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Minutes of the meeting of the BUDGET AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held on WEDNESDAY 6 JANUARY 2021

Present: Councillors R Bradburn (Chair), Cannon, P Geary, Gilbert, Long, Rankine, Williams and C Wilson-Marklew

Officers: S Richardson (Director of Finance and Resources), A Rulton (Head of Finance), N Hutchin (Head of Finance), L Wheaton (Budget and Financial Planning Manager), M Bracey (Chief Executive), T Aldworth (Deputy Chief Executive), S Proffitt (Director of Environment and Property), S Gonsalves (Director of Policy, Insight and Communications), S Young (Head of Asset Management), T Ricketts (Neighbourhood Services Manager), J Harrison (Head of Housing Operations), E Richardson (Overview and Scrutiny Officer)

Also Present: Councillors Marland (Leader of the Council) and Townsend (Cabinet Member Community Safety)

BR27 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Long advised that he had been appointed to the board the Headstart Disability Charity in Milton Keynes.

BR28 THE POLITICAL CONTEXT

As an introduction to the January Challenge Meetings, the Committee received a short presentation from Councillor Marland, during which he:

- a) Set out the priorities which the Administration wanted to deliver during 2021/22 through the budget;
- b) Reflected on what the Council had been able to achieve in the past 12 months, particularly in relation to Covid-19;
- c) Advised that the Revenues and Benefits Team was currently administering 18 different support schemes, many of which had been set up from a standing start;
- d) Explained the proposed small increase in Council Tax and how some reserves would be used to balance the 2021/22 budget.

The Administration wanted to keep Council Tax rises to the minimum required to maintain vital services, calling it a “caring not cutting budget”. He also explained that the balance of the additional adult social care precept on Council Tax would be available to take in 2022/23 if the Council needed to do so;

- e) Anticipated that the Council’s income would start to return to normal levels once the crisis caused by the pandemic eases.

BR29

DRAFT COUNCIL BUDGET 2021/22 AND MEDIUM-TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2021/22 TO 2024/25

Leader of the Council

The Committee discussed with Councillor Marland the pressures, reductions and income generation proposals in his portfolio.

The Committee considered the evidence presented at the meeting and agreed that its recommendations would be included in the Committee’s report, which would be submitted for consideration by Cabinet on 2 February 2021.

Community Safety

The Committee discussed with Councillor Townsend, Cabinet Member for Community Safety, the pressures, reductions and income generation proposals in her portfolio.

The Committee considered the evidence presented at the meeting and agreed that its recommendations would be included in the Committee’s report, which would be submitted for consideration by Cabinet on 2 February 2021.

RESOLVED -

1. That Councillors Marland and Townsend be thanked for discussing with the Committee the pressures, reductions and income proposals in their portfolios identified as part of the 2021/22 draft budget preparation process.
2. That officer colleagues attending the meeting be thanked for the support offered to Cabinet Members during the budget setting period and for the clarification of various issues raised by the Committee.
3. That any recommendations the Committee may have arising from the evidence taken at this meeting be included in the report on its work which will be presented to Cabinet on 2 February 2021.

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 8.48 PM

The Agenda and supporting papers for this meeting can be found on the Council's Committee Management Information System (CMIS) at: [CMIS: Budget & Resources Scrutiny Committee - 6 January 2021](#)

The recording of this meeting is available to view on the Council's YouTube Channel at [Milton Keynes Council YouTube: Budget & Resources Scrutiny Committee - 6 January 2021](#)