

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 1

TUESDAY, 6 FEBRUARY 2024

Present:

Councillors Parrott (Chair), Williams (Vice-Chair), Atkins, Buscombe, D Cox, Henderson, Ryan, Sanders and J Taylor

Members Attendance:

Councillors Clarence, Hook, Palethorpe and Keeling

Apologies:

Councillors Hayes, James and Thorne

Officers in Attendance:

Martin Flitcroft, Chief Finance Officer & Head of Corporate Services

Trish Corns, Democratic Services Officer

Kay Fice, Scrutiny Officer

Christopher Morgan, Trainee Democratic Services Officer

11. MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor Parrott, seconded by Councillor Sanders and

RESOLVED The Minutes of the meeting held on 9 January 2024 be approved as a correct record, subject to the removal of the word 'below' in Recommendation 6 and signed by the Chairman.

12. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

13. PUBLIC QUESTIONS (IF ANY)

None

14. COUNCILLOR QUESTIONS (IF ANY)

None

15. FINAL FINANCIAL PLAN PROPOSALS 2024/25 TO 2026/27

This item was introduced by the Executive Member for Resources who explained that very little had changed from the report presented to the January meeting of this Committee except that the funding settlement had realised an additional £135,000 for the authority. He was grateful to the members of the MTFP Task & Finish group for their work and had taken into account all of their recommendations.

The Chief Finance Officer presented a funding chart detailing the expenditure budget for 2024/25 and the funding sources analysed across Revenue and Capital. It was noted that Teignbridge only received around 8% of the Council Tax due to the specific restrictions placed on District Councils (it used to be 11%). Members found the Chart very helpful.

A number of questions were raised and either answered at the time or a follow up response offered if the information was not readily available.

The chair thanked the Chief Finance Officer and his team for their work.

It was proposed by Councillor Cox, seconded by Councillor Buscombe and

RECOMMENDED

These proposals be considered, together with any subsequent consultation comments for approval by Council as the final budget for 2024/25 and the outline plan for the subsequent years 2025/26 and 2026/27.

The proposed budget includes:

- An increase in council tax of £5.70 or 2.99% to £196.41
- Maintaining 100% council tax support
- Continuing to react to the climate change emergency by maintaining ongoing revenue budgets for a climate change officer and associated spending, temporary staffing resources in revenue and provision in the capital programme, including ongoing provisions for corporate decarbonization schemes
- A £2 million provision for employment sites funded by borrowing
- Temporary funds for a Scrutiny Officer to assist Members with the Scrutiny function and working groups; other temporary resources including for facilitating the Modern 25 work
- Support for housing including the Teignbridge 100 whilst backing business and bringing people and organisations together for local neighbourhood planning
- Other central funding reductions – in particular provisional assumptions for business rates for future years and reset of the baseline
- Reserves at 12.7% of the net revenue budget or £2.4 million
- Infrastructure delivery plan investment funded by community infrastructure levy and external sources where available
- Continuation of grant funded South West Regional Monitoring Programme
- Town centre investment in infrastructure and employment
- Increasing revenue contributions to capital to £500,000 per annum
- Introduction of a blue badge car parking permit and associated staffing resources
- Councillors community fund set at £1,000

- Paying £1,000,000 off our pension deficit in 2024/25 to reduce ongoing contributions
- Maintaining existing voluntary grant contributions

16. EXECUTIVE MEMBER BIENNIAL UPDATES

Climate Change, Trees, Coast and Flood Risk Management

As Executive Member for these areas of the Council, Councillor Hook was welcomed by the chair to present her Biennial report.

Climate Change

Action on Climate (ACT) is an independent non-political group but acts as an umbrella group and meetings are held monthly and a number of initiatives to address the climate emergency are being progressed including the Action Plan on Climate Change.

Trees and biodiversity

Examples include 1500 whips planted, 2 memorial and Coronation trees planted and the planting of 3 mature trees in Forde Park are planned

SANGS community coppice being developed by planting additional whips

Wildlife wardens are helping in the community with over 100 across Teignbridge

Flood protection

Preparing Flood emergency plans can be supported by the Devon Community Resilience Forum

The full presentation can be viewed at the link below

[Agenda Overview & Scrutiny 1 6 February 2024](#)

17. EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN

The Executive Forward Plan listing items to be considered over the next few months was noted, and consideration was given to whether any items were to be requested to come forward to the Committee prior to being considered by the Executive. There were no requests for items to come forward to the Committee

18. WORK PROGRAMME

The committee's work programme as circulated with the agenda showing issues to be considered by the Committee over the next few months was noted.

The Executive member biennial update for Recycling, Household Waste & Environmental Health from Councillor Nuttall will be deferred to the next meeting to be held on 26 March 2024

19. FEEDBACK ON TASK AND FINISH GROUPS

Medium Term Financial Plan Task & Finish Group

Councillor Parrott reported on the last meeting on the areas that were covered, mentioned that the next work of the group would be to receive a presentation on Modern 25 and to consider some other savings ideas.

CLLR D PARROTT

Chair