

The Executive – 7 November 2018

Minutes of the meeting of **The Executive** held on **7 November 2018** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr T G Cutmore
Vice Chairman: Cllr M J Steptoe

Cllr G J Ioannou
Cllr Mrs C E Roe
Cllr S P Smith

Cllr I H Ward
Cllr M J Webb
Cllr A L Williams

OFFICERS PRESENT

A Hutchings	- Strategic Director
N Lucas	- Section 151 Officer
J Bostock	- Assistant Director, Democratic Services
M Hotten	- Assistant Director, Environmental Services

215 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 5 September 2018 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman

216 QUARTER 2 2018/19 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND PERFORMANCE REPORT

In presenting the Quarter 2 2018/19 Financial Management Report the Portfolio Holder for Finance observed that it reflected a well managed Council that made prudent financial decisions. Staff had introduced working efficiencies, with Members overseeing what is a positive position. At this stage the budget was being managed in a way that was pointing to a surplus at year end.

The Section 151 Officer indicated that the main underspend driver had been spend on salary. Another factor had been reduced spend on the provision of bed and breakfast accommodation within the homelessness budget, which was quite volatile and would need to be kept under review. Additional income had been received from the council tax sharing scheme.

The forecasted outturn for the capital programme was at 92%. A couple of key areas of underspend related to ICT and the play spaces improvement budget.

This was the first year that performance indicators had been included as part of the public report. Whilst indicators for the percentage of housing benefit overpayments received, the average number of days to process benefit claim change in circumstances and the number of households in bed and breakfast/nightly lets/houses in multiple- occupation were below target and showing as red, they were on the right trajectory.

During discussion it was observed that the approach to budgeting was a fit with the Council priority of becoming financially self sufficient. In terms of minimising the number of households in bed and breakfast accommodation it was

observed that few authorities would have brought forward initiatives to address this in the way that Rochford District Council had. Whilst the number of households presenting as homeless was not in the Council's control, the response was.

Members concurred with the observation of the Chairman that, in the context of ongoing economic challenges, it would be appropriate for the Council to maintain a balance position whereby it can weather storms.

It was agreed that specific thanks should be extended to Matthew Petley, the Council's Head of Finance, for all the sterling contribution he has made to the financial management of the Authority and the production of quarterly reports. Best wishes were extended to Matthew in his move to pastures new.

Resolved

- (1) That the quarter 2 2018/19 revenue budget and capital position, as set out in the report, be noted.
- (2) That the latest position on the Council's key performance indicators, as set out in the report, be noted. (S151O))

217 AWARD OF AN ENOVERT COMMUNITY GRANT FOR PLAY EQUIPMENT AT SWEYNE PARK OPEN SPACE

The Portfolio Holder for Environment presented the report on the award of an Enover community grant for play equipment at Sweyne Park Open Space.

In recognising the value of the proposals in improving and expanding the facilities at Sweyne Park it was noted that more comprehensive possibilities, including the introduction of equipment suited to adults, were under consideration for play areas in general.

Resolved

That authority be delegated to the Assistant Director Environmental Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment, to approve the grant award of £45,400 and consequent execution of the project to overhaul the play equipment at Sweyne Park Open Space. (ADES)

The meeting closed at 8.51 p.m.

Chairman

Date

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