

Audit, Governance & Standards Committee

Thursday, 30 January 2020

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor John Fisher (Chair), Councillor Mark Shurmer (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Tom Baker-Price, Michael Chalk, Ann Isherwood, Julian Grubb, Nyear Nazir, Yvonne Smith and David Thain

Democratic Services Officers:

Jess Bayley and Jo Gresham

45. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY, PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS AND MINIMUM REVENUE POLICY PROVISION 2020/21

The Executive Director, Finance and Resources presented the Treasury Management Strategy 2020/21 report for Members' consideration. It was explained to Members that this was a statutory report which would enable the Council to manage its treasury management with the aim to maximise income.

The Executive Director, Finance and Resources highlighted the key points from the report as follows:

- The Council planned £17.8m of capital expenditure in the year 2020/21.
- Borrowing was not permitted for the day to day working of the Council for example salaries and wages.
- The fleet replacement programme was part of the £1.8m General Fund expenditure.
- The Authority planned to invest in regeneration properties that provided a good rate of return
- The Council's Finance team had the relevant skills including qualified accountants who prepared this strategy. In addition external professional support is received via a contract.

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Chair

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- The external borrowing figures were fluid as the Finance team constantly looked at ways to decrease debt payments.

Members questioned whether there was a possibility of leasing vehicles rather than using the General Fund for a fleet replacement scheme. The Executive Director Finance and Resources stated that she would ask the Head of Environmental Services to investigate.

It was discussed whether the tables that were used on pages 30 and 32 of the agenda pack were the correct ones that were used for investment counterparts and limits. The Executive Director, Finance and Resources undertook to query this with her team and report back to Members.

The Chair questioned whether the strategy had significantly changed. It was confirmed by the Executive Director Finance and Resources that the strategy towards regeneration and commercialism had changed. She also confirmed that the capital receipts strategy meant that transformation projects could be undertaken which resulted in savings for the Authority.

RECOMMENDED that

- 1) the Capital Strategy as an appropriate overarching strategy for the Council be approved;**
- 2) the Treasury Management Strategy for 2020/21 and the associated MRP policy be approved;**
- 3) the policy for Flexible use of Capital Receipts be approved; and**
- 4) the Investment Strategy be approved.**

The Meeting commenced at 7.00 pm
and closed at 8.55 pm