

POLICY COMMITTEE
(Online meeting)

11 August 2020

Present – The Chairman, Councillor Foster and Councillors Handley (substitute for Councillor Mulligan), Ireton, Lis, Madeley, Morrell, Noland, Place, Rose, Shuttleworth (substitute for Councillor Heseltine), Solloway (substitute for Councillor Barrett), Welch and Wheeler.

Officers – Chief Executive, Director of Services, Chief Finance Officer (S151 Officer), Democratic Services Manager and Democratic Services and Scrutiny Officer.

Apologies for Absence – Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Barrett, Mulligan, Myers and Heseltine.

Confirmation of minutes – The minutes of the Policy Committee meeting held on 28 July 2020 were confirmed as a correct record.

Public Participation – There were no members of the public in attendance at the meeting.

Declarations of Interest – There were no declarations of interest.

Start: 6.30pm

Finish: 7.45pm

Minutes for Report

POL.1076

PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT Q4 –
2019/2020

The Chief Finance Officer presented a report which contained the Council's Performance Monitoring Report for Quarter 4 2019/2020 in accordance with arrangements set out in the Council's Performance Management framework. The Chief Finance Officer informed the Committee that after staffing changes the process of reporting was reviewed and enhanced.

Members were pleased to note the Council Plan Action Statuses which were all either on track or delayed with a plan in place for completion. Although the Waste Management and Affordable Housing aspects of the priorities had significantly improved they still remained below target. Members posed several questions which were addressed by the Leader of the Council and the Leader Member of Greener Craven.

Resolved – That, the progress and outcomes achieved are noted.

POL.1077

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION PEER
CHALLENGE PLANNING SERVICE

The Leader of the Council presented a report which sought approval to invite the Local Government Association to undertake a Peer Challenge of the Council's Planning Service.

Members were reminded that Peer Challenges were undertaken by the Local Government Association for regulation and performance monitoring. The Council had undertaken two Corporate Peer Challenges previously which were both positive experiences. The key lines of enquiry for the review expected to be undertaken in September/October 2020 were the Planning Service – processes, resources, performance management and customer

experience and the Planning Committee – purpose, format and process, ‘customer’ experience, roles and responsibilities and quality and improvement. The Chief Executive clarified that the review would involve all elected Members.

Resolved – That, the intention to undertake a Peer Challenge of the Council’s Planning Service, to be carried out by the Local Government Association is noted.

POL.1078 **APPOINTMENT TO CRAVEN SPATIAL PLANNING
SUB-COMMITTEE**

The Democratic Services Manager presented a report which requested Members’ consideration of the appointment of Councillor Pringle as a replacement for Councillor Barrett on the Craven Spatial Planning Sub-Committee.

Resolved – That, the re-appointment of all current Craven Spatial Planning Committee Members for 2020/21 with the exception of Councillor Barrett to be replaced by Councillor Pringle is confirmed.

Minutes for Decision

POL.1074 **FINAL OUTTURN REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING
REPORT – Q4 – 2019/2020**

The Leader of the Council introduced the report which advised Members of the revenue budget position of the Council, based on the Quarter 4 review of income and expenditure to the end of March 2020.

Members noted the forecast budget underspend of £342k for the full financial year based on the March budget monitoring exercise. £83k of the underspend was within the Net Cost of Services and £259k within the corporate costs (within which there was also a significant underspend of £192k due to revised MRP policy).

Members raised various questions in relation to additional costs regarding Enterprising Craven, staffing pressures and agency staff members, the Planning process, the possible re-appraisal of income savings (with Covid-19 in mind), the £180,000 earmarked reserves and shared ownership housing which were addressed by the Chief Finance Officer, Director of Services and Chief Executive.

- RECOMMENDED**– (1) That, the outturn revenue budget monitoring position as at 31 March 2020 is noted.
- (2) That, the latest position of the savings achieved this quarter and identified as green in Appendix B to the report now submitted is noted, and that these savings are to be transferred to an earmarked reserve for support to the 2020/21 budget and beyond.
- (3) That, a revenue budget carry forward of £28,790 for completion of revenue commitments in 2020/21 as identified in Appendix F to the report now submitted is approved.

(4) That, the transfer of the balance of the revenue budget surplus to earmarked reserves is approved and that the allocations are to be delegated to the Chief Finance Officer (S.151 Officer).

POL.1075

CAPITAL PROGRAMME OUTTURN REPORT –
2019/2020

The Chief Finance Officer presented a report which informed Members of the outturn position of the Council's Capital Programme for 2019/20 and the sources of finance.

Members noted the £5,036k slippage which was to be carried forward into the 2020/21 programme for the continuation of 2019/20 projects. Managers of projects on which expenditure totalling £2,809,256 had been committed but not fully defrayed or commenced, had submitted requests for this to be carried forward to 2020/21 (included the total slippage - £8,692k).

Members discussed the report and posed several questions (including the progress of the programme review in relation to slippage) which were addressed by the Chief Finance Officer and the Director of Services.

RECOMMENDED – (1) That, the outturn position of the 2019/2020 capital programme and how the programme has been financed is noted.

(2) That, the carry forward of £5,035,086 for the continuation of 2019/2020 projects in 2020/2021 is approved.

Chairman