

## The Executive – 10 February 2022

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Minutes of the meeting of **The Executive** held on **10 February 2022** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr S E Wootton  
Vice Chairman: Cllr Mrs C E Roe

Cllr D S Efde  
Cllr S P Smith  
Cllr D J Sperring

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

### OFFICERS PRESENT

A Hutchings	- Strategic Director
M Harwood-White	- Assistant Director, Assets & Commercial
M Hotten	- Assistant Director, Place & Environment
A Law	- Assistant Director, Legal & Democratic
N Lucas	- Assistant Director, Resources
S Worthington	- Principal Democratic & Corporate Services Officer

### 24 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 11 January 2022 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### 25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr D S Efde declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to item 9 by virtue of occasionally making deliveries to one of the organisations referred to in the report.

### 26 QUARTER 3 2021/22 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT REPORT

Members considered the report of the Assistant Director, Resources providing an update on the Quarter 3 2021/22 revenue budget and capital position set out in sections 3 and 4 of the report and detailed in Appendices 1 to 5.

A Member raised a query in relation to page 7.9 of the report, seeking the anticipated cost of the upcoming March by-election given that the Council possessed £15,000 in reserves for elections. Officers confirmed that the £15,000 was not the totality but an amount that was already drawn down this financial year in relation to the previous year's election. Officers advised that detailed figures of the costs of this year's elections would be provided outside the meeting.

The Chairman made reference to page 7.19 of the report and emphasised that the Council's intention was not to incur savings on vacant positions but to fill vacancies in a timely manner, where possible.

A question was raised in relation to page 7.25 of the report, specifically querying the -£86,502.00 sum in relation to Webster's Way. Officers responded

that the figure was the result of an accounting adjustment relating to the Covid-19 Sales, Fees and Charges Compensation Scheme whereby additional funding was provided by the government in Q1; however, the grant was not received in that quarter. In consequence, this distorted the figure in Q1 and Q3.

The Leader commended the Assistant Director, Resources and the Council's Finance team for their continued hard work.

### **Resolved**

To note the Quarter 3 2021/22 revenue budget and capital position set out in sections 3 and 4 of the report and detailed in Appendices 1 to 5. (ADR)

## **27 SECTION 106 QUARTERLY BRIEFING: FEBRUARY 2022**

Members considered the report of the Assistant Director, Place and Environment providing an update on the position on unspent Section 106 contribution held by the Council as at 1 January 2022.

A Member raised a concern in relation to S106 money and that the report omitted to include contributions made to Essex County Council for education and highways, etc. A question was raised whether there would be an opportunity for the report to present further sum totality in relation to S106 monies.

Officers responded that moving forward, a note of incoming and outgoing contributions would be appended to the quarterly reports.

In response to a Member question around the difficulty in claiming S106 monies for projects that had been granted planning permission and were waiting for funding, officers advised that in the case of private GP surgeries these would be considered private businesses and would accordingly be expected to put up at least 50% of the total cost in order to receive the remaining S106 monies.

A question was raised in relation to unspent s106 monies for Star Lane Brick Works and whether there was a possibility to spend this money elsewhere. Officers responded that this particular project was scheduled to have some works done and there was also a scheme to invest c.£100k into Great Wakering. A delay was caused by Covid-19 but the works were expected to be rolled out in a couple of years' time.

### **Resolved**

That the position on unspent Section 106 contributions held by the Council as at 1 January 2022 be noted. (ADPE)

## **28 PROCESS FOR AWARDING VOLUNTARY SECTOR GRANTS 2022/23**

Members considered the report of the Assistant Director, People and Communities providing details of a proposed procedure for allocating the Voluntary Sector Grants fund for the financial year 2022/23.

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A Member raised a point in relation to paragraph 3.6 of the report that outlined the previous work that was carried out for the Voluntary Sector Grants and highlighted that 11 awards were given out in the previous year in support of various organisations within the district.

The Chairman emphasised that the Council would remain committed to supporting the award of Voluntary Sector Grants.

### Resolved

- (1) To put in place a procedure for allocating the Voluntary Sector Grants fund for the financial year 2022/23.
- (2) To agree that this process remains clear and transparent whilst aligning outcomes with those identified in the Rochford District Council (RDC) Business Plan relating to partnership working and links to the joint Rochford & Castle Point Health & Wellbeing Strategy 2022-2025 (HWBS).
- (3) To agree that the Rayleigh, Rochford and District Association for Voluntary Services (RRAVS) will receive top sliced funding from the same pot, based on outcomes aligned with the Essex County Council performance framework and the HWBS Action Plan. (ADPC)

(This was unanimously agreed.)

The meeting closed at 7.56 pm.

Chairman .....

Date .....

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