

Minutes

Policy, Projects and Resources Committee Tuesday, 5th February, 2019

Attendance

Cllr Kerlake (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Barrett
Cllr Hirst
Cllr Hossack

Cllr Kendall
Cllr Mrs Mckinlay (Chair)
Cllr Mynott
Cllr Parker

Apologies

Cllr Ms Rowlands

Substitute Present

Cllr Bridge

Also Present

Cllr Aspinell
Cllr Naylor
Cllr Pound

Officers Present

Philip Ruck	-	Chief Executive
Zoe Borman	-	Governance and Member Support Officer
Steve Summers	-	Chief Operating Officer
Paul Harvey	-	Deputy Monitoring Officer
Jacqueline Van Mellaerts	-	Interim Chief Finance Officer
Kim Anderson	-	Partnership, Leisure & Funding Manager
Lorne Spicer	-	Executive Assistant & Communications Manager

323. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Rowlands and Cllr Bridge attended as substitute.

324. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Policy, Projects and Resources Committee held on 23rd January 2019 were approved as a true record.

Cllr Kendall enquired when the updated asset list would be distributed. The Chair advised that this would be following the next Asset Development Meeting in March.

325. Medium Term Financial Plan 2019/20-2021/22

The Draft Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) considered by Policy, Projects and Resources Committee on 20 November 2018 gave Members an update on the various significant changes that would impact on the Council's financial position.

The fundamental principles of the Council's MTFP are to:

(i) Maintain a sustainable financial position against a background of unprecedented financial uncertainty and reduced government funding, including the delivery of efficiency targets.

(ii) Support the vision of our Borough through appropriate identification of resources required to deliver the key priorities outlined in the 'Vision for Brentwood'.

(iii) Maximise opportunities and mitigate risks associated with the fundamental change to the way in which local government is financed.

This report considers:

(i) The General Fund budget proposals for 2019/20 to 2021/22.

(ii) The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget proposals for 2019/20 onwards.

(iii) The Capital Programme 2019/20 to 2021/22.

(iv) The Treasury Management Strategy for 2019/20.

(v) Section 151 Officers Assurance Statement.

Cllr McKinlay **MOVED** and Cllr Kerlake **SECONDED** the recommendations in the report

Following a full discussion, a vote was taken by a show of hands and it was **RESOLVED**

1. That recommendations go before Full Council on 27th February 2019.

2. To approve the General Fund - Revised MTFP for 2019/20 as shown in Table 9 which includes the proposed policy initiatives, presenting £185k Funding Gap for 2019/20, to be funded from working balances.
3. To approve the HRA Business Plan for 2019/20 and beyond as shown in Appendix C of the report.
4. To approve a 1% decrease in rents for 2019/20 and to note rents will increase by CPI plus 1% from 2020/21.
5. To recommend applying the formula rent to all new tenancies from April 2019/20.
6. To approve the Existing and New Schemes of the proposed Capital Programme for 2019/20 to 2021/22 as set out in Table 19 of the report.
7. To approve the Treasury Management Strategy as set out in Section 12 of the report.
8. To note the Section 151 Officer's Assurance Statement as set out in Section 13 of this report.
9. To approve a Council Tax increase of 2.99% (Average Band D) for 2019/20.

Reasons for Recommendation

The Council is required to approve the Budget as part of the Budget and Policy Framework.

(Cllr Hirst declared a non-pecuniary interest relating to his role as Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex)

326. Proposed Senior Officer Structure of the Council and Seven Arches Investment Limited (SAIL)

This report contained confidential information and is therefore exempt in accordance with schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

The Chair **MOVED** for an amendment to the recommendation. A vote was taken by a show of hands and was **RESOLVED**.

(The Chief Executive was not in attendance for this item).

327. Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.

The meeting concluded at 20.30