

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

DECISION SHEET

Meeting of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Gernon Road, Letchworth Garden City on Monday, 28th January, 2019 at 7.30 pm

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors:

Councillor Simon Harwood
Councillor Ian Albert – Councillor Helen Oliver substituting
Councillor Terry Tyler - Councillor Steve Jarvis substituting

2 MINUTES - 17 DECEMBER 2018

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 17 December 2018 be approved as a true record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chairman.

3 NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business notified.

4 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (1) The Chairman announced that Members of the public and the press may use their devices to film/photograph, or do a sound recording of the meeting, but she asked them to not use flash and to disable any beeps or other sound notifications that emitted from their devices. In addition, the Chairman had arranged for the sound at this particular meeting to be recorded;
- (2) The Chairman reminded Members that, in line with the Code of Conduct, any Declarations of Interest needed to be declared immediately prior to the item in question;
- (3) The Chairman asked that, for the benefit of any members of the public present at the meeting, Officers announce their name and their designation to the meeting when invited to speak.

5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public were present.

6 EXTERNAL AUDIT PLAN

RESOLVED: That the Report entitle External Audit Plan be noted.

REASON FOR DECISION: To enable the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee to consider the report entitled External Audit Plan.

7 CERTIFICATION OF CLAIMS AND RETURNS ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18

RESOLVED: That the report entitled Certification of Claims and Returns Annual Report 2017/18 be noted.

REASON FOR DECISION: To enable the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee to consider the report entitled Certification of Claims and Returns Annual Report 2017/18.

8 REVENUE BUDGET 2019/20

RECOMMENDED TO CABINET:

- (1) That Cabinet notes the expected Central Government funding levels.
- (2) That Cabinet notes the estimated position on the Collection Fund and how this will be funded.
- (3) That Cabinet confirms that Council Tax increases for 2019/20 should be in line with the Medium Term Financial Strategy.
- (4) That Cabinet notes the position relating to the General Fund balance and that due to the risks identified a minimum balance of £1.96 million is recommended.
- (5) That Cabinet approves the increase in the 2018/19 working budget of £116k, and to note the expected impact in 2019/20 of a £164k reduction in budget.
- (6) That Cabinet notes and comments on the requests for the carry-forward of budget of £41k from 2018/19 to 2019/20.
- (7) That Cabinet approves the inclusion of the efficiencies and investment proposals at Appendix B in the General Fund budget estimates for 2019/20.
- (8) That Cabinet notes the savings target in future years.
- (9) That Cabinet notes the estimated 2019/20 net expenditure of £15.1 million, as detailed in Appendix A, and recommends this budget to Council.

REASON FOR DECISIONS:

- (1) To ensure that all relevant factors are taken into consideration when arriving at the proposed Council Tax precept for 2019/20.
- (2) To ensure that the Cabinet recommends a balanced budget to Council on 7 February 2019.

9 INVESTMENT STRATEGY (INTEGRATED CAPITAL AND TREASURY)

RECOMMENDED TO CABINET:

- (1) That Cabinet recommend to Council the adoption of the Investment Strategy (as attached at Appendix A), including the capital programme and prudential indicators;
- (2) That Cabinet recommend to Council the adoption of the four clauses in relation to the Code of Practice on Treasury Management (as detailed in paragraphs 8.17 to 8.23).

REASON FOR DECISIONS:

- (1) To ensure that the capital programme meets the Council's objectives and officers can plan the implementation of the approved schemes;
- (2) To ensure the Council's compliance with CIPFA's code of practice on Treasury Management, the Local Government Act 2003, statutory guidance from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and the CIPFA Prudential Code. As well as determining and managing the Councils risk appetite in respect of investments.

10 FUTURE MEETINGS - POSSIBLE AGENDA ITEMS

The Chairman requested that should any Members have any suggestions for agenda items at future meetings would the please advise himself, officers or the Committee Clerk.

- SIAS updates