

Recommendation from the Executive – 28 July 2020

Minute
reference
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Treasury Management Outturn Report 2019/20

Councillor Schofield, Executive Member for Finance and Deputy Leader of the Council, reported that with one exception, the Council had complied with its legislative and regulatory requirements. The exception related to the year-end when the Government paid over tens of millions of pounds in emergency funding to the Council at short notice as part of the national COVID-19 pandemic response. It had not been possible to spread those funds across a range of banks and financial institutions to ensure compliance with the limits set out in the Treasury Management Strategy. Councillor Schofield explained that this was now being resolved, through opening additional accounts with new institutions to spread the counterparty risk. Overall, the report showed that the Council's treasury management activity for the last year had been robust, and complied with the limits that had previously been approved.

In response to questions and observations from Visiting Members, Executive Members explained that:

- Each commercial opportunity explored by the Council would continue to take account of statutory guidance on Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) and the Council's own MRP Policy
- Loans to subsidiaries, to date, had been made from internal borrowing
- The interim Head of Finance would provide a clarification briefing note on the company loans and Minimum Revenue Provision, to those Members present, after the meeting.

Resolved to Recommend to Council:

- 1. To note the Treasury Management Performance for 2019/20;**
- 2. To approve the outturn against the 2019/20 Prudential and Treasury Management Indicators and the Annual Treasury Management Report (Annex 1).**

Recommendation from the Standards Committee – 1 September 2020

Minute
reference
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Annual Standards Report 2019/20

The Monitoring Officer presented the report which summarised the discharge of the Standards function during 2019/20, including:

- The Member Code of Conduct
- Complaints against Members
- The role of the Monitoring Officer
- Maintenance of the Register of Interests

Members acknowledged that since the receipt of the last Annual Report in 2018, a new Monitoring Officer had been appointed. Good progress had been made by the Governance Task Group in delivering a refreshed Member Code of Conduct and Member Officer Protocol, and training on the Member Code of Conduct had been delivered to all Members after the local elections in 2019.

The Committee in 2018 had expressed that it was desirable to improve the transparency of those complaints which were not brought to the Standards Committee. The Monitoring Officer acknowledged that resources had been focussed on updating the Code of Conduct, and subsequently, resources had been shifted to the COVID-19 response. Members were assured that a review of the process for Member complaints was timely.

Members noted that a review to ensure there was no overlap or confusion between the distinct remits of the Standards Committee and the Governance Task Group was necessary. Members urged that the operation of the Code of Conduct, and associated matters, should remain with the Standards Committee.

Members welcomed that the Monitoring Officer had consulted with the Chair of the Committee throughout the year. However, it was felt that the update meetings with Group Leaders should be scheduled as a minimum twice per year, by the Monitoring Officer.

In response to a question about recent complaints, the Monitoring Officer and Deputy Monitoring Officer would work with the Standards Committee and its Chair to implement learning points and bring forward an updated protocol to provide increased clarity and transparency to the process.

Members agreed and emphasised that where any Assessment Panels or Sub-Committee meetings had taken place, a summary of those meetings should be presented to the Committee. The Committee should also be timetabled in the annual calendar of meetings to meet more than once per year.

RESOLVED that the Annual Standards Report 2019/20 be noted.