

EFFICIENCY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

8th November 2018

PRESENT – Councillor Haszeldine (in the Chair); Councillors Carson, Coultas, Crichlow, Crumbie, Johnson, K. Nicholson Mrs Scott and C Taylor. (9)

APOLOGIES –)

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE – Councillor Coultas

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE – Brett Neilson, Finance Manager

ER17. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

ER18. VICE-CHAIR – RESOLVED – That Councillor Crichlow be appointed a Vice-Chair of this Scrutiny Committee for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2018/19.

ER19. MINUTES – Submitted - The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held 13 September 2018.

RESOLVED - That the Minutes be approved as a correct record.

ER20. REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2018-19 - QUARTER 2 – The Managing Director submitted a report (previously circulated) together with the Quarter 2 revenue budget outturn report (also previously circulated) which had been considered by Cabinet at its meeting held on 6 November 2018.

It was reported that the Council's projected revenue reserves at the end of 2018/19 were £16.606 million, £1.116 million more than the initial 2018-22 MTFP position and included a brought forward amount of £0.530 million from 2017/18, a rebasing exercise of £0.425 million, with the departmental/corporate resources forecast to be £0.0161 million better off.

Particular reference was made to the overspend of £0.432 million in Children's Services, which was mainly due to increased costs in relation to the adoption and placement budget and school transport and which was being offset by an underspend on the financing costs budget of £0.591 million.

Discussion ensued on some specific variances within Departmental budget headings and the Finance Manager gave an explanation as to the possible reasons for those variances. Members questioned whether the Scrutiny Committee should be supplied with more detailed information in respect of those larger variances in budgets, in addition to the narrative given in the covering report, however, were reassured by the explanation of the processes involved in budget monitoring and management by Officers.

Particular reference was made to the current position in relation to the pay award, an underspend in relation to the Dolphin Centre which it was requested be carried

forward into the next financial year, the costs associated with the legal fees in relation to the airport, the source of income into the DLO highways budget; new build housing costs and the need to ensure that any savings across departmental budgets in relation to staffing costs were balanced against any possible impact on service delivery.

Members also requested that further information in relation to the current position of the joint venture between the Council and Esh Homes be submitted to a future meeting of this Scrutiny Committee.

RESOLVED – That the report be received.

ER16. WORK PROGRAMME – The Managing Director submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to the work programme items scheduled to be considered by this Committee and to give consideration to any additional areas Members felt should be added to the previously approved work programme.

It was requested that information on the current position in relation to Section 106 monies be provided to Members.

RESOLVED – That the report be received.