

Key Decision Required	No	In the Forward Plan	No
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## CABINET

14 JUNE 2019

### REFERENCE REPORT FROM RESOURCES AND SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE OF 18 MARCH 2019

#### A.2 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE REPORT – IN-YEAR PERFORMANCE AGAINST THE BUDGET AT END OF DECEMBER 2018 AND LONG TERM FINANCIAL FORECAST UPDATE (Report prepared by Ian Ford)

##### BACKGROUND

At the meeting of the Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 18 March 2019 (Minute 67 refers) The Committee had before it a report of the Deputy Chief Executive (Corporate Services), which presented it with an overview of the Council's actual financial position against the budget as at the end of December 2018 and which also presented an updated forecast on an on-going basis as part of developing the budget for 2019/20 and beyond.

The Committee was made aware that, at its meeting held on 15 February 2019, Cabinet had considered the same report and had resolved that:-

***“RESOLVED that –***

*(1) in respect of the financial performance against the budget at the end of December 2018:*

*(a) the position be noted; and*

*(b) the proposed in-year adjustments to the budget, as set out in Appendix H to item A.6 of the Report of the Finance and Corporate Resources Portfolio Holder be agreed.*

*(2) in respect of the Updated Long Term Forecast:*

*(a) the updated forecast be agreed; and*

*(b) the Resources and Service Overview and Scrutiny Committee be consulted on the latest position.”*

The Cabinet report referred to above was attached as Appendix A to the report A.1 for the Committee's consideration.

Members raised questions and concerns which were responded to by the Head of Finance, Revenues and Benefits Services and the Head of People, Performance and Projects (Anastasia Simpson), as appropriate.

#### **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS TO CABINET**

Having considered and discussed the report it was:-

**RESOLVED** that this Committee recommends to Cabinet that –

- (1) the uncommitted grant income of £98,000 received from the Government as New Burdens funding be allocated to meet the rising costs of the homelessness service;
- (2) the Housing Portfolio Holder be urged to direct his Officers to demolish the former Honeycroft sheltered housing scheme building as a matter of urgency in view of the ongoing costs to this Council such as Council Tax on empty properties;
- (3) the previously carried feasibility studies be revisited in order to investigate the potential of the former Spendells sheltered housing scheme building being used for the homeless as a temporary alternative housing provision to bed and breakfast accommodation.

Cabinet is now asked to consider the recommendations of the Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

#### **PORTFOLIO HOLDER'S COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO CABINET**

##### **Comments**

The Housing Portfolio Holder thanks the Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee for its recommendations as follows:-

- (1) the uncommitted grant income of £98,000 received from the Government as New Burdens funding [within the Revenue Budget] be allocated to meet the rising costs of the homelessness service;

*I would like to thank the Committee for its recommendation which I am happy to*

accept;

- (2) the Housing Portfolio Holder be urged to direct his Officers to demolish the former Honeycroft sheltered housing scheme building as a matter of urgency in view of the ongoing costs to this Council such as Council Tax on empty properties;

*I would like to thank the Committee for its recommendation and I can advise the Committee that officers are in the process of recruiting a surveyor to organise the demolition of this building in conjunction with the demolition of another large building in order to maximise value for money. Due to the complexity of the demolition it has not been possible to organise this within existing resources and the initial recruitment process was not successful. The new post holder will also be responsible for some new build projects following the recent retirement of the Building and Structures Manager;*

- (3) the previously carried feasibility studies be revisited in order to investigate the potential of the former Spendells sheltered housing scheme building being used for the homeless as a temporary alternative housing provision to bed and breakfast accommodation.

*I would like to thank the Committee for its recommendation and I can confirm that this is one of the options being considered alongside a parallel proposal from a partner agency which would like to lease the building for housing purposes.”*

### **Recommendation to Cabinet**

That Cabinet notes the Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee's comments and recommendations and endorses the responses of the Housing Portfolio Holder thereto.