

COUNCIL MEETING – 8 DECEMBER 2020

REPORT OF THE VIRTUAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

18 November 2020

Present: Councillors Griffiths (Chairman), Partridge-Underwood (Vice-Chairman), Allebone, Bell, Emerson, Graves, Harrington, Henley, L Lawman, Morrall, Scarborough, Skittrall, Ward and Weatherill.

Also present: Mrs L Elliott, Managing Director, Mr S Darcy (Director/Section 151 Officer), Mr A Piper and Mr E Symons (Assistant Directors), Mrs C A Mundy (Senior Democratic Services Officer (Committees and Members)) – minute taker, Mrs F Hubbard (Senior Democratic Services Officer (Civic)) and Mrs E Robinson (Democratic Services Support Officer) – meeting producers.

The chairman referred to agenda item 8 – Water Feature, and informed the meeting that, following a request by the chairman and vice-chairman of development committee, this was being withdrawn for discussion at this meeting. This item would be presented to the development committee in January, following additional research, information and feedback that had been received. As previously referenced by development committee the draft scheme for the Market Square will be the subject of a public consultation exercise.

The chairman reminded members that efforts, over the remaining time of the borough council, needed to focus on the key priorities of homelessness and improvements to the offer in the town centre. Comments by some public, on social media platforms, could be misleading, and often stated without knowledge of all the facts and officer support.

Councillor Scarborough, Leader of the Opposition, also spoke and supported the proposal that development committee debate the report. He expressed some concern that two water features were being proposed in the town centre with one being put out for consultation, and one that wasn't. He urged development committee to consider a consultation on both, to ensure that responses thereto would determine whether any proposal would stand or fall.

1. APOLOGIES

An apology was received from Councillor Francis.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

RESOLVED to note that in accordance with the Localism Act 2011, the council's code of conduct and the council's constitution, the following declaration was made:

Councillor	Minute no.	Reason
Henley	Min 4 - Financial monitoring & position statement for 2020-21	Personal – Active volunteer with One Wellingborough

3. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 30 SEPTEMBER 2020

The minutes of the resources committee of 30 September 2020 were received.

It was proposed by Councillor L Lawman and seconded by Councillor Skittrall that the minutes be adopted.

On being put to the vote the motion was declared carried.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the resources committee held on 30 September 2020, be confirmed and signed.

4. FINANCIAL MONITORING AND POSITION STATEMENT FOR 2020-21

The annexed circulated report of the section 151 officer was received on the monitoring position for revenue expenditure.

The section 151 officer presented the report and informed members that the use of reserves had been reduced to £67k from £116k as previously reported.

He also referenced the local authority support grant which had been received to mitigate Covid-19 pressures; this had been insufficient to cover all the anticipated expenditure. Support had been provided to the Castle Theatre, the leisure centre operators, One Wellingborough community support partnership and to accommodate homelessness. Additional grant funding to be received from central government was expected to total around £395k, which would assist with some of the additional financial pressures following the second national lockdown.

The report also detailed the loss of income due to events not taking place, facilities not being open and the increased pressures and economic uncertainty. The report further detailed the outturn movements to 30 September 2020 and the forecast outturn.

Members considered the information provided and asked for clarity on the current position regarding Places for People, IT expenditure and the impact that was anticipated on the collection fund in 2021.

The section 151 responded and informed the committee that the leisure centre was expected to re-open as soon as possible in December, depending on government instructions. With regard to IT there had been some additional

expenditure with employees working from home, which was attributed to Covid-19. With regard to the collection fund Mr Darcy would provide members with a briefing note on the anticipated impact, which was less of a problem for Wellingborough than neighbouring authorities who were reliant on, for example, parking charges. There would need to be a consistent approach for North Northamptonshire post April 2021.

The proposed action was put to the vote and declared carried.

RESOLVED that the position on the revenue monitoring and the reasons for the variances reported, as shown in appendix 1 to the report, be noted.

5. CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING

The annexed circulated report of the section 151 officer was received on the monitoring of the capital programme.

Appended to the report was the capital outturn report to 30 September 2020 along with the capital programme funding position.

The section 151 officer presented the report and informed the committee that the revised capital budget for 2020-21 was now £14m which was further detailed at 6.1 of the report. He also referenced the supplementary budget request of £80k for Doddington Road cemetery works to continue to make improvements to footpaths and roads at the cemetery, following the receipt of tenders which had been higher than expected.

Members discussed the report and expressed their support for the cemetery works to be undertaken and the supplementary request.

The proposed action was put to the vote and declared carried.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) The projected outturn and anticipated variances as at 30 September 2020, as shown at appendix 1 to the report, be noted;
- (ii) The external funding, as detailed at appendix 2 to the report, be noted;
- (iii) The capital programme, detailed in section 6 of the report, be noted;
- (iv) Approval be given to the supplementary budget request, detailed in section 7 of the report.

6. 2020-21 MID YEAR REPORT ON TREASURY MANAGEMENT

The annexed circulated report of the section 151 officer was received on the treasury management activity.

Appended to the report were the following:

Appendix 1: Summary of investment transactions at 30 September 2020;

Appendix 2: Summary of economic background and interest forecast at 30 September 2020 summary of investment

The report detailed how the Covid-19 pandemic, Brexit, and other international uncertainties had impacted on the rates of return from investments. A total of £32m was invested and interest received amounted to £118k. The year end forecast is £132k less than budgeted. The report detailed the type and timing of investments.

The section 151 officer clarified that work was ongoing with North Northamptonshire colleagues to ensure that cash was liquid and available moving forward to the new unitary on 1 April 2021.

The proposed action was put to the vote and declared carried.

RESOVLED that the mid-year report on treasury management be noted.

7. **PROPERTY MATTERS**

The annexed circulated report of the director was received to provide the committee with an update on the progress of various property matters.

Appended to the report were detailed current projects along with their status.

Members extended their congratulations to the property and projects team for the projects that had been progressed during the last 18 months.

Reference was made to one item namely Redhill Farm – the adoption of roads and sewers, which members thought had been completed. The assistant director confirmed that there was one small item that needed to be completed but that this should be finalised very soon.

The proposed action was put to the vote and declared carried.

RESOLVED that the progress regarding the projects be noted.

8. **ANY OTHER ITEM THAT THE CHARIMAN DECIDES IS URGENT**

The chairman had no further business to discuss and thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting.

Chairman

The meeting concluded at 7.35pm.