

EXECUTIVE
7 JULY 2020

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR M J HILL OBE (LEADER OF THE COUNCIL)

Councillors Mrs P A Bradwell OBE (Executive Councillor for Adult Care, Health and Children's Services) (Deputy Leader), C J Davie (Executive Councillor for Economy and Place), R G Davies (Executive Councillor for Highways, Transport and IT), E J Poll (Executive Councillor for Commercial and Environmental Management), Mrs S Woolley (Executive Councillor for NHS Liaison and Community Engagement), C N Worth (Executive Councillor for Culture and Emergency Services) and B Young (Executive Councillor for Community Safety and People Management).

Councillor R B Parker (Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board) was also in attendance.

Officers in attendance:-

Debbie Barnes OBE (Chief Executive), Les Britzman (Chief Fire Officer), Andrew Crookham (Executive Director Resources), James Drury (Executive Director Commercial), Cheryl Evans (Democratic Services Officer), Glen Garrod (Executive Director - Adult Care and Community Wellbeing), Michelle Grady (Assistant Director for Strategic Finance), Andy Gutherson (Executive Director Place), Heather Sandy (Executive Director of Children's Services) and Nigel West (Head of Democratic Services and Statutory Scrutiny Officer).

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None were received.

2 DECLARATIONS OF COUNCILLORS' INTERESTS

No interests were declared.

3 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE LEADER, EXECUTIVE COUNCILLORS AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

Leader of the Council

Councillor Martin Hill OBE, the Leader of Lincolnshire County Council, advised that the covid-19 pandemic was continuing, although the incidence of the virus in Lincolnshire was very low. Essential Council services were continuing and other services were now being resumed.

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The Local Outbreak Engagement Board, which involving various partners, was continuing to plan for any interventions in response to any local outbreak. The information provided by Public Health England on the results of *NHS Test and Trace* had shown some improvement, but could be improved further.

Executive Councillor for Economy and Place

Councillor Colin Davie, the Executive Councillor for Economy and Place, reported that the Government had awarded £25.8 million from its *Getting Building* fund to the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership, and activity was continuing on those projects, which fully met the Government's criteria. Further announcements were expected by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in his budget statement on 8 July 2020, and it was anticipated that projects to support digital infrastructure and the environment would be prioritised in the future. The Council's officers would be focused on activities to secure the best for Lincolnshire.

Executive Councillor for Culture and Emergency Services

Councillor Nick Worth, the Executive Councillor for Culture and Emergency Services, reported that a consultant was expected to finalise a report on the three options for the future of the Usher Gallery in Lincoln by 21 July 2020.

With regard to Registration and Celebratory Services, deaths continued to be registered by telephone and some births were also being registered. Notices of marriages were proceeding and wedding ceremonies were expected to take place soon.

Executive Councillor for NHS Liaison and Community Engagement

Councillor Mrs Sue Woolley, the Executive Councillor for NHS Liaison and Community Engagement, reported that to date 240 applications from councillors had been made to the *Covid-19 Community Fund Scheme* and as a result funding of over £130,000 had been allocated to voluntary and community groups to support their responses to the pandemic.

4 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE HELD ON 2 JUNE 2020

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Executive on 2 June 2020 be confirmed as a correct record.

5 REVIEW OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE 2019/20

Consideration was given to a report, which was presented by the Executive Director - Resources and Assistant Director – Strategic Finance, on the Council's financial performance in 2019/20, which included an overall underspend of £15.140 million on Council's budgets and an underspend of £11.958 million on schools' budgets. The

underspend on schools' budgets are retained by each school. The report also identified and explained the variances from the Council's revenue and capital budgets; and how flexible capital receipts of £8 million had been planned to be used to fund revenue expenditure on transformation during the years up to and including 2019/20. Prudential and financial performance indicators for 2019/20 were also included.

Proposals for the use of underspends, which were in excess of 1% of the approved budget from 2019/20, in the current financial year (2020/21) were set out in paragraphs 1.148 – 1.15 of the report. These would be submitted to the County Council for approval.

The Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board presented the comments from the Board, which had included reference to the overall underspend in Adult Care and Community Wellbeing commissioning strategies; to compensation payments on the A1073; the overspend of £2.373 million on the home to school/college transport budget; the purpose of the Council's contingency budget of £3 million; and slippage on the capital programme.

The Leader of the Council referred to anticipated pressures on the Council's budget during 2020/21, for example, the potential for inflation arising from the procurement of services, particularly for home to school/college transport. The emphasis of capital programme funding would be on the delivery of the Council's preferred schemes, and if other schemes were to be substituted to take up slippage, there would be a risk that funding would not be available for the preferred schemes. The purpose of the contingency budget would be reviewed during the course of the year.

The following issues were raised:

- On home to school/college transport, although social distancing would not be required from September 2020, there remained a possibility that the awaited government guidance could require pupils to travel in their 'bubble'.
- There was a pressure on bus companies arising from their reduced income during the pandemic.
- On the proposal to allocate funding to a corporate transformation reserve, plans on how this money would be used would be submitted as soon as possible.
- Lincolnshire County Council had been given a grant of £35 million by the Government to aid its response to the Covid-19 pandemic, with expenditure and lost income to date totalling approximately £47 million, which did not take into account any future losses arising from reduced Council Tax or Business Rate income. A further £500 million had been awarded by the Government, and the Council's share of this would be confirmed shortly. The Government had also announced plans for compensating local authorities for lost income, again with details due to be confirmed shortly.

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RESOLVED

- (1) That the carry forwards set out in paragraphs 1.145 to 1.147 of the report, which are made in line with the Council's Financial Regulations, be noted.
- (2) That it be recommended to the County Council that the proposals in paragraphs 1.148 to 1.150 of the report, relating to the treatment of underspends in excess of 1%, be approved.
- (3) That the transfers to and from reserves carried out in 2019/20, as set out in Table E of the report, be noted.
- (4) That the financial performance in 2019/20, as set out in Table A (Key Financial Performance Measures), Table B (Revenue Budget Final Outturn), Table C (Net Capital Programme Summary Outturn), Appendix B (Prudential Indicators) and Appendix C (Flexible Use of Capital Receipts) of the report, be noted.

The meeting closed at 11.05 am.