

## Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 7 January 2021

The committee made no formal recommendations, but asked questions and put comments in relation to:

- Whether the council's elected members would be informed of the memberships and subscriptions which were proposed to be withdrawn from.

It was agreed that these details would be circulated to committee members for information.

- The impacts of the national public sector pay pause for 2021/22 and whether local negotiations would take place on this.

It was noted that following the Chancellor's announcements, national negotiations were expected to take place for Local Government and that the potential pay pause would not impact NHS staff or the lowest paid.

- The improved debt recovery savings proposals, which had raised concerns regarding the impact that these new measures might have on businesses and residents that have already been greatly impacted financially by the pandemic.

It was highlighted that the proposals involved being more efficient, collecting money upfront and having better processes in place for debt recovery, which would hopefully prevent residents accruing additional late payment charges.

- The proposed restructure/efficiency savings, which raised concerns about the impacts that this would have on the already-stretched capacity of staff, as well as on teams to continue to deliver effective services, mentioning specifically the legal support for the council's enforcement activity as an area of concern.

It was highlighted that there are a number of ways costs can be reduced, for example, the number of agency staff and ongoing restructures within the Corporate Services directorate and aimed to ensure that the council had the right people in the right place to deliver what it needed to. The Director of Governance and Compliance agreed to report back to the committee on how the specific concerns raised regarding legal services and enforcement were being addressed.

- The council's spend on ICT which, whilst essential (especially in light of the remote working implications of the Covid-19 pandemic), was thought to be high by some members and that it was not clear whether the council had achieved value for money.

It was agreed that, in response to the concern raised by the committee, an item would be added to its work programme to review the council's ICT spend and whether the council had achieved cost per person value for money.