

Report of the Chair of Finance , Resources and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee.

This Committee met on 24th January to scrutinise the Treasury Management Strategy 2018 - 2019 and the Revenue and Capital Budgets 2018-2019.

Welcomed Council Sweeny (Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources) who attended meeting to answer questions about the Budget.

Treasury Management Strategy.

The Executive Director (resources and support services) presented the Treasury Management Strategy 2018-2019 for scrutiny by members of the Committee. The report included the Prudential Indicators, Investment Strategy and the Minimum Revenue Provision Strategy. Members were made aware that the results of the consultation undertaken by the Department for Communities and Local Government and any impact this may have on proposals to update the guidance on Local Authorities Investments and on Minimum Review Provision and any impact on the Treasury Management Strategy was due to be received in the near future.

Members asked if the delayed move to Castle House would have a negative impact on the financial assumptions relating to the Ryecroft development site. It was considered that this would not have any immediate effect, due to the terms of the contract which allowed for the site to be available towards the end of the year.

The Committee approved the strategy for submission to Full Council.

I would like to thank Kelvin Turner for his explanation of a detailed and technical report and his Glossary of Terms.

REVENUE And CAPITAL BUDGETS 2018-2019.

The Executive Director (resources and support services) submitted a report which reviewed progress towards completion of the revenue and capital budgets for 2018-2019 following agreement of 5year Medium Term Financial Strategy.

The Committee scrutinised the draft Budget/Council Tax proposals. There was a suggestion from a member that pressures could be reduced if Council was raised by 3 per cent however it was noticed that Council Tax will be increased by 2.70 percent.

Members questioned the impact on anticipated savings of the delayed move to Council House. It was stated that these will be compensated for by financial levy paid by the contractor.

Members also looked at other areas of savings and discussion with BID which may offer an opportunity to make savings in certain areas of responsibility.

Questions were asked about repairs to J2 as they are essential. Can they be covered by the warranty period.

capital Programme was funded by £1.5m which would be achieved through land sales.

Question asked can we be certain of these Land Sales.

Members scrutinised the cost of waste bins and asked Cabinet to examine and a breakdown of costs.

A member asked why the Mayors budget had been reduced and in response the Portfolio Holder explained how the Mayors Allowance had been based on a Spinal Column point which increased in line with officer salaries, this was in contrast to others Members allowances which had not increased. additional savings would be made by not replacing dedicated Mayoral support.

In answer to a question Portfolio Holder explained that from MY 2018 it was anticipated that the members iPad scheme would be discontinued.

In respect of the Planned Activities for 2018-2019 members asked that any jargon such as the word "resilience " be removed (ref.no 1.13).

It was agreed that the budget for replacement of waste bins be looked at further by Cabinet.

WORK PLAN

Members noted that due to delay in moving into Castle House and the need for staff to concentrate on the move it would not be possible to review the move to Castle House specifically the HR implications and workforce development.

It was suggested that for the March meeting we invite a representative from BID but were informed that a representative from BID would be attending Economic Development Committee .

It was decided that the meeting planned for 12th March be cancelled.

Chair. Councillor Joan Winfield.