

COUNCIL
25 NOVEMBER 2021

OVERVIEW OF ECONOMY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

1. Since the last meeting of the Council, the following are the main areas of work the Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee has undertaken.

Climate Change Action Plan

2. We received the Climate Change Action Plan which was considered by Cabinet at its meeting held on 5 October 2021.
3. Due to Officer illness on the day of our meeting, we had a separate briefing from the Sustainability and Climate Change Officer on 9 November 2021.
4. We did, however, discuss how we could scrutinise the Action Plan going forward and we felt that it was important for this to be a standing item on future agendas for our Scrutiny Committee, with those Officers having ownership of some of the actions within the Plan being invited to meetings to discuss the progress and be accountable for those actions assigned to them.

Council Tax Support – Scheme Approval 2022/23

5. Members will see from elsewhere on this agenda, that Council is being asked to approve the Council Tax Support Scheme 2022/23.
6. Following discussion, we supported the recommendation to Cabinet that up to 100 per cent Council Tax support should continue to be provided for care leavers up to the age of 25 and that up to 80 per cent support for all other working age people should continue.

Project Position Statement and Capital Programme Monitoring – Quarter 2

7. We received the quarter 2 information in relation to the capital resource and commitment position of the Council's capital programme. The Council currently has 46 live projects being managed with an overall projected outturn value of £138.692 million.
8. The majority of the Council's projects are running to time, cost and quality expectations but are being monitored given the current pressures on resources in the construction sector nationally.
9. Officers reported that it was now necessary for the drainage works at Ingenium Park, which were going to be undertaken in phases, to be constructed at the same time and we were advised that Cabinet were being requested to approve the transfer of £652,000 which had originally been set aside as contingency for the early phases of Central Park, to cover the delivery of a larger drainage system for future phases of Ingenium Park. In understanding the reasons for the need to complete these works in one phase, we

supported the recommendations to Cabinet and had no further comments to make.

Revenue Budget Monitoring – Quarter 2

10. We received the quarter 2 revenue budget outturn report prior to its consideration by Cabinet.
11. The Council's projected reserves at the end of 2021-21 are £29.536 million, a £4.610 million improvement on the initial 2021-25 MTFP position. Of those projected reserves there is a risk reserve balance of £5.350 million and a commitment to use £15.838 million to support years two to four of the current MTFP, leaving a surplus of £8.348 of unallocated reserves.

Councillor Mike Renton
Chair Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee