

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

25 JANUARY 2022

COUNCILLOR ANGIE DICKINSON - CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE

For the period 3 December 2021 – 25 January 2022

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

The recently re-constituted Member Major Projects Board continues in catch up mode as Members are brought up to speed on current projects. Each one is being examined in detail and will be assessed for risk and deliverability. Funding of each project will also be evaluated, as will future implications once the scheme is complete. For example the project might be funded by external sources such as Lottery Grant or internally, from usable capital receipts. Alternatively the council might need to borrow to fund the project and therefore the most cost effective method will need to be considered. Finally, upon completion, the project may generate income for the council or capital receipts, e.g. from the sale of new homes, which in turn will fund future projects.

A little progress has been made with evaluating the Independent Remuneration Panel's (IRP) report on Members' Allowances. The review is ongoing but will conclude shortly.

Most of my time is currently being spent on the Budget and 4 Year Financial Plan that forms the backbone of determining Council Tax for 2022/23. This is a complex and very time consuming exercise that has to be done every year. There are a lot of statutory requirements that have to be complied with and decisions have to be made as to affordability of continuing to provide a quality service to residents and business covering the whole panoply of Council services. The last 2 years have been very challenging due not only to Covid but continuing pressures on spending due to reduced funding from central government. All sectors of the economy have received support in one form or another from central government to cover losses due to Covid but this has by no means provided 100% funding of those losses and we find ourselves facing very difficult times ahead.

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

The budget monitoring report was reviewed and noted. The next one showing the position to the end of December is imminent and should give a good indication of what to expect at the end of the year.

The budget process continues to gather momentum. It will conclude when the Financial Plan is presented to Cabinet and Council in February and as expected a lot of options will need to be considered in order to improve the overall revenue position to the end of the 4 year plan.

The final review of the IRP's findings will also be presented to Cabinet and Council in February.

3 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled

02-Dec Portfolio briefing
02-Dec Council
03-Dec WNTISG
03-Dec MMPB
06-Dec Portfolio briefing
06-Dec Cabinet briefing
07-Dec Cabinet briefing
08-Dec CPP
14-Dec Special Cabinet
16-Dec Cabinet briefing
17-Dec Portfolio briefing
20-Dec Cabinet Sifting
05-Jan Cabinet briefing
06-Jan Budget setting
07-Jan Portfolio briefing
07-Jan Multi user hub briefing
10-Jan Leader re budget
11-Jan Fees & charges
11-Jan Cabinet re budget
12-Jan Cabinet briefing
14-Jan Portfolio briefing
19-Jan Cabinet briefing
20-Jan Car parking
21-Jan Financial Plan review
21-Jan Portfolio briefing
24-Jan Cabinet sifting
25-Jan Cabinet briefing
25-Jan Council