

Finance and Assets Policy Development Advisory Group
4 NOVEMBER 2019

Present: Councillors: Ray Dawe (Chairman), Tony Bevis, Paul Clarke,
Brian Donnelly, Frances Haigh, Nigel Jupp, Richard Landeryou,
Gordon Lindsay and Stuart Ritchie

Apologies: Councillors: Matthew Allen

8 **NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The notes of the meeting held on 9 September were received by the Group.

9 **PRINT CONTRACT**

The Director of Corporate Resources briefed the Group on the proposed procurement process for securing a Print Services contract. This contract would enable all the Council's print jobs to be undertaken by a select list of suppliers capable to supplying the variety of products required across the Council. The tender process was designed to accommodate more specialist printing jobs such as banners, parking discs and work for the Capitol.

The Council would go out to tender in the next few weeks with our three partner councils in order to consolidate, reduce spending and increase efficiency.

The Group were supportive of this approach and noted that the contract would be in place for April 2020.

10 **HORSHAM DISTRICT HOMES**

The Head of Finance updated the Group on the first two sites to provide housing through the Council's recently created Affordable Housing Company (Horsham District Homes).

Proposals for the first two sites would be considered by Cabinet on 28 November. The site in Billingshurst would accommodate three affordable homes built on Council land. A single dwelling in Slinfold would be purchased from a developer.

Funding would come from s106 developer contributions held by the Council. The Group noted the project overview and business case for each site, including funding requirements and projected yields and the impact on the Council's finances. In response to questions from the Group, the Head of Finance agreed to clarify a number of points regarding the projections and operation of the company, by liaising with the company directors.

11 **MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY**

The Cabinet Member introduced the Medium Term Financial outlook, which set out budget requirements and projections from 2020/21 to 2023/24. This had been prepared at a time of national political and economic uncertainty and the Cabinet Member stressed that projections beyond 2020/21 would be subject to a number of unknown variables.

The presentation from the Head of Finance included current net expenditure, expected net expenditure for the future years and total funding. These were based on a number of assumptions, including significant reduction in government funding, and took into consideration budget pressures over the medium term.

The Cabinet would be updated on the draft Medium Term Financial Strategy on 28 November, followed by a briefing for full Council on 11 December.

The Head of Finance advised that work on the Medium Term Financial Strategy was ongoing and the current projections would be reviewed and revised before it is presented to Council in February 2020.

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

The Group noted the Forward Plan extract for the Finance & Assets portfolio.

The meeting closed at 6.54 pm having commenced at 5.30 pm

CHAIRMAN