

Finance and Assets Policy Development Advisory Group
13 SEPTEMBER 2021

Present: Councillors: Richard Landeryou (Chairman), Matthew Allen, Tony Bevis, Michael Croker, Ray Dawe, Brian Donnelly, Frances Haigh, Nigel Jupp, Stuart Ritchie and James Wright

Apologies: Councillors: Paul Clarke

1 **NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The notes of the meeting held on 19 May were received.

2 **UPDATE ON THE COUNCIL'S FINANCIAL POSITION AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY**

The Head of Finance & Performance introduced the draft Cabinet report on the Council's current and projected financial position, focussing on the impact of expenditure and income pressures on the Medium-Term Financial Strategy.

The Head of Finance & Performance outlined the key changes in expenditure and income, which were in some cases a consequence of the impact of the pandemic.

Key areas discussed by the PDAG included:

- A potential cap on what local authorities can charge for garden waste collection, which could be imposed by the government;
- The introduction of food waste collections, required by government, and uncertainty regarding how this would be funded;
- Parking income, which was starting to recover well; and
- Income generated by Leisure facilities, which had recovered post-pandemic better than expected.

The Group noted the high level of uncertainty surrounding the economy as it emerged from the pandemic. There was also uncertainty regarding central government funding levels relating to business rates reform.

3 **EARLY CONVERSATION ABOUT REVENUES & BENEFITS AND INTERNAL AUDIT SERVICES FROM 1 APRIL 2023**

The Director of Corporate Resources advised the Group that the contracts for two services would have to be renewed in 18 months' time. She outlined the current arrangements for the Revenues & Benefits and Internal Audit services,

and the potential options available to the Council. These included bringing the services in-house, outsourcing through a public procurement process, or continuing with shared services.

The Group discussed the possible options. The Cabinet Member noted the comments of the Group and agreed a way forward, with a view to the Director of Corporate Resources bringing an update to a future PDAG.

4 **FORWARD PLAN EXTRACT FOR THE FINANCE AND ASSETS
PORTFOLIO**

The Forward Plan extract was noted.

The meeting closed at 7.05 pm having commenced at 5.40 pm

CHAIRMAN