

Dear Councillor

**CABINET - THURSDAY, 14 FEBRUARY 2019**

I am now able to enclose for consideration at the above meeting the Overview and Scrutiny Panel comments for the following items that were unavailable when the agenda was printed.

**Agenda Item  
No.**

- 3. INTEGRATED PERFORMANCE REPORT, 2018/19 QUARTER 3**  
(Pages 3 - 4)
  
- 4. FINAL 2019/20 REVENUE BUDGET AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY (2020/21 TO 2023/24); INCLUDING THE CAPITAL PROGRAMME** (Pages 5 - 6)
  
- 5. 2019/20 TREASURY MANAGEMENT, CAPITAL AND INVESTMENT STRATEGIES** (Pages 7 - 8)
  
- 6. OFF STREET CAR PARKING INVESTMENT AND AFFORDABILITY**  
(Pages 9 - 10)
  
- 7. COUNCIL TAX - REVIEW OF DISCOUNTS** (Pages 11 - 12)
  
- 8. INCREASING SOCIAL VALUE IN CONTRACTS** (Pages 13 - 14)
  
- 11. HDCV SECURITY SERVICES LIMITED - BUSINESS PLAN** (Pages 15 - 16)

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## **COMMENTS FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (PERFORMANCE AND GROWTH)**

### **INTEGRATED PERFORMANCE REPORT 2018/19, QUARTER 3**

- 7.1 The Panel received the Integrated Performance Report 2018/19, Quarter 3 at its meeting on 5th February 2019.
- 7.2 A Member commented about the use of acronyms and abbreviations in the report and asked that full descriptions be provided in future reports.
- 7.3 Following a query regarding the target for EDGE customers, the Panel were reassured that the Council was doing all it could to reach the target and that resources from other teams are being allocated towards tracking success in supporting customers into work.

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## **COMMENTS FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (PERFORMANCE AND GROWTH)**

### **FINAL REVENUE BUDGET 2019/20 AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2020/21 TO 2023/24**

- 9.1 The Panel received the Final Revenue Budget 2019/20 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2020/21 to 2023/24.
- 9.2 Following a comment regarding the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), it was clarified that CIL is not recorded in the revenue budget. In addition, even though the Council hold CIL in an earmarked reserve, there is no guarantee that it would be spent on the Council budget.
- 9.3 In regard to the Commercial Investment Strategy and any potential impact on it from the United Kingdom leaving the European Union, Members were informed that the Council have long leases with the tenants of properties that were purchased under the CIS. Furthermore, “due diligence” was done before purchasing any property. There is also a contingency fund to cover costs if a tenant suddenly leaves.
- 9.4 After a question about a forecast rise in Car Park income, the Panel was informed that the extra income is expected to come from changes that are designed to encourage “dwell times”.
- 9.5 A Member questioned why there had been a £200k overspend on the grounds maintenance part of the Leisure and Health budget during 2018/19. The Head of Resources confirmed that he will investigate this matter.
- 9.6 Concern was raised regarding the litter bin removal scheme; however the Panel was informed that the scheme will not remove all litter bins, only those that are underutilised or in areas where there is more than one bin.

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## **COMMENTS FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (PERFORMANCE AND GROWTH)**

### **TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2019/20**

- 5.1 The Panel received the Treasury Management Strategy 2019/20 at their meeting held on 5th February 2019.
- 5.2 A Member commented that the report only mentioned the Commercial Investment Strategy in terms of it being a financial activity and did not refer to the greater economic benefits. It was explained that the terms of the Strategy are prescribed and that the Commercial Investment Strategy's greater economic benefits are covered by the Commercial Investment Strategy policy document.

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## COMMENTS FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (PERFORMANCE AND GROWTH)

### OFF STREET CAR PARKING INVESTMENT AND AFFORDABILITY

- 5.1 The Panel received the Off Street Car Parking Investment and Affordability report at their meeting held on 5th February 2019.
- 5.2 A Member asked if consideration had been given to those residents who forget their vehicle registration or enter the incorrect vehicle registration. The opportunity to respond was not given.
- 5.3 A comment was made on the communications in respect of the proposed changes. In response, the Panel were informed that once the decision to invest has been taken, a full communications plan will be put in place.
- 5.4 In response to a concern about publishing a notice of variation without prior consultation, the Panel was informed that previous consultation has already been carried out and that showed customers support the introduction of improvements in convenience and of card payment facilities. Any additional consultation will further delay the final decision to order and implement equipment. The notice of variation is efficient and effective and is utilised by most other authorities. In addition, the Task and Finish Group expressed an appetite for wider parking bays. Officers will explore the practicalities of these through redesign and better use of space.
- 5.5 The expected additional car parking income was discussed. It was explained that the changes are designed to encourage “dwell times”, which will result in longer paid-for parking.
- 5.6 Concerns were raised over the amount of personal data being collected; however Members were informed that personal data will only be viewed by authorised personnel and will be managed and deleted in accordance with GDPR Regulations. Data for statistical analysis will be anonymised. The Parking Service is audited by the DVLA to ensure they are fully compliant in managing personal data. Any failures would result in a withdrawal of access to vehicle keeper information. It was confirmed that the Council has never failed to meet these requirements.
- 5.7 A Member commented that pushback might be expected from the public if the charging schedule is changed without the improvements being implemented and that openness on the future improvements will be required. It was clarified that the charging schedule will only be changed once the new machines are installed. A phased approach will be adopted, which is a requirement of ‘**Pay for What You Use**’.
- 5.8 A Member has questioned whether charging for car parking encourages retail in the town centres. The Panel was informed that car parks are not free as they have to be maintained and they incur business rates. If charges are lowered or withdrawn the Council would need to find additional funding streams from elsewhere in order to achieve the MTFs.
- 5.9 A member suggested that charging in non-charged car parks should be considered. It was clarified that the Task and Finish Group agreed early on that Sundays should not be charged and existing small non-town based car parks without charge should remain so. Opportunities should be explored to transfer the latter to community ownership where possible retaining their main use.

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## **COMMENTS FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (PERFORMANCE AND GROWTH)**

### **COUNCIL TAX – REVIEW OF DISCOUNTS**

- 4.1 The Panel received the Council Tax – Review of Discounts at the meeting held on 5th February 2019.
- 4.2 Members welcomed the report and were supportive of the proposed changes.
- 4.3 A Member commented that they would like a speedier increase in applying the increased premiums to long-term empty properties; however they were informed that the speed of the increase is governed by legislation.
- 4.4 A suggestion was made that the Council could write to the owners of long-term empty properties regarding the changes.
- 4.5 The Panel was reassured that the properties of the deceased would be classified under a different category and treated differently to long-term empty properties.

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## **COMMENTS FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (CUSTOMERS AND PARTNERSHIPS)**

### **INCREASING SOCIAL VALUE IN CONTRACTS**

1. The Panel received a report on increasing social value in contracts at their meeting held on 7th February 2019.
2. The Panel has questioned how the Council are going to be transparent and prescriptive in the Policy's implementation and has been informed that the Council will put a financial value on the social value element of contracts.
3. The Panel has discussed how the Council will monitor that companies are implementing the social value elements of contracts. It was explained that part of the procurement process will involve face to face meetings with tenderers, where the precise meaning of their bids will be examined. Reassurance was given that a successful company will be monitored against each element of any contract.
4. The Panel has considered as an example whether the Council would consider a tender, which stated that a company will stop using single use plastics. In response, clarification was given that the Procurement Manager will assess and score appropriately what has been written in each application.
5. The Panel was supportive of the Policy and advises Cabinet to approve the recommendations contained within the report by the Procurement Manager.

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A  
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