

## **Overview Select Committee (OSC) Finance Task Group**

### **Minutes of Meeting held on 21st March 2019**

#### **Present**

Cllr Baljit Singh, Chair of Task Group

Cllr Ratilal Govind, Vice-Chair

Cllr Jean Khote

Alison Greenhill, Director of Finance

Amy Oliver, Chief Accountant

#### **Apologies**

Cllr Virginia Cleaver

Cllr Elly Cutkelvin

Cllr Mohammed Dawood

Cllr Inderjit Gugnani

Cllr Ross Grant

Cllr Nigel Porter

Cllr Paul Westley

#### **1. Revenue Budget Monitoring – Period 9, 2018/19**

- 1.1 Cllr Singh introduced the revenue monitoring report, highlighting the continual pressures in Children's and Adults Social Care.
- 1.2 Alison Greenhill noted it was positive to see there was no fundamental changes in forecasts to those that had been previously reported through the year. Further to this that all services are forecasting they will operate within their resources for the year.
- 1.3 Members noted the additional spending review savings that are included in the report and the importance of these to ensure the Council lives within its means.
- 1.4 Members noted the continued pressures in Coronial Services, leading to a forecast overspend. Alison Greenhill confirmed that this is not an area we can control expenditure. A question was asked to whether the overspend was a national problem. Post the meeting further clarity has been sought regarding the overspend in Coronial Services to whether this is a national or local issue. It was confirmed the funding arrangements of the Service are due to an historical agreement that set a cap locally. Although the cost of the service is increasing as salaries, post mortem computed tomography and pathology costs rise, this is a national issue. Local Authorities are starting to challenge Central Government on the rising burden of this service.

## **2. Capital Budget Monitoring -Period 9, 2018/19**

- 2.1 Members noted the spend to date of £65.7m, and the recommendations within in the report.
- 2.2 Members asked about the decisions included in the report and why they had not been included at the time of setting the budget. Alison Greenhill explained this is due to projects being unknown at the time of setting the budget or new funding becoming available. Further to this some of the decisions are for the release of policy provisions that we approved as part of the budget setting process.
- 2.3 Alison Greenhill went through the individual decisions within the report and explained the reasons for each and where the funding was coming from.
- 2.4 Members asked for more information regarding S106 monies that had been received. Alison guided Members to a Freedom of Information (FOI) request covering the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2018. This FOI can be found on the following link;

<https://directory.leicester.gov.uk/foi-directory/foia-15655/>