

POLICY AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY PANEL

Thursday, 6 February 2020 (6:45 pm – 7:40 pm)

PRESENT:

Councillor Gomer (Chair); Councillors Asman, Broadhurst, Doguie, Duguid, Grajewski, Groves and Tidridge

Also in attendance: Councillor Bicknell

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Cross, Couldrey, Jurd and Tyson-Payne

RESOLVED ITEMS (SUBJECT TO QUESTIONS ONLY)

70. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest in items of business on the agenda.

71. MINUTES

It was AGREED -

That the minutes from the meeting held on Thursday 30 January 2020 were not tabled as stated in the agenda. Consequently, two sets would be approved at 12 March's meeting.

Councillors advised that the minutes from the meeting held on Thursday 22 January 2020 were not currently published on the website.

72. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation on this occasion.

73. CHAIR'S REPORT

Given that the Panel had met on 30 January 2020 and considered the Cabinet Forward Plan (item 7) and the Panel's Work Programme (item 8) so it was agreed not to consider them again at this meeting.

74. GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET 2020/21 AND PERFORMANCE MONITORING TO 31 DECEMBER 2019

The Chief Finance Officer introduced the report that outlined the Council's General Fund Revenue Budget for 2020/21 and contained the Performance Monitoring data to 31 December 2019.

The following key points were noted:

- The Budget would go to Cabinet on Tuesday 18 February 2020 then to debate on Thursday 20 February 2020
- Data collated throughout the year to put budget together
- 2% inflation on pay award
- 0% inflation on budgets; budgets do not automatically go up unless bound contractually
- Fees/Charges Income – 3% yield is required and built into the budget
- General reserve (emergency pot) to be kept at £1m
- Revenue Support Grant is now zero and had been decreasing, yet managed over several years
- Going forward, Business Rates will be reset across the country to a base line meaning a loss of income and added financial pressure; this has been built into the budget to combat losses across sectors
- Proposing to borrow over £½B next year, but increased proportion of borrowing on a fixed interest rate which means less exposure to interest rate fluctuations
- Continuous Improvement Strategy, managers have been asked to look at commercial development, service improvement and strategic realignment as focus areas to generate further income
- Revenue growth in the budget, as well as some reserves have been set aside for the Climate Change project
- Temporary resources have been allocated to recognise that there are additional staffing requirements whilst process and technology improvements are implemented

RESOLVED –

That the Policy and Performance Scrutiny Panel considered and noted the General Fund Revenue Budget 2020/21 report.

PERFORMANCE MONITORING DATA:

- The data was presented in a more coherent format than previously; however, it was suggested that the axis on graphs should start at 0
- It was suggested that numerical figures would make it easier to see true trends as percentages can be misleading when making comparisons
- Suggested that a performance management system that would draw all data together in one place and produce reports be procured
- Requested an update from Waste Services Manager before the next meeting regarding Direct Services performance as there was still no marked improvement showing with regards to missed bin collections

- Also requested an update on complaints as even though there has been positive improvement, it was still showing as working outside Service Level Agreement timescales
- The Chair requested written updates were sent to him and he would then pass them out to the committee

RESOLVED –

That the Policy and Performance Scrutiny Panel considered and noted the Performance Monitoring to 31 December 2019 subject to the updates requested above.

75. CABINET FORWARD PLAN

This item was not considered on this occasion as it had been considered a week prior.

76. POLICY AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY PANEL'S WORK PROGRAMME

This item was not considered on this occasion as it had been considered a week prior.