

BUDGET TASK AND FINISH GROUP – UPDATE ON RECOMMENDATIONS

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 At its January meeting, Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Panel accepted the recommendations of the Budget Task and Finish Group, and requested an update on progress with these recommendations at their June meeting.
- 1.2 The following table sets out updates on each of these issues for the Panel to note:-

Recommendation	Response
That measures be brought forward in a timely manner to eliminate the £600k deficit relating to Leisure Centre provision, either through private provision, through a charitable trust, or other means, perhaps identified by consultants, (subject to clear objectives at the outset on elimination of the deficit).	Plans are being developed by Management to address the £600,000 operating deficit. A T&FG has been established to look at how best to maintain the standards of Council facilities going forward, through alternative operating models. Community Panel are to receive an update in September 2018.
That ways to seek additional funding for CCTV be revisited	Community Panel in June 2018 to consider an update on the work of the CCTV service and a proposed way forward on the Partnership Plan.
That a Homelessness Task and Finish Group be created to investigate the matters outlined in the Group's report	<p>The work of the Homelessness Task and Finish Group is well underway with 3 meetings having taken place, including a visit to a number of hostels and B&Bs used by the Council to house homeless families.</p> <p>With an ever increasing number of homeless families that the Council owes duties to, the Task and Finish Group is looking at a number of options to help the council discharge its responsibilities in an effective manner. These include looking at the priority homeless families are awarded through the Council's Allocations Policy and whether changes should be made in this regard. Additionally, the Group is looking at the Council sourcing additional accommodation, both temporary and emergency temporary accommodation. A Homeless Strategy will be drafted and submitted to the Housing Scrutiny Panel as part of their work programme this year.</p>

Recommendation	Response
	<p>A multi-agency Homelessness Forum has also been set up to ensure that there is joined up thinking and effective engagement with all the other agencies and voluntary sector in the Forest who get involved with the homeless.</p> <p>There is still much to do but the work is going well and further updates will be provided.</p>
<p>That the Council continue to work with CANF on Universal Credit.</p>	<p>NFDC is working with CANF on an SLA, which will take into account the effects of Universal Credit.</p>
<p>That regular updates be brought to Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Panel on progress with partnership / collaborations, in particular the Planning function, with the NPA (or other authorities if no progress can be made), with positive timelines and definitive plans</p>	<p>The Chief Executive and officers are engaging with the NPA on areas of Partnership and collaborative working – any developments will be reported here, and others will be brought back to Cabinet.</p>
<p>That the Council investigates other optional future waste management strategies, to seek greater efficiencies</p>	<p>The new waste and recycling manager is working closely with the Portfolio Holder with the development of a wider environmental strategy for the district, as set out within the new Corporate Framework. The Hampshire Waste Partnership Review is currently on hold, pending the National Waste Strategy (from DEFRA). This will inform decisions on the future recycling scheme, which may in turn impact on recyclables collected at the kerbside.</p>
<p>That efforts be made to enhance education on recycling, and to increase performance on recycling rates</p>	<p>See above</p>
<p>That a report be brought to Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Panel on the pension deficit and options on how this might be tackled.</p>	<p>The HCC annual review of Pension fund performance will be shared with COSP.</p>
<p>That a plan for smarter working be submitted to Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Panel.</p>	<p>An update report will be provided to COSP in September 2018.</p>
<p>That measures to improve competitiveness of the Building Control function through use of new technology be investigated.</p>	<p>Building Control are working with ICT on a review into how best utilise technology in an attempt to maintain, or potentially grow their market share.</p>

	A fees and charges review is being undertaken and a report will be approved by the Portfolio Holder shortly.
That an update report on progress with the Transportation function SLA with HCC be submitted to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel	The Portfolio Holder for Planning and Infrastructure will produce a report with reference to Transportation matters during 2018/19 to the Environmental Overview and Scrutiny panel. Numerous meetings have been held with HCC and currently we have been put on notice that the agency agreement will cease in 2020. A report will be available in the Autumn.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That the report be noted.

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