

COUNCIL
26 MARCH 2020 (This meeting is cancelled)

OVERVIEW OF RESOURCES PORTFOLIO

1. Since the last meeting of Council, the following are the main area of work undertaken under the Resources Portfolio.

Regulation of Investigatory Powers

2. Cabinet has received an update on issues and developments in relation to the use of the Regulatory of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA). Members will be aware that the RIPA Act enables local authorities to carry out certain types of surveillance activity, as long as specified procedures have been followed. Any information obtained as a result of surveillance operations can be relied upon in Court proceedings, provided RIPA has been complied with.

Capital Projects and Design Services Management

3. The Quarter 3 position on the Capital Programme was reported to Cabinet in February 2020 and was also considered by the Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee. The programme is being delivered to programme. Work is continuing to replace the current system with a more effective system to assist officers manage projects and provide improved reporting and information reports.

Revenue Budget Monitoring – Quarter 3

4. The Quarter 3 position on the predicted revenue budget management outturn was reported to Cabinet in February and was also considered by the Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee. An overall positive position was presented with projected revenue reserves at the end of 2019/20 at £17.267 million, £0.545 million better than budget and £0.670 million higher than the quarter 2 reported position.
5. The positive changes are due to improvements in Adult Social Care income along with additional income from the Council's Joint Venture Investment returns. There has, however, been a further decline in the Children's and Education budgets due to increased staffing requirements and higher demand for school transport.

Estates and Property and Business Investment

6. **Feethams House** - As recently announced in the press, terms have been agreed with Darlington-based Deep Ocean to take a lease of the whole of the fourth floor of the soon to be completed Feethams House office building. Enquiries from other potential occupiers are also being progressed.
7. Construction works are now entering their final stages and completion of the building is programmed for mid-April 2020.

8. **Faverdale** – Cabinet have agreed to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Homes England in connection with the Council's land at High Faverdale, where Homes England are proposing to construct an access road across Council land to open up the Burtree Garden Village development, subject to planning permission.
9. The Council's land will also be serviced by the proposed access road enabling land to be brought forward and sold for residential development, generating Capital receipts and new homes bonuses.
10. Cabinet agreed to try and acquire approximately 29.9 ha (74 acres) of land situated to the east of Faverdale East Business Park (FEBP) which has become available. If successful the acquisition will provide the Council with much needed expansion land for new and existing business, potential Capital receipts and employment opportunities.

Councillor Charles Johnson
Cabinet Member with Resources Portfolio