

Addendum

Council

Dear Councillor,

Council - Thursday, 8 April 2021, 7.30 pm

I enclose, for consideration at the meeting of the Council to be held on Thursday, 8 April 2021 at 7.30 pm, the following recommendations which were unavailable when the agenda was printed.

Mari Roberts-Wood
Interim Head of Paid Service

7. Recommendations (Pages 3 - 10)

To receive and consider the recommendations of the Council's Executive, committees and sub-committees.

- I. To receive the recommendations from the Executive meeting of 25 March 2021 (Minutes 78 and 83) concerning the Treasury Management Strategy 2021/22 and the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2021/22, for adoption
- II. To receive a recommendation from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting of 18 March 2021, (Minute 83) concerning the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2020/21, for adoption.
- III. To receive a recommendation from the Audit Committee meeting of 11 March 2021, (Minute 33) concerning the Audit Committee Annual Report 2020/21, for adoption.

For enquiries regarding this addendum;

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Recommendations from the Executive – 25 March 2021

Minute
reference
78

Treasury Management Strategy 2021/22

The Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Finance and Governance, Councillor Schofield, introduced the report which set out the draft Treasury Management Strategy for 2021/22. The purpose of the Strategy was to guide all Treasury Management activity for 2021/22.

Councillor Schofield provided a summary of the four main sections contained in the Strategy:

- The introduction set out the background in terms of regulations and guidance and the functions and definitions of Treasury Management;
- The Capital Prudential Indicators confirmed the financial implications of the Council's expenditure plans, which were aligned with the Capital Programme previously agreed by the Executive, the Capital Financing Requirement, anticipated Borrowing Profile and recommended Minimum Revenue Provision Policy;
- The Borrowing section set out how the Council planned to fund approved capital projects and made recommendations on the required borrowing limits to manage these activities; and
- The Treasury Investment Strategy which was focussed on counterparty security, keeping the Council's money safe and ensuring the Council took full advantage of appropriate investment opportunities in accordance with the risk profile.

A Panel of Members drawn from the Audit Committee and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had met with the Council's Treasury advisors to discuss the underlying drivers for the Strategy and raise questions on the contents.

The Vice-Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Walsh, explained that the Committee had received and considered the Strategy and received a summary document which outlined changes in the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy, a reduction in the Operational Boundary for borrowing, and expectations of continuing lower bank rates forecasts. The Committee:

- Noted that the level of spending on investments and regeneration in 2020/21 had been delayed. This delay had impacted on the level of borrowing required in the current year.

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- Noted that the counterparty limits were to be increased to reflect the need to hold significant additional funds that were being received from government on a temporary basis during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Had no further observations or recommendations

In response to a question from a Visiting Member it was confirmed that capital receipts reflect income the Council receives for the disposal of capital assets.

RECOMMENDED to Council for approval:

- 1. Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2021/22**
- 2. Prudential Indicators 2021/22**
- 3. Minimum Revenue Provision Statement 2021/22**
- 4. Borrowing Limits Provision Statement 2021/22**

Minute
reference
83

*Recommendation
1 only.*

Overview and Scrutiny Proposed Work Programme 2021/22

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Brunt, invited the Vice-Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Walsh, to introduce the Committee's proposed Work Programme for 2021/22.

Councillor Walsh explained that the Committee had reviewed the Work Programme and had resolved:

- That the planned Scrutiny Panels would include a Budget Scrutiny Panel in December 2021 and a Commercial Strategy Scrutiny Panel. The Local Plan Scrutiny Panel would be constituted if required.
- That two Member requests for be included on the work programme.
 - i) Representatives from Raven Housing Trust would be invited to attend a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and,
 - ii) Any forthcoming Leisure Strategy for the Council would be scrutinised by the Committee.

Councillor Walsh explained that Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 18 March had additionally asked to scrutinise ICT provision in response to changing working practices due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Committee wanted to understand what future hybrid ICT working arrangements would mean for officers and Members, what improvements would be made to benefit residents, the resilience of the Council's ICT systems and the costs, challenges and risks associated with remote working.

Councillor Brunt proposed an additional recommendation that the wording on Work Programme in relation to the proposed scrutiny of ICT provision would be agreed by the Leader of the Council and the Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny.

RECOMMENDED to Council:

1. **That the proposed Work Programme for 2021/22 as set out in the report and summarised in Annex 1, with the addition of reviews of the Leisure Strategy and a review of future hybrid working arrangements for Officers and Members and future IT provision, following their inclusion on**

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the work programme at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 18 March 2021, be approved.

RESOLVED:

2. That the wording of the proposed review of future hybrid working arrangements for Officers and Members and future IT provision on the Work Programme would be agreed by the Leader of the Council in consultation with the Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny in accordance with Overview and Scrutiny Procedure rule 5.7.1.

Recommendation from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 18 March 2021

Minute
reference
83

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2020/21

Members received the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Annual Report outlining the work and reports of the Committee and its Scrutiny Panels during the past year (2020/21).

The Annual Report described the work of Overview and Scrutiny at 8 Committee meetings in 2020/21 plus the meeting of the Budget Scrutiny Panel in December 2020. In addition, there were 5 meetings of two Scrutiny Panels that were constituted during the year: Evaluating Overview and Scrutiny Panel and Recovery Scrutiny Panel – the latter looking at the Council's recovery programme following the emergency response to COVID-19. There was 1 additional Call-in meeting on 27 August 2020 on an Executive decision on the Environmental Sustainability Strategy. All meetings were held remotely due to the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting national lockdowns. Annex 1 sets out Membership and Attendance during the year.

Members made no additional observations on the report of the Committee's work during 2020/21.

RESOLVED – that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Annual Report 2020/21 and Annex 1 be agreed and RECOMMENDED for approval to Full Council on Thursday 8 April 2021.

Recommendation from the Audit Committee – 11 March 2021

Minute
reference
33

*Recommendation
(i) only*

Audit Committee Annual Report 2020/21

The Committee was apprised that the Annual Report 2020/21 set out the work of the Audit Committee in 2020/21 and considered its forward work programme for 2021/22. It was noted that the Committee's forward work programme was a live document and would be subject to change as required.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) **the Annual Report of the Audit Committee be noted and be RECOMMENDED to Council; and**
- (ii) the Audit Committee's Forward Plan for 2021/22 be approved.

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