



To be submitted to the Council at its meeting on 17th March, 2022

BUDGET SCRUTINY

24th January 2022 at 2.00 p.m.

Present:

Councillors Astbury, Brasted, Cairns, Dawkins, Furneaux, Harness, Hasthorpe, Parkinson, Rodwell, Sandford, Silvester and K. Swinburn.

Officers in Attendance:

- Rob Walsh (Joint Chief Executive)
- Joanne Hewson (Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director for People, Health and Care)
- Sharon Wroot (Executive Director for Environment, Economy and Resources) (Section 151 Officer)
- Helen Isaacs (Assistant Chief Executive)
- Bev Compton (Director of Adult Social Services)
- Simon Jones (Assistant Director Law, Governance and Assets (Monitoring Officer))
- Paul Windley (Democratic and Scrutiny Team Manager)

Also in attendance:

- Councillor Jackson (Leader of the Council)
- Councillor Shreeve (Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance, Resources and Assets)
- Councillor Procter (Portfolio Holder for Economic Development, Housing and Tourism)
- Councillor S Swinburn (Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transport)
- Councillor Lindley (Portfolio Holder for Children and Education)
- Councillor Cracknell (Portfolio Holder for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Social Care)
- Assistant Directors attended this meeting remotely.

SPBS.1 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

RESOLVED – That Councillor Furneaux be appointed as the Chair for this meeting.

COUNCILLOR FURNEAUX IN THE CHAIR

SPBS.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Procter declared a personal interest as the employee of a business situated on Sea Road, Cleethorpes when questions were asked regarding car parking and proposed developments in the area.

SPBS.3 BUDGET AND MEDIUM-TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2022-2025

Members received a report from the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance, Resources and Assets outlining how the Council plans to deliver its agreed financial strategy over the coming three-year period.

Councillor Jackson, Leader of the Council, introduced the report and members were then invited to ask any questions on the draft budget, medium-term financial plan, the draft commissioning plans by area and the capital programme.

Medium Term Financial Plan

Councillor Furneaux enquired whether the level of New Homes Bonus grant funding was the most that had been received by this authority and whether there was any certainty that it would continue at that level. It was noted that this was the most that the authority had received in terms of growth and there was confidence that this would continue as housing strategy plans came to fruition.

Adult Services

There were no questions raised by members.

Children and Family Services

Councillor Furneaux noted the budgetary pressures within children and family services and enquired about the potential impact on budgets across the organisation. Councillor Lindley was confident that there were sufficient resources within the service and it was important to make sure that they were adequately utilised.

Public Health

There were no questions raised by members.

Economy and Growth

Councillor Rodwell enquired about the proposed increase in car parking fees. It was noted that some charges had not increased for ten years, and the intention was to look at usage levels across the Borough.

Proposals would be considered by the Economy Scrutiny Panel and its comments would be welcomed.

Councillor Cairns enquired about the proposed spend on the car park in Grant Street, Cleethorpes. Councillor Procter explained the reasoning behind the investment.

Councillor Furneaux requested and received updates on progress with the South Humber Inward Investment Programme, the Future High Streets Fund and the Sea Road development in Cleethorpes.

Environment

Councillor Rodwell enquired about increased charges and fees for Bereavement Services and whether this was a good idea in the current circumstances. Councillor Swinburn commented on the resulting added value being provided by the service with regard to the introduction of the pet crematorium and the provision of affordable funerals.

Councillor Furneaux enquired whether there were any plans to extend the food waste trial. Councillor Swinburn responded that there were no plans at present but the trial was being evaluated.

Resources

Councillor Rodwell enquired how much it was proposed to reduce ward funding by. Councillor Shreeve responded that the current plan was to keep funding at the same level.

Capital Programme

Councillor Furneaux enquired whether there was a specific reason for the £3m slippage on the Town Deal programme. Councillor Jackson explained that this was largely due to delays with the Youth Zone project.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted and the minutes of this meeting be included as part of the response to the consultation on the proposals.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 2.41 p.m.