

## **Finance and Resources Scrutiny Committee**

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2023

At 7:00 pm in the Council Chamber, The Cube, George Street, Corby. NN17 1QG.

**Present: -**

### Members

Councillor Mark Pengelly (Chair), Councillor King Lawal, Councillor William Colquhoun, Councillor Jim Hakewill, Councillor Ken Harrington, Councillor Paul Marks, Councillor Mark Rowley, Councillor Malcolm Ward, Councillor Scott Brown.

Also in Attendance – Councillor Jason Smithers (Leader of the Council) & Councillor Lloyd Bunday (Executive Member).

### Officers

Janice Gotts (Executive Director of Finance and Performance), Mark Dickenson (Assistant Director), Claire Edwards (Assistant Director), Guy Holloway (Assistant Chief Executive), Raj Sohal (Democratic Services).

## **94. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ian Jelley, Steven North and Richard Levell. Councillor Scott Brown was in attendance, as a substitute.

## **95. Members' Declarations of Interest**

No declarations were received.

## **96. Revenue Budget Monitoring as at Period 9**

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director of Finance, which set out the Budget Forecast 2022/23 as at Period 9 and was presented to Executive at its meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

During discussion, the principal points were noted:

- Members queried whether there had been any movement in relation to contingency funds.
- One member queried what happened to outstanding amounts of uncollected Council Tax and questioned whether it had been written off as 'bad debt.'
- One member queried where contingency funding could be accessed from, should the Council's contingency budget be exhausted, and unforeseen circumstances were to arise.
- Members queried how usage of Council reserves would be recorded.

- Members queried how and when The Northamptonshire Children's Trust (NCT) would receive payment of £6m, for its overspend budget position.
- Members queried how payment of contingency funding to address the NCT's overspend had been split between North and West Northamptonshire Councils.

In response, the Executive Director of Finance clarified that:

- The contingency budget remained at the same level as previous budget monitoring periods.
- Tax collection was carried over to the following financial year as either a surplus or a deficit. This had been monitored as part of an annual analysis of collection. Council tax could only be written off should collection from an individual not be deemed possible.
- In the event that the Council's contingency budget was exhausted, and it required emergency funding, it would have to use its reserves to address any additional overspend.
- The usage of Council reserves would form part of the overspend on the budget position.
- Additional funding for the NCT would be paid through contract adjustments. Overspend positions by the Trust were closely scrutinised, as The Strategic Commissioning Group met monthly.
- The cost of the NCT's budget overspend was split proportionally between North and West Northamptonshire Councils, based upon services rendered.

**RESOLVED that:**

- (i) The report be noted.

**97. Capital Forecast 2022/23 as at Period 9**

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director of Finance, which set out the Capital Forecast 2022/23 as at Period 9 and was presented to Executive at its meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

**RESOLVED that:**

- (i) The report be noted.

**98. Verbal update - Scrutiny Review of ICT**

The Committee considered a verbal update by the Assistant Chief Executive, concerning future scrutiny of Council ICT.

A sub-committee was formed to carry out a scrutiny review of ICT, comprised of the following members:

- Councillor Mark Pengelly
- Councillor Mark Rowley
- Councillor Ken Harrington
- Councillor King Lawal
- Councillor Scott Brown
- Councillor William Colquhoun
- Councillor Charlie Best

**RESOLVED that:**

- (i) The verbal update be noted.
- (ii) The ICT scrutiny review sub-committee be established.

**98. Close of meeting**

The meeting closed at 7:40pm.

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Chair

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Date