

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Finance Sub-Committee**
held on Wednesday, 22nd September, 2021 in The Capesthorne Room -
Town Hall, Macclesfield SK10 1EA

PRESENT

Councillor A Stott (Chair)
Councillor S Carter (Vice-Chair)

Councillors J Clowes, B Puddicombe, S Edgar (for Cllr Gardiner), D Edwardes (for Cllr Abel), A Harewood (for Cllr Hogben) and S Holland (for Cllr Brown)

OFFICERS

Alex Thompson, Director of Finance and Customer Services
Joanne Wilcox, Head of Financial Management
Julie Gregory, Acting Legal Team Manager
Paul Mountford, Democratic Services

APOLOGIES

Councillors Q Abel, D Brown, S Gardiner and S Hogben

20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor S Carter declared a non-pecuniary interest as an unpaid Director of a social enterprise company called The Green in the Corner which had received Covid-related grant funding.

21 PUBLIC SPEAKING/OPEN SESSION

There were no public speakers.

22 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 1st September 2021 be approved as a correct record.

23 GROUP OUTTURN 2020-21

The Sub-Committee considered the Group Outturn report for 2020-21.

Before considering the report, the Chair drew members' attention to page 44 in which the Director of Finance and Customer Services, Alex Thompson, had expressed his thanks to officers, services and organisations for their support and expertise throughout the 2020/21 financial year. The Chair wished to place on record her own thanks, and

those of the Sub-Committee, not only to those mentioned in the report but also to Mr Thompson himself.

The report outlined how the Council had managed its resources during the 2020/21 Financial Year. It included a narrative from the Council's Draft Group Accounts, to highlight financial performance within the year, as well as associated appendices to show how the Council had achieved against the outcomes contained within the Corporate Plan as well as other important financial matters.

The Outturn was reported as part of the Statutory Accounts and was therefore subject to audit. The audited Accounts would be presented to the Audit and Governance Committee on 25th November 2021.

In response to questions from members, the Director of Finance and Customer Services advised that:

- Officers had reported to the Children and Families Committee on the continuing overspend on children's services and some of the reasons underlying that overspend, and this issue would continue to be a feature of future financial reporting.
- The fact that there had been significant underspends in other areas, arising from the need to address the Covid pandemic, had enabled the Council to increase its general and earmarked reserves. This included £5m of unringfenced Covid grant which had been carried forward into the current financial year as an earmarked reserve for use in relation to Covid-related expenditure.
- Expenditure on Covid-related areas in the current financial year would continue to be reported to the Government through the Delta returns and a link to the relevant financial information would be provided to members.
- At the present time, all Covid-related expenditure by the Council had been met from Government grant funding and it had not been necessary so far to draw on funds from the General Reserve.

RESOLVED

That the Sub-Committee:

1. notes the contents of the report and each appendix;
2. approves Supplementary Capital Estimates up to and including £1,000,000 and Capital Virements up to and including £5,000,000 in accordance with Financial Procedure Rules as detailed in Appendix 3, Annex C to the report; and
3. recommends to Council to approve:

- (a) supplementary capital estimates over £1,000,000 in accordance with Financial Procedure Rules as detailed in Appendix 3, Annex D; and
- (b) fully-funded supplementary revenue estimates over £1,000,000 in accordance with Financial Procedure Rules as detailed in Appendix 2, Table 1.

The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm and concluded at 2.43 pm

Councillor A Stott (Chair)