

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

### **FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2020/21, QUARTER 1**

- 5.1 The Panel received the Financial Performance Report 2020/21, Quarter 1 at its meeting on 16th September 2020.
- 5.2 Concern was raised by Councillor Cooper-Marsh regarding the finances of the Council should there be a second national lockdown or a local lockdown. The Panel was informed that the impact would be on the support the Council would offer to vulnerable residents and whether there were any further restrictions on leisure services which would impact on One Leisure.
- 5.3 Councillor Cooper-Marsh also raised a concern over next year's Council Tax but was reassured that Council Tax could not rise any further than the statutory maximum.
- 5.4 Councillor Wells asked whether the forecast included any predicted future losses in relation to One Leisure and in particular any capacity measures that have to be implemented. In response, Members were informed that the forecast does include future losses and that estimates were made based on a slow recovery.
- 5.5 Councillor Roberts asked what impact the pandemic has had on the Commercial Investment Strategy (CIS) and any future purchases. The Panel was reassured that rental income is higher than the same period the previous year. The Executive Councillor confirmed that it is unlikely that there will be any CIS purchases in the current economic climate.
- 5.6 Councillor Wakeford asked about the social obligations in relation to the Council's role as a landlord. The Panel was informed that the Council operate CIS on a commercial basis but that it is aware of the social obligations. The social obligations are addressed by engagement with tenants and the Commercial Estates Team work hard in establishing who need assistance.
- 5.7 Councillor Chapman enquired as to whether the capital value of the Council's CIS properties has fallen or is expected to fall. It was confirmed that some values have fallen but that the Council did not invest in the properties for the capital values but rather for the rental revenues.