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| <b>Committee:</b> Policy, Resources and Economic Development Committee   | <b>Date:</b> 30 September 2021 |
| <b>Subject:</b> Financial Initiatives Working Group  | <b>Wards Affected:</b> All     |
| <b>Report of:</b> Steve Summers, Strategic Director (Deputy Chief Executive)   | <b>Public</b>                  |
| <b>Report Author/s:</b><br>Name: Steve Summers<br>Telephone: 01277 312 500<br>E-mail: steve.summers@brentwood.gov.uk | <b>For Decision</b>            |

### Summary

Members will be aware that one of the key objectives within the Council's Corporate Strategic Plan 2020-2025 is to sustain £1 million revenue via commercial activities to reduce the council's revenue budget gap.

To assist with this objective and meet the targets set out in the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy and build on the initiatives already developed it is considered appropriate to introduce a member's cross working party, Financial Initiatives Member Working Group (FIWG) to review and develop financial initiatives for presentation to and consideration by this committee.

### Recommendation(s)

**Members are asked to:**

- R1. Agree to set up a formal cross party Member's Financial Initiatives Working Group.**
- R2. Agree the Members to be representatives on the working group.**
- R3. Agree the working group's Terms of Reference as attached at Appendix A.**

## **Main Report**

### **Introduction and Background**

1. The Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) is agreed annually as part of the Budget cycle at Ordinary Council at the end February/early March.
2. Several revenue income making proposals have already been developed over several years by the Council including the introduction of a wholly owned company and various asset management initiatives.
3. To assist in meeting the targets as set out in the Council's MTFS and build on the revenue generating initiatives already in place it is suggested that a cross party Members working group is developed ensure that all opportunities are considered.
4. The draft FIWG Terms of Reference are attached at Appendix A which set out the purpose, scope, membership and reporting arrangements of the working group.

### **Reasons for Recommendation**

5. To ensure that the council considers all financial opportunities in an appropriate and structured manner.

### **Consultation**

6. None.

### **References to Corporate Plan**

7. Delivering an efficient and effective council – Sustain £1 million via commercial activities to reduce the revenue budget gap.

## **Implications**

### **Financial Implications**

**Name/Title: Jacqueline Van Mellaerts, Corporate Director (Finance & Resources)**

**Tel/Email: 01277 312500/jacqueline.vanmellaerts@brentwood.gov.uk**

8. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. The cross party member Financial Initiatives Working Group may identify and bring forward ideas that will have financial implications and will be considered when they are brought forward.

### **Legal Implications**

**Name & Title: Amanda Julian, Corporate Director (Law & Governance) and Monitoring Officer**

**Tel & Email: 01277 312500/amanda.julian@brentwood.gov.uk**

9. The Council has various statutory provisions that enable us to trade, charge and make a profit.
10. The Local Authorities (Goods and Services) Act 1970 facilitates municipal trading, the Localism Act 2011 General Power of Competence enables us to do what an individual can do if there is no provision in any other legislation to prevent the activity. This means we can charge for discretionary services and can use commercial companies for trading purposes. There are also the powers under the Local Government Act 2003 s93 charging and s95 commercial trading.
11. The Council by working within the statutory framework available when exploring different solutions to reduce the revenue gap, will ensure any decisions made are transparent and within its powers.

### **Economic Implications**

**Name/Title: Phil Drane, Corporate Director (Planning & Economy)**

**Tel/Email: 01277 312500/philip.drane@brentwood.gov.uk**

12. It is important to create a forum for the discussion of ideas that could generate new forms of income so that this can be reinvested in the local economy consistent with corporate strategy objectives to grow the economy.

**Other Implications** (where significant) – i.e. Health and Safety, Asset Management, Equality and Diversity, Risk Management, Section 17 – Crime & Disorder, Sustainability, ICT.

13. None.

## **Background Papers**

14. None.

## **Appendices to this report**

Appendix A: Draft working group Terms of Reference.