

FINANCIAL RESOURCES SCRUTINY FORUM

Minutes of meeting held in Committee Room 5, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton on 3 October 2019

Chair:

Councillor Monique McAdams

Councillors Present:

Councillor Mary Donnelly, Councillor Eric Holford, Councillor Mark Horsham, Councillor Margaret B Walker, Councillor Jared Wark

Councillors' Apologies:

Councillor Archie Buchanan, Councillor Janine Calikes, Councillor Martin Lennon, Councillor Jim Wardhaugh

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 5 September 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 17 September 2019 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on the position of the General Fund Capital Programme 2019/2020 at 16 August 2019 (Period 5).

The General Fund Capital Programme for 2019/2020 totalled £80.513 million. At 16 August 2019, £16.684 million had been spent against a phased budget of £16.876 million, representing expenditure of £0.192 million behind profile.

The physical progress achieved with the General Fund Capital Programme 2019/2020 at 16 August 2019 was detailed in Appendices D to F of the report.

Officers agreed to provide further information in relation to:-

- ◆ the provision of further skate parks within South Lanarkshire and whether Blantyre Skate Park was externally funded
- ◆ why vehicle activated signs (VAS) were being removed from Elsrickle and Crossford

The Forum decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of the Executive Committee of 25 September 2019 (Paragraph 3)]

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

A report dated 17 September 2019 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on the position of the Housing Capital Programme 2019/2020 at 16 August 2019 (Period 5).

The Housing Capital Programme for 2019/2020 totalled £61.835 million. At 16 August 2019, £15.772 million had been spent against a phased budget of £15.836 million, representing expenditure of £0.064 million behind profile.

The physical progress achieved with the Housing Capital Programme 2019/2020 at 16 August 2019 was detailed in Appendix C to the report.

Officers agreed to provide further information in relation to:-

- ♦ breakdown on the Halls Improvement Programme
- ♦ the upgrades to Community infrastructure
- ♦ the Computer Room Upgrades

The Forum decided: that the position as at 16 August 2019 (Period 5) be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of the Executive Committee of 25 September 2019 (Paragraph 4)]

4 Revenue Budget Monitoring 2019/2020

A report dated 25 September 2019 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on the detailed financial analysis as at 16 August 2019 (Period 5) for each of the Council's Resources.

The figures included an underspend of £6.346 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 the use of corporate items in the 2020/2021 budget strategy
- ♦ Education Resources and Pupil Equity Funding
- ♦ additional General Revenue Grant
- ♦ other funding

The Forum decided:

- (1) that the underspend of £6.346 million on the General Fund Revenue Account at 16 August 2019 and the forecast to 31 March 2020 of an underspend of £8.540 million be noted; and

- (2) that the breakeven position on the Housing Revenue Account at 16 August 2019 and the forecast to 31 March 2020 of a breakeven position be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of the Executive Committee of 28 August 2019 (Paragraph 4)]

5 Revenue Budget Monitoring 2019/2020 – Detailed Resource Analysis

A report dated 25 September 2019 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted comparing actual expenditure against budgeted expenditure for the period ending 16 August 2019 (Period 5).

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 16 August 2019 (Period 5)
- ◆ details of the most significant variances within Resources and the Housing Revenue Account across subjective headings and across Services as at 16 August 2019 (Period 5)
- ◆ a line by line trend analysis of the total Resources' expenditure and income across subjective headings as at 16 August 2019 (Period 5)

Officers agreed to provide further information in relation to:-

- ◆ the reason for the underspend in Conferences relating to Early Years' partner conferences
- ◆ what was the bad debt provision anticipated and what was the actual experienced?

The Forum decided: that the position as at 16 August 2019 (Period 5) be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 5 September 2019 (Paragraph 5)]

6 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.