

# HOUSING COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 19 October 2021

Present: Councillor J McManus (Chair)

Councillors A Brame M Collins  
P Martin A Gardner  
T Smith I Lewis  
S Whittingham H Gorman  
H Cameron

Deputies: Councillor S Foulkes (For Cllr J Bird)

## 1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed Members of the Housing Committee, Officers and viewing members of the public to the meeting.

## 2 APOLOGIES

The Chair confirmed the apologies of Councillor Jo Bird, with Councillor Steve Foulkes deputising.

## 3 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members of the Committee were asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests, in connection with any item on the agenda, and to state the nature of the interest.

No such declarations were made.

## 4 MINUTES

**Resolved – That the minutes of the Housing Committee held on 10 March 2021 be approved and adopted as a correct record.**

## 5 PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS

The Chair reported that no questions or statements from members of the public or Members of Wirral Council had been submitted.

## 6 **WIRRAL PLAN DELIVERY PLANS**

The Director of Regeneration and Place introduced a report that presented the Wirral Plan 2021-26 Draft Delivery Plans. The Plans were approved at Council on 6 September 2021, together with the recommendation that engagement and discussion with relevant Committees would take place to further shape the underpinning delivery plans and work programmes required to implement the Wirral Plan.

Members asked a range of questions on the draft Delivery Plans and the detail behind them including what level of information would be included, the homelessness strategy, housing targets under the Local Plan and net-zero homes.

**Resolved – That the draft Delivery Plans, as they related to Housing Committee set out in Appendix 1 to this report be noted.**

## 7 **2020/21 REVENUE AND CAPITAL OUTTURN**

This item was withdrawn.

## 8 **2021/22 BUDGET MONITORING AND 22/23 BUDGET PROCESS**

The Senior Finance Business Partner introduced a report on behalf of the Director of Resources which highlighted the processes for monitoring the 2021/22 budget and for commencing the budget setting process as agreed by the Policy and Resources Committee on 17 March 2021. The report included further supporting information to ensure that these processes could be followed.

The Ministry for Housing, Local Government and Communities had provided a conditional offer of exceptional financial support (capitalisation directive) for 2021/22 of up to £10.7m. One of the conditions of that offer was that the Council needed to provide evidence from the assurance review of the authority's financial position and its ability to meet any or all of the identified budget gap without any additional borrowing.

**Resolved – That:**

- 1) the content of the report and the current forecast position of savings for 2021/22 and the ongoing work being undertaken to mitigate any under-achievement be noted;**
- 2) it be agreed to include the current proposals with this report from the Medium Term Financial Plan from 2022/23 – 2025/26 and the Director of Regeneration and Place be authorised to develop them**

**into full business cases, where appropriate, for inclusion in the 2022/23 budget proposals to Policy and Resources Committee at its October meeting for approval;**

- 3) a series of budget workshops be convened to identify any alternative savings/income/reductions in pressures to ensure that a full suite of costed and deliverable proposals can be recommended to the Policy and Resources Committee at its October meeting for approval; and**
- 4) the Zero Based Budgeting project be commenced within the budget workshops to contribute to the overall savings target of £170k in 2021/22.**

## **9 QUARTER 1 MONITOR REPORT**

The Senior Finance Business Partner introduced a report on behalf of the Director of Regeneration and Place which provided a summary of the projected year-end revenue and capital position for Housing Committee as at the end of Quarter 1 (June 2021) of the 2021/22 financial year.

The report provided Members with an overview of budget performance to enable the Committee to take ownership of their specific budgets and provide robust challenge and scrutiny to Officers on the performance of those budgets.

### **Resolved – That:**

- 1) the projected year-end revenue forecast variance of £0.155m favourable position as reported at quarter 1 (Apr-Jun) of 2021-22 be noted;**
- 2) progress on the achievement of approved savings and the projected year-end forecast position at quarter 1 (Apr-Jun) of 2021-22 be noted;**
- 3) the reserves allocated to the Committee for the future one-off commitments, as set out at paragraph 3.9 of the report, be noted; and**
- 4. the projected year-end capital forecast expenditure position of £7.976m as reported at quarter 1 (Apr-Jun) of 2021-22, be noted.**

**HOUSING COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE**

Members gave consideration to a report of the Director Regeneration and Place that set out the proposed Housing Committee Work Programme 2021/22 as detailed in the appendix to the report.

The report advised that the Housing Committee, in co-operation with the other Policy and Service Committees, was responsible for proposing and delivering an annual committee work programme. This work programme should align with the corporate priorities of the Council, in particular the delivery of the key decisions which were within the remit of the Committee

The report provided the Committee with an opportunity to plan and regularly review its work across the municipal year.

**Resolved – That the Housing Committee Work Programme for the remainder of the 2021/22 municipal year be noted.**