

FINANCIAL RESOURCES SCRUTINY FORUM

Minutes of meeting held in Committee Room 5, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton on 6 February 2020

Chair:

Councillor Monique McAdams

Councillors Present:

Councillor Walter Brogan, Councillor Mary Donnelly, Councillor Grant Ferguson, Councillor Eric Holford, Councillor Jim Wardhaugh, Councillor Jared Wark

Councillors' Apologies:

Councillor Archie Buchanan, Councillor Janine Calikes, Councillor Martin Lennon

Attending:

Finance and Corporate Resources

G Bow, Administration Manager; G Cochran, Administration Assistant; L O'Hagan, Finance Manager (Strategy); J Taylor, Head of Finance (Strategy)

Housing and Technical Resources

D Craig, Property Manager (Commercial)

1 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Financial Resources Scrutiny Forum held on 14 November 2019 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

The Forum decided: that the minutes be approved as a correct record.

3a Capital Budget Monitoring 2019/2020 – General Fund Capital Programme

A report dated 29 January 2020 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on the position of the General Fund Capital Programme 2019/2020 at 6 December 2019 (Period 9).

The General Fund Capital Programme for 2019/2020 totalled £76.804 million. At 6 December 2019, £36.680 million had been spent against a phased budget of £37.672 million, representing expenditure of £0.992 million behind profile.

The physical progress achieved with the General Fund Capital Programme 2019/2020 at 6 December 2019 was detailed in Appendices E to G of the report.

Following a question by the Chair, officers agreed to provide the following:-

- ◆ an update on the failure to secure a contractor to carry out external repairs at East Kilbride Civic Centre, including outlining any underlying reasons why potential contractors were reluctant to tender for the work
- ◆ the financial impact of the Council's scaffolding being deployed at East Kilbride Civic Centre when it could be used to carry out contracts elsewhere

Following a question by Councillor Brogan, officers agreed to provide information on the removal of the MUGA pitch, including how the land transaction between Resources was finalised, what consultation had taken place with the local community, and whether there was any plans to re-site the MUGA.

Following a question by Councillor Holford, officers agreed to provide an update on the contracts at Ponfeigh and Clyde Bridges.

The Forum decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of the Executive Committee of 4 December 2019 (Paragraph 3)]

3b Capital Budget Monitoring 2019/2020 – Housing Capital Programme

A report dated 29 January 2020 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on the position of the Housing Capital Programme 2019/2020 at 6 December 2019 (Period 9).

The Housing Capital Programme for 2019/2020 totalled £61.835 million. At 6 December 2019, £28.218 million had been spent against a phased budget of £28.296 million, representing expenditure of £0.078 million behind profile.

The physical progress achieved with the Housing Capital Programme 2019/2020 at 6 December 2019 was detailed in Appendix B to the report.

The Forum decided:

- (1) that the position as at 6 December 2019 (Period 9) be noted.
- (2) that 2020/2021 update reports be updated to reflect the same reporting format as roads projects.

[Reference: Minutes of the Executive Committee of 29 January 2019 (Paragraph 3)]

4 Revenue Budget Monitoring 2019/2020

A report dated 29 January 2020 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on the detailed financial analysis as at 6 December 2019 (Period 9) for each of the Council's Resources.

The figures included an underspend of £13.406 million on the General Fund Revenue Account before any transfer to reserves. This position took into account the £10.748 million to be transferred to reserves. Following that transfer, the outturn position was an underspend of £2.658 million on the General Fund Revenue Account and a breakeven position on the Housing Revenue Account.

The main factors contributing to the underspend on the General Fund Revenue Account were detailed in the report.

Additional information was provided on:-

- ◆ Community and Enterprise Resources' net overspend
- ◆ Social Work Resources' net overspend
- ◆ loan charges

- ◆ corporate items and their use in the 2020/2021 budget strategy
- ◆ Council Tax income

The Forum decided:

- (1) that the underspend of £13.406 million on the General Fund Revenue Account at 6 December 2019 and the forecast to 31 March 2020, following a transfer to reserves, of an underspend of £2.658 million be noted; and
- (2) that the breakeven position on the Housing Revenue Account at 6 December 2019 and the forecast to 31 March 2020 of a breakeven position be noted.

5 Revenue Budget Monitoring 2019/2020 – Detailed Resource Analysis

A report dated 29 January 2020 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted comparing actual expenditure against budgeted expenditure for the period ending 6 December 2019 (Period 9).

The following information was provided for each Resource and the Housing Revenue Account:-

- ◆ an Executive Summary showing the top level position for each of the Services within the Resource and the Housing Revenue Account as at 6 December 2019 (Period 9)
- ◆ details of the most significant variances within Resources and the Housing Revenue Account across subjective headings and across Services as at 6 December 2019 (Period 9)
- ◆ a line by line trend analysis of the total Resources' expenditure and income across subjective headings as at 6 December 2019 (Period 9)

The Forum decided: that the position as at 6 December 2019 (Period 9) be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 14 November 2019 (Paragraph 5)]

6 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.