

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair to welcome Members, officers and the public to the meeting and introduce Members and officers who are present.

2. Apologies

To receive any apologies.

3. Disclosures of Interest

Members to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests, or personal interests (including other pecuniary interests), they may have in the business to be transacted, and officers to disclose any interests they may have in any contract to be considered.

4. Minutes

To approve, and the Chair to sign as a correct record, the Minutes of the meeting of the Budget and Resources Scrutiny Committee held on 11 December 2018 (Item 4a), 3 January 2019 (Item 4b), 9 January 2019 (Item 4c), 15 January 2019 (Item 4d) and 22 January 2019 (Item 4e) (**pages 8 to 38**).

5. Update on the Revenue and Benefits Service Improvement Programme

To receive and comment on a short presentation by the Head of Service (Revenues and Benefits) to the Committee, updating it on further progress to resolve outstanding issues within the service, including the impact of Universal Credit.

As part of the local roll out of Universal Credit, the Revenues and Benefits department has produced a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) which they hope will be of assistance to all those seeking information on Universal Credit and how the system works. The FAQs are included as Item 5 (**pages 39 to 46**).

6. Getting Best Value from S106 Opportunities

During the October draft budget Challenge Meetings the Committee requested that it received a report on whether the opportunities to support capital projects from S106 funding were being maximised.

The Committee will receive and comment on a presentation exploring how value can be added to S106 opportunities, whether the process can be improved going forward, has the Council got it right or are there any lessons to be learned from past mistakes?

Definition: *Under S106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, as amended, contributions can be sought from developers towards the costs of providing community and social infrastructure, the need for which has arisen as a result of a new development taking place. This funding is commonly known as 'Section 106'.*

It is important to note that S106 monies may therefore only be spent on facilities where the new development has, at least in part, contributed to the need for the facilities. S106 funding is available for capital projects only. Revenue funding towards on-going running costs is not available.

The Council's Guidance Note on S106 funding is attached at Item 6 (**pages 47 to 53**) as **background information**.

7. ERP Gold Financial / HR Management System Progress Report

The Director Finance and Resources will present a snapshot report to update the Committee on the progress being made by the Council and its partners on improvements to the ERP Gold Financial / HR Management System.

8. Review of How Draft Budget Proposals are Challenged

The Committee will review the 2019/20 budget challenge process and discuss with the Finance Team and the Cabinet Member for Resources and Innovation how this can be improved. During this item the Committee will also consider how scrutiny of the Capital Programme can be improved.

9. 2019/20 Work Programme

Dates for meetings of the Budget and Resources Committee during 2019/20 are as follows:

- 10 July 2019
- 17 September 2019
- 02 / 08 / 15 / 22 October 2019
- 10 December 2019
- 02 / 08 / 14 / 21 January 2020
- 10 March 2020

The Committee's Planning Group has identified the following items for the 2019/20 Work Programme:

The Business As Usual Items are:

- Scrutiny of the General Fund Revenue Account, Housing Revenue Account, Dedicated Schools Grant and Capital Programme Outturn Report for 2018/19;
- Scrutiny of the Annual Treasury Management Report 2018/19;
- Scrutiny of the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP);
- Scrutiny of the draft 2020/21 Budget Proposals;
- Scrutiny of the Capital Programme.

Other possible items include:

- Staffing Resources (eg use of contractors, temporary staff etc);
- Transition to cloud based solutions for the Council's IT systems;
- Update on Business Rates Retention;
- Effects of Leaving the European Union;

Draft 2019/20 Work Programmes will be presented to the Scrutiny Management Committee on 27 March 2019 for approval.