

FINANCIAL RESOURCES SCRUTINY FORUM

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

Chair:

Councillor Monique McAdams

Councillors Present:

Councillor Eric Holford, Councillor Mark Horsham, Councillor Margaret B Walker, Councillor Jim Wardhaugh, Councillor Jared Wark

Councillors' Apologies:

Councillor Archie Buchanan, Councillor Janine Calikes, Councillor Mary Donnelly

Attending:

Finance and Corporate Resources

G Cochran, Administration Assistant; S McLeod, Administration Officer; 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 8 August 2019 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

Councillor Holford intimated that he considered that the minutes of the previous meeting should have reflected the discussions with regards to items 5 and 6.

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

Councillor Wark entered the meeting during this item of business

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

A report dated 28 August 2019 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on the position of the General Fund Capital Programme 2019/2020 at 19 July 2019 (Period 4).

The General Fund Capital Programme for 2019/2020 totalled £79.982 million. At 19 July 2019, £11.201 million had been spent against a phased budget of £11.229 million, representing expenditure of £0.028 million behind profile.

The physical progress achieved with the General Fund Capital Programme 2019/2020 at 19 July 2019 was detailed in Appendices D to F of the report.

Officers responded to members' questions in relation to:-

- ◆ projects where the brief or programme had been altered

- ◆ Biggar Burnbraes Park project
- ◆ Dollan Aqua Centre repairs
- ◆ the completion of the strategic schemes at Eaglesham Road, Jackton

Officers agreed to provide further information in relation to:-

- ◆ projects where the brief or programme had been altered
- ◆ the strategic schemes at Eaglesham Road, Jackton

The Forum decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of the Executive Committee of 28 August 2019 (Paragraph 3)]

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

A report dated 28 August 2019 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on the position of the Housing Capital Programme 2019/2020 at 19 July 2019 (Period 4).

The Housing Capital Programme for 2019/2020 totalled £61.835 million. At 19 July 2019, £11.452 million had been spent against a phased budget of £11.471 million, representing expenditure of £0.019 million behind profile.

The physical progress achieved with the Housing Capital Programme 2019/2020 at 19 July 2019 was detailed in Appendix C to the report.

The Forum decided: that the position as at 19 July 2019 (Period 4) be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of the Executive Committee of 28 August 2019 (Paragraph 3)]

4 Revenue Budget Monitoring 2019/2020

A report dated 28 August 2019 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on the detailed financial analysis as at 19 July 2019 (Period 4) for each of the Council's Resources.

The figures included an underspend of £6.566 million on the General Fund Revenue Account and a breakeven position on the Housing Revenue Account.

Officers responded to members' questions in relation to:-

- ◆ the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plans
- ◆ Errington Cheese legal expenses

Officers agreed to provide further information in relation to the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plans.

The Forum decided:

- (1) that the underspend on the General Fund Revenue Account at 19 July 2019 be noted; and
- (2) that the breakeven position on the Housing Revenue Account at 19 July 2019 and the forecast to 31 March 2020 of a breakeven position be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 8 August 2019 (Paragraph 6)]

5 Revenue Budget Monitoring 2019/2020 – Detailed Resource Analysis

A report dated 28 August 2019 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted comparing actual expenditure against budgeted expenditure for the period ending 19 July 2019 (Period 4).

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 19 July 2019 (Period 4)
- ◆ details of the most significant variances within Resources and the Housing Revenue Account across subjective headings and across Services as at 19 July 2019 (Period 4)
- ◆ a line by line trend analysis of the total Resources' expenditure and income across subjective headings as at 19 July 2019 (Period 4)

Officers responded to members' questions in relation to:-

- ◆ the underspend of £145,000 pertaining to expenditure on classroom materials in schools as reported to the Forum at its meeting held on 8 August 2019
- ◆ the overspend of £123,000 pertaining to the cost of transporting children with additional support needs (ASN)
- ◆ the recurring underspend in Housing and Technical Resources in terms of vacancies

Officers agreed to provide further information in relation to the recurring underspend in Housing and Technical Resources in terms of vacancies.

The Forum decided: that the position as at 19 July 2019 (Period 4) be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 8 August 2019 (Paragraph 7)]

6 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.