

<b>Committee(s):</b> Ordinary Council	<b>Date:</b> 25 March 2020
<b>Subject:</b> Chairs report for Policy, Resources and Economic Development Committee.	<b>Wards Affected:</b> All
<b>Committee Chair:</b> Cllr James Tumbridge	
<b>Report of:</b> Cllr Tumbridge	<b>FOR INFORMATION</b>

There has been one Policy, Resources and Economic Development Committee since the last Ordinary Council.

### **Budget 2020/21**

The Policy, Resources and Economic Development Committee considered the budget report to make recommendations to Ordinary Council for Approval on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

This report considered

- (i) The General Fund budget proposals for 2020/21 to 2022/23, including the medium term financial strategy.
- (ii) The Council Tax Requirement for 2020/21
- (iii) The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget proposals for 2020/21 onwards.
- (iv) The Capital and Investment Strategy for 2020/21 including the Councils Capital Programme 2020/21 to 2022/23
- (v) Fees & Charges
- (vi) Pay Policy Statement
- (vii) Section 151 Officers Assurance Statement

The figures presented summarised the detailed service budgets, together with known adjustments including the impact of the provisional central government grant funding.

The key elements of the proposed budget are:

#### General Fund

- 1) A balanced budget to be set for 2020/21
- 2) An increase in Council Tax for 2020/21 of £5 for band D property, in order to deliver the required investment outlined within the corporate strategy.
- 3) The continuation of reduction in funding made available by Central Government

#### Housing Revenue Account

- 1) For 2020/21 a budget that delivers a small surplus of £87k.
- 2) Increase in rents of CPI plus 1% per annum

- 3) Continued investment in the delivery of Decent Homes and Development of Housing within the Borough.

#### Capital

- 1) Total additional capital investment of £10,564 million in 2020/21
- 2) With an additional investment of £14,724 from 2021 to 2023.

### **Economic Development Update**

An update was provided to the committee regarding the following items:

- 2020 Brentwood Business Showcase: Opportunities to reinvent the showcase have been identified, including bringing the date forward to 9 July to create more outdoor floorspace. The layout, keynote speakers, workshops and featured sectors are also being reviewed.
- Economic Development Study: Work on the study is progressing and the committee was to be presented with recommendations from the work on 18 March. Outcomes will inform a new Economic Development Strategy for the Council.
- Place Audit of Brentwood, Shenfield and Ingatestone: The audits had been co-commissioned with partners Brentwood Chamber and Brentwood Business Partnership. Workshops, interviews, on-site visits and desktop research are underway. Outcomes will inform a new Economic Development Strategy for the Council.
- Brentwood Fibre First Programme: Openreach are building a new, faster, more reliable and future-proof broadband network in the borough. This new network will deliver fibre optic cables from the local exchange to residents' and business' front doors. Openreach has chosen Brentwood Borough as one of the first places to benefit from full fibre. The Council will continue to engage with relevant partners to identify how best to support the roll out of business infrastructure.
- Engagement with Local Employers: The Chief Executive has been connecting with local businesses, specifically the borough's largest employers (including McColl's, BT, Liverpool Victoria, Shawbrook Bank and Countryside). The Council also promoted the new Corporate Strategy in a presentation to the Brentwood Chamber on 14 February.

### **Members Training Programme Update**

Members were updated them on the Member's Training Programme and the progress made with Member Development.

## **King Georges Playing Fields – Development Management Agreement**

Following planning permission being granted, the Council needs to procure a building contractor to deliver the project. It is proposed that the Council utilises the UK Leisure Framework Agreement to do this. The Council has already used the framework to undertake the feasibility works and to gain the Council Cost Certainty for the project.

It was agreed that the Council enters into a Development Management Agreement with Alliance Leisure Services, through the UK Leisure Framework, and delegate to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chair of Community & Health Committee and the Leader of the Council, to conclude all arrangements, for the construction of the King George's Playing Fields development.