approval and adoption of the proposed Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2022/23.

The report detailed how the scheme had been continually well received since its initial adoption in April 2013, after the abolition of Council Tax Benefit by government. The report also explained the requirement for the local Council Tax Reduction Scheme to be reviewed annually and any changes made approved no later than 31st January in the financial year preceding that for which the changes are to have effect. No significant changes were proposed to the scheme to be adopted for 2022/23 and so no new consultation with the public or with precepting authorities was necessary. The Benefits Manager monitors expenditure on the discretionary hardship fund and was satisfied that, based on projected caseload and relevant changes occurring, the costs of the 2022/23 scheme would be within budget.

It was moved by Councillor Jason Atkin, seconded by Councillor Tom Donnelly and

- RESOLVED**
(unanimously)
1. That under section 13A (1)(a) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, the scheme detailed in the report be approved and adopted as the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2022/23.
 2. That £18,000 be set as the budgeted amount for all Discretionary Hardship Fund applications under Schedule 11 of the scheme for 2022/23 (to be reviewed by a further report to Council during the year if it appears that this amount may be insufficient).

The Chairman declared the motion **CARRIED**.

269/21 – RESILIENCE, RESOURCES, PRIORITIES

The Chief Executive introduced a report which set out proposals to invest in additional organisational resources in order to ensure that the Council would be adequately resourced to deal with existing and future priorities / challenges.

The report explained that since 1st April 2014, the Council had delivered over £2.7m of savings and efficiencies and had fundamentally reviewed its approach to service delivery, most notably in respect of Leisure services, Revenues and Benefits services and Building Control services, in order to deliver a balanced budget every year. The report also detailed concerns that moving forward the resources available may not be capable of delivering against rising expectations. In order to address these concerns, it was considered necessary to seek Council support and approval for the changes to structure and funding detailed in this report.

It was moved by Councillor Andrew Shirley, seconded by Councillor Susan Hobson and

- RESOLVED**
(unanimously)
1. That the current challenges and pressures on organisational resources and capacity be acknowledged by the Council.
 2. That Council support the proposals for the restructure of the Electoral and Democratic Services Team as outlined in the report and that the additional net costs of £14,667 be included within the draft budget for 2022/23.
 3. That Council support the proposals for the restructure of the Regeneration and Policy Team as outlined in the report and that the costs (to be met from vacant posts and revenue grants unapplied for 2022/23 and 2023/24) of £52,475 be included

- within the draft budget for 2022/23.
4. That Council approve the staffing resources for Phase 2 of the Digital Transformation Programme and that the costs of £99,523 be included within the draft budget for 2022/23.
 5. That subject to the approval of higher empty homes premiums, Council approve the establishment of an Empty Homes Officer post for an initial period of 3 years, and that the costs of £38,260 be included within the draft budget for 2022/23.

The Chairman declared the motion **CARRIED**.

270/21 – APPOINTMENT OF EXTERNAL AUDITOR

Councillors Richard FitzHerbert, Alasdair Sutton, and Mark Wakeman left the meeting at **8:25pm**, prior to the consideration of this item.

The Director of Resources introduced a report which sought Members' approval to opt into the appointing person arrangements for the appointment of the Authority's external auditor for a period that covers the audits of the statutory accounts for the five consecutive financial years commencing 1 April 2023.

The report explained that under the Local Government Audit and Accountability Act 2014 the Authority is required to appoint an auditor to audit its accounts each financial year. The Local Audit (Appointing Person) Regulations 2015 state that the decision of a principal authority to opt into the appointing person arrangement may only be made by the members of the authority meeting as a whole i.e. the decision has to be made by full Council and cannot be delegated to a committee or officer.

It was also explained within the report that the Council's current auditor appointment would cover the period up to and including the audit of the 2022/23 accounts. However, due to the lengthy procurement process it is a requirement of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 that the Authority have an auditor appointment in place by 31st December of the year preceding the start of the contract.

It was moved by Councillor Steve Flitter, seconded by Councillor Tom Donnelly and

RESOLVED
(unanimously)

1. That the Council becomes an opted-in Authority to the national procurement exercise, conducted by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited, for the appointment of the Authority's external auditor for a period that covers the audits of the statutory accounts for the five consecutive financial years commencing 1 April 2023.
2. That a budget pressure of £10,000 be included in the Medium Term Financial Plan from 2023/24 onwards to reflect the forecast increase in audit fees and the additional work under this new contract.

The Chairman declared the motion **CARRIED**.

271/21 - DURATION OF MEETINGS (MOTION TO CONTINUE)

At **8:27pm**, prior the discussion of **Item 15 - CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING 2021/22 & CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2022/23 TO 2024/25**.

It was moved by Councillor Colin Swindell, seconded by Councillor Tom Donnelly and

RESOLVED That, in accordance with **Rule of Procedure 13**, the meeting
(unanimously) continue beyond 2 hours 30 minutes to enable the business on the agenda to be concluded.

272/21 – CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING 2021/22 & CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2022/23 TO 2024/25

Councillor Richard FitzHerbert returned to the meeting at **8:30pm** during consideration of this item.

The Director of Resources introduced a report which presented to Members the current financial position of spend against the 2021/22 Capital Programme as at the end of November 2021. The report also sought Members' approval for an updated capital programme for 2021/22 to 2026/27 and associated financing.

The Council approved a Revised Capital Programme on 8th July 2021 which shows a Capital Budget of £10,444,275. In addition to that Programme, further specific reports to committees approved changes amounting to a total approved Capital Budget of £10,780,275 for the 2021/22 financial year.

The report detailed the forecast out-turn expenditure against budget which revealed that just under half of the Capital Programme was forecast to be completed during the 2021/22 financial year. In light of the forecast out-turn position and slippage in the Capital Programme, projects were re-phased where necessary into 2022/23 and beyond. A fundamental review of projects also highlighted some projects which have now been concluded or are no longer feasible, so these were removed from the Programme. A revised Capital Programme including new projects considered for inclusion was therefore presented to Members.

It was moved by Councillor Steve Flitter, seconded by Councillor Jason Atkin and

RESOLVED 1. That the Capital Programme spend to the end of November
(unanimously) 2021 be noted;
2. That re-phasing of existing projects for completion over the next 3 years and the removal of projects not proceeding be approved;
3. That 4 new projects totalling £1.963m (£247,000 in 2021/22 and £1.621m in 2022/23) be approved for inclusion in the Capital Programme;
4. That financing of the Capital Programme for 2021/22 to 2024/25 from the sources summarised at paragraph 2.7 of the report also be approved.

The Chairman declared the motion **CARRIED**.

273/21 – AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION – RULES OF SUBSTITUTION

The Director of Corporate and Customer Services introduced a report which proposed a recommendation from the Constitution Working Group to amend the rules in respect of substitute Members for meetings of the Council's policy committees.

In January 2020 new rules of substitute Members were introduced which applied to all of the Council's committees. Under these rules, substitute Members, appointed as such by the Council, may attend meetings in that capacity only to take the place of an "ordinary" Member for whom they are the designated substitute. The revision in January 2020 introduced a requirement for the Director of Corporate and Customer Services to be notified of the name of an absent councillor and the name of the intended substitute councillor by no later than 12noon two working days prior to the day of the meeting.

The Constitution Working Group met on 16 December 2021 and proposed that the Council should return to the previous provisions for the notification of Substitute Members for the policy committees only. It was recognised that there would be a risk if such a provision applied to Planning Committee and it was also noted that substitute Members were not permitted by law for the Licensing and Appeals Committee.

It was therefore proposed that Council Procedure Rule 3.3 read:

Substitution

The rules of substitute Members apply to the Council's committees, other than the Licensing and Appeal Committee. Substitutes may attend meetings, to which this rule applies, in that capacity only:

- a) To take the place of the ordinary Councillor for whom they are the designated substitute;
- b) After notifying the Director of Corporate and Customer Services,
 - (i) In the case of a Policy Committee, by no later than 4.00pm on the day of the meeting, the name of the absent Councillor and the name of the intended Substitute Councillor
 - (ii) In the case of Planning Committee, by 12noon, two working days prior to the day of the meeting, the name of the absent Councillor and the name of the intended Substitute Councillor
- c) Absence and substitution shall be the whole duration of the whole meeting

It was moved by Councillor Mike Ratcliffe, seconded by Councillor Peter Slack and

RESOLVED (unanimously) That Council Procedure Rule 3.3 in respect of Substitute Members on Committees be amended, as per the wording set out in paragraph 2.3, to permit the notification of substitute Members on policy committees up to 4.00pm on the day of the meeting of such committees.

The Chairman declared the motion **CARRIED**.

274/21 – APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRS TO NORTHERN, CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN COMMUNITY AREA FORUMS

The Director of Corporate and Customer Services proposed the need for Council to appoint Chairs to the upcoming Northern, Central and Southern Community Area Forums.

It was moved by Councillor Garry Purdy, seconded by Councillor Susan Hobson and

RESOLVED That Councillors: Richard FitzHerbert, Helen Froggatt and Sue Bull be appointed as Chairs of the forthcoming Community Area Forums.

Voting:

For	27
Against	0
Abstention	4

The Chairman declared the motion **CARRIED**.

275/21 – REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING QUARTER 2 2021/22

The Director of Resources introduced a report which updated Members on the Council's revenue budget for 2021/22 and sought Council approval for virements and the revised budget for 2021/22.

On 4th March 2021 Council set a net revenue budget of £11,015,556 for 2021/22. This was subsequently updated when the revised net revenue budget of £11,315,443 was approved by Council on the 8th July. Since the revised budget was formally approved in July a small number of other budget amendments have since been approved by Council, and there have been some minor virements approved under delegated authority which have impacted directorate totals.

The overall impact of subsequent budget amendments resulted in a net revenue expenditure of £11,517,357 and an expected deficit of £32,150 for the year to be funded from the General Reserve. The full year forecast to March 2022 based on budget monitoring to quarter 2 (September 2021) and decisions of full Council to 14th October 2021 indicated an underspend of £391,327 attributable across services to vacancies against the establishment. The forecast assumed a 1.75% pay award.

It was therefore recommended to Members that any underspend at out-turn for 2021/22 be transferred to reserves as follows:

- the first £100,000 into the General Reserve, to top up the balance to £1m, which is considered necessary to improve financial resilience;
- the next £200,000 into the Customer Innovation Reserve, to be used to fund the costs of a contract extension for the digital transformation team;
- the use of any further underspend to be recommended as part of the out-turn report based on priority need.

It was also proposed that any further cost pressures which could not be met from existing reserves would be financed within the total budget by virement against forecast underspend. Members were informed that contributions from the General Reserve would only be required if the forecast outturn position was an over-spending.

It was moved by Councillor Jason Atkin, seconded by Councillor Tom Donnelly and

RESOLVED
(unanimously)

1. That the updated revised revenue budget for 2021/22, including the virements as identified in paragraphs 1.3 to 1.5 of the report, be approved;
2. That the forecast underspending of £391,327 for 2021/22 be noted;
3. That any underspend at out-turn for 2021/22 be transferred to reserves as follows:
 - the first £100,000 into the General Reserve;
 - the next £200,000 into the Customer Innovation Reserve;
 - the use of any further underspend to be recommended as part of the out-turn report based on priority need.

The Chairman declared the motion **CARRIED**.

As the meeting was being held on International Holocaust Remembrance Day, at the end of the meeting the Council stood in silent tribute to the memory of the victims of the Holocaust.

Meeting Closed: 8:50pm

Chairman