

# RESOURCES AND SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

12 JANUARY 2022

## REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FINANCE & IT

### A.1 KEY FINANCIAL REPORTS INCLUDING BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR 2022/23

(Report prepared by Richard Barrett)

#### **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To set out a number of key financial reports for consideration by the Committee, including the budget proposals for 2022/23 in respect of both the General Fund (GF) and Housing Revenue Account (HRA).

#### **BACKGROUND / CURRENT POSITION**

A number of key financial reports were considered by Cabinet earlier in the year, with the comments of the Committee now requested.

The various reports form part of the Committee's work programme and the timely opportunity has been taken to bring these together within this report as part of the Committee's wider budget consultation activities for 2022/23.

The following sets out each report in turn:

##### **1) Treasury Outturn 2022**

On 17 September 2021, Cabinet considered the *Treasury Outturn 2020/21*, with the report attached as **Appendix A**.

At the above meeting, Cabinet resolved that the Treasury Management performance position for 2020/21 be noted and that the Prudential and Treasury Indicators for 2020/21 be approved.

##### **2) Financial Performance Report at the end of Quarter 2 (2021/22)**

On 12 November 2021 Cabinet considered the *Financial Performance Report – In-Year Performance against the Budget at the end of the Second Quarter 2021/22 and Long Term Financial Forecast Update*, with the report attached as **Appendix B**.

At the above meeting, Cabinet resolved:

That, in respect of the financial performance against the budget at the end of September 2021:-

- (a) the current position be noted;
- (b) the proposed in-year adjustments to the budget, as set out in Appendix H to item A.8 of the Report of the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Finance & Governance, be approved;
- (c) in respect of the Council's Treasury Management Practices, the aggregate amount of money that can be placed overnight with the Council's bankers be increased temporarily from £1.000m to £1.500m for each day the offices are closed over the

Christmas 2021 break;

- (d) the Council continues to be a member of the Essex Business Rates Pool in 2022/23 if it remains financially advantageous to do so; and
- (e) the closing date for Members to submit claims under the Members' COVID-19 small grant scheme be set as 31 March 2022.

2. That, in respect of the Updated Long Term Forecast:-

the updated forecast be approved and that the Resources and Service Overview and Scrutiny Committee be consulted on the latest position.

**3) Updated Financial Forecast and Budget Proposals 2022/23 (GENERAL FUND)**

On 17 December 2021, Cabinet considered the *Updated Financial Forecast and Initial Budget Proposals 2022/23*, with the report attached as **Appendix C**.

At the above meeting it was resolved that Cabinet:

- (a) approves the updated Financial Forecast and proposed position for 2022/23 as set out in the Corporate Finance & Governance Portfolio Holder's report and the appendices thereto; and
- (b) requests the Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee's comments on this latest financial forecast and proposed position for 2022/23.

**4) Housing Revenue Estimates 2022/23**

On 17 December 2021, Cabinet considered the *Housing Revenue Account Estimates 2022/23*, with the report attached as **Appendix D**.

At the above meeting it was resolved that Cabinet:

- (a) approves the updated Housing Revenue Account (HRA) 30 year Business Plan and proposed position for 2022/23, as set out in the Portfolio Holders' joint report and Appendix thereto; and
- b) requests the Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee's comments on this latest HRA financial forecast and proposed position for 2022/23.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**That the Committee considers the four reports attached and determines whether it has any comments or recommendations it wishes to make or put forward to the relevant Portfolio Holder or Cabinet.**