

COUNCIL
22 June 2022
COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Referred to Council by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 6 June

(a) Overview & Scrutiny Annual Report 2021/22

The annual report provides a review of the work of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee during the municipal year 2021/22. The report outlines the role of the Committee and includes a summary of work completed by the Committee during the year, including the work of the Sustainable Travel Task & Finish Group and its recommendations, which were approved by Council on 27 April.

The report also refers to the Committee's work programme (forward plan) for the new municipal year. This sets out a timetable of items for forthcoming meetings and is updated regularly to include the work of any Task & Finish groups.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL

To note the annual report and the Overview & Scrutiny Committee's forward plan.

REASON

The Constitution requires the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to tell the Council about its work at the end of each municipal year and about the work it plans for the new municipal year.

Recommendation to Council made at the Governance Committee on 8 June

(b) Receipt of External Grant Funding

The Constitution, as it is currently written, confirms that all changes to the budget framework, including adding grant money, are a reserved matter of Full Council. Therefore, any grant monies received outside of the usual budget setting cycle, for which no budget exists, means that prior to or on receipt of the grant, approval from Full Council is necessary.

Governance Committee was recommended to consider the suggested change to the governance arrangements to allow the receipt of grant monies and consequent expenditure up to a threshold of £100,000 to be approved by the Section 151 Finance Officer, the Leader together with the Cabinet Member for Finance and Parking.

The Committee agreed to an amended proposal to:

Allow the receipt of grant monies and consequent expenditure up to a threshold of £100,000 to be approved by the Section 151 Finance Officer and the Leader in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance and Parking and the Chairman of Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL

That the Monitoring Officer be given the authority to make the necessary changes to the Constitution to reflect this.

REASON

The receipt by the Council of grant money has become more and more commonplace. Currently approval is needed which means every grant received needs approval from Full Council, preventing service areas from operating swiftly and efficiently by not being able to bid and spend the monies in time and as a consequence grant opportunity may be missed.