

Minutes of the Meeting of the
OVERVIEW SELECT COMMITTEE

Held: THURSDAY, 30 JANUARY 2025 at 5:30 pm

P R E S E N T:

Councillor Cassidy - Chair

Councillor Kitterick
Councillor O'Neill
Councillor Porter
Councillor Westley

Councillor March
Councillor Osman
Councillor Waddington

In Attendance

City Mayor – Sir Peter Soulsby
Deputy City Mayor - Councillor Cutkelvin
Assistant City Mayor - Councillor Sood (online)
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87. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Rae Bhatia with Councillor Westley attending as substitute for Councillor Rae Bhatia.

Apologies would also be received from Cllr Adatia, he would join online.
Apologies would also be received from Cllr Pickering, she would join online.

88. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were asked to declare any interests they may have in the business to be discussed.

Councillor March raised that she had an ongoing interest in the issue of Council Tax Support should the issue be raised in the meeting.

97. CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2025/26

The Director of Finance submitted the Draft Capital Programme 2025/26 which would be considered by Council on 19th February 2024.

The Overview Select Committee was recommended to consider the report, and the comments made by the Scrutiny Commissions, and to pass its comments on these to the meeting of Council for consideration.

The City Mayor introduced the item and the following was noted:

- This was a 'slimmed down' Capital programme for two significant reasons:
 - Funds that had been transferred to Capital Funds from Revenue Funds would be transferred back to Revenue.
 - Much of what would need to be done under the Capital Programme would now require borrowing, this would have a Revenue implication.

The Director of Finance gave an overview of the programme, and the following was noted:

- The Capital Programme report included the decision to transfer revenue backed funds, currently in the capital fund, back to revenue.
- There was also the decision to reduce the Capital Programme by £13m. This would lead to a reduction in borrowing, rather than funds becoming available.
- It was one year-budget. Some projects would span across multiple years and a second year was proposed for schools' maintenance, to allow for timings with the school year.

The Commission were invited to ask questions and make comments for the officers and the executive to respond. Key points included:

- Government grants are often granted for specific purposes. Some grants do not cover full costs, and it was usually necessary for local authorities to meet the remaining funds. Capital grant money could not be used for revenue expenditure. Examples of specific grant funded projects included the Railway Station refurbishment, Pilot House and Pioneer Park.
- A request was made to see the business case for the Richard III café and also for a discussion on the railway station following the unsuccessful first round tenders. The City Mayor was in agreement for further scrutiny around the scheme.
- The local authority had consistently put revenue funds aside to fund capital schemes and this could also be moved back if required. Decisions to move monies to the capital fund were normally taken as part of the Revenue Outturn Report.
- It was confirmed earmarked reserves were in the appendix of the budget setting report.
- Actual borrowing would need to take place for the new capital programme once cash balances were no longer available but undertaken borrowing will be undertaken in planned way.

AGREED:

- 1) That the recommendations for Full Council be noted by the committee.
- 2) That the comments of the Scrutiny Commissions be noted by the committee; and
- 3) That comments made by members of this commission to be taken into account by the lead officers.

- 4) Further details on the business case to be supplied for the Richard III Centre together with further scrutiny prior to commitment to the scheme.
- 5) Further scrutiny to take place on the railway station