

Overview Select Committee (OSC) Finance Task Group

Minutes of Meeting held on 21st March 2018

Present

Cllr Ratilal Govind, Vice-Chair
Cllr Jean Khote
Cllr Diane Cank
Cllr Elly Cutkelvin
Cllr Inderjit Gugnani
Alison Greenhill, Director of Finance
Amy Oliver, Chief Accountant

Apologies

Cllr Baljit Singh, Chair of Task Group
Cllr Lynn Moore
Cllr Ross Grant
Cllr Nigel Porter
Cllr Virginia Cleaver
Cllr Malcolm Unsworth

1. Capital Budget Monitoring Period 9, 2017/18

- 1.1 Alison Greenhill introduced the capital monitoring report, and noted OSC will be asked to make any observations it sees fit, including in respect of the decisions detailed in the report.
- 1.2 Members discussed the Great Central Railway project and the withdrawal of Heritage Lottery Funding. Alison Greenhill confirmed that the Great Central Railway was considering alternative options. Once done, these will be presented to the County & us for consideration.
- 1.3 Members questioned if the Hastings Road Day Care Centre project was on track to be delivered. Alison Greenhill confirmed (following a review that was completed) that a decision had been made in October 2017 to keep the building open as a day centre. It is currently anticipated that work will be completed in the summer of 2018.
- 1.4 Members asked if there were any further updates on the Extra Care Scheme. Alison Greenhill confirmed it was looking positive, but we are still awaiting further detail from Central Government before these schemes can proceed.

2. Revenue Budget Monitoring Period 9 – 2017/18

- 2.1 Alison Greenhill introduced the revenue monitoring report and noted OSC will be asked to make any observations it sees fit, including in respect of the decisions detailed in the report.
- 2.2 Alison Greenhill confirmed that Adult Social Care had achieved savings ahead of the profile in the budget but the savings identified in the report are one-off. These are to be used to assist

with pressures identified in Children's services and City Developments & Neighbourhoods (CDN) for this financial year.

- 2.3 Concerns were expressed regarding the underlying reasons for the forecast overspend in CDN, these being changes in landfill tax regulations and competition in the crematoria sector. Members asked if we were any closer to a solution to the increased landfill tax cost with Biffa. Further questions were asked about whether the relevant scrutiny committee had considered the crematoria income problem and whether the LCC offer is competitive in the market
- 2.4 Members discussed the pressures faced by Children's Services and noted that the number of looked after children at the end of December had risen to 703 (paragraph 14.2). Members noted the use of the one-off savings in Adult Social Care to assist with the budget pressures for this financial year.
- 2.5 Concerns were raised and examples given of where planning enforcement had not happened. Members questioned whether an additional post could be created and funded through planning income/fines.
- 2.6 Members asked if there was to be a review of the Dawn Centre. Alison Greenhill advised this is part of the homelessness strategy.