

## Review Committee – 4 December 2018

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Minutes of the meeting of the **Review Committee** held on **4 December 2018** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr J C Burton  
Vice-Chairman: Cllr D J Sperring

Cllr Mrs J R Gooding  
Cllr J D Griffin  
Cllr B T Hazlewood  
Cllr N J Hookway  
Cllr M Hoy  
Cllr M J Lucas-Gill  
Cllr Mrs C M Mason

Cllr J R F Mason  
Cllr Mrs J E McPherson  
Cllr Mrs C A Pavelin  
Cllr Mrs L Shaw  
Cllr P J Shaw  
Cllr C M Stanley

### **VISITING MEMBER**

Cllr S Smith -Portfolio Holder, Finance

### **OFFICERS PRESENT**

N Lucas	-	Section 151 Officer
M Petley	-	Head of Finance
P Gowers	-	Overview and Scrutiny Officer
M Power	-	Democratic Services Officer

### **231 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 6 November 2018 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **232 TREASURY MANAGEMENT 2018/19 MID YEAR REVIEW**

The Committee considered the report of the Section 151 Officer, seeking the views on the information presented in the report, before it was presented for approval by Full Council.

In response to Member questions, the following was noted:

- All of the treasury management activity detailed in the report, including the investment in the Money Market Prime counterparty, complied with the Council's Treasury Management Statement, which allowed for investment in money market funds to a value of £5 million.
- Money Market Prime is an AAA cash investment fund that spreads risk by investing in a number of institutions. The total value of the Money Market Prime fund is £3.8bn as at the day of the meeting; the Council's investment represents 0.13% of this fund. Although there could be no guarantee that a local authority investment placed with a counterparty was completely risk free, this investment was extremely low risk and accorded with the

Council's treasury management low risk strategy. Money market funds provided a better return than would be achieved by investing in an instant access account with a bank, although the rate of return was subject to fluctuation.

- The Council had invested in a Federated Prime Rate Fund for a number of years. Three money market accounts had been established, although currently only one of these was used.
- The interest rates achieved by the three investments detailed in the report were: Santander 90 day account 1%; Svenska Handelsbanken 0.65% and Money Market Prime approximately 0.73% (but this is variable).
- The forecast of Bank of England base rate and Public Works Loan Board rates was provided by Link Asset Services, the Council's professional treasury management providers.
- The Council's investments were monitored on a daily basis.
- It was not necessary to agree a Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) policy prior to the Council having a specific borrowing need as the policy would relate to the specifics of the capital investment required. Should the Council wish to borrow externally in the future for a strategic project, for example, there would be sufficient time in which to implement an MRP policy. The issue of an MRP policy had been raised by the Audit Committee.
- The Council had seen an increase in its current accounts interest rates, reflecting the recent increase in the Bank of England base rate.

### **Resolved**

That the contents of the Treasury Management Mid-Year Report be recommended to Full Council.

### **233 REPORT OF THE WORKING PARTY ON 'THE VOICE OF THE COUNCILLOR'**

The Committee considered the report of the Review Committee Working Party and its recommendations as a result of research into the final report of the De Montfort University and Municipal Journal Councillor Commission.

It was confirmed, in response to a Member question, that the revised wording relating to Member requests for officer assistance in the preparation of a motion of notice had been considered appropriate by the Assistant Director, Democratic Services, who had confirmed there would be sufficient officer capacity to provide this additional assistance. It was noted that the proposed wording provided the caveat that this assistance would be dependent on the officer resource required.

The Committee wished to record its thanks to Cllr R Milne for his input to the work of the Working Party.

### **Resolved**

That the Leader of the Council be invited to a future meeting of the Committee to detail the plans for the Council for the next year and beyond and suggest any areas that the Committee may like to examine in terms of possible policy changes that could improve/develop the Council's offering.

### **Recommended to Full Council**

That the changes proposed by the Review Committee Working Party to the Notices of Motion in the Constitution be adopted.

## **234 KEY DECISION DOCUMENT**

The Committee considered the Key Decision Document and noted its contents.

**3/18 A127 Air Quality Project – Outline/Final Business Case.** It was anticipated that, going forward, the Council would not be involved in the project. If this decision was removed from the Key Decisions Document a formal notice of its removal would be provided to Members and an update included in the Members Bulletin.

**14/18 Brownfield Register.** Cllr D J Sperring, the Chairman of the Planning Policy Sub-Committee, would request that this be considered by the Sub-Committee.

## **235 WORK PLAN**

The Committee considered its work plan.

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm.

Chairman .....

Date .....

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