

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE LOCAL JOINT FORUM - 11 OCTOBER 2022

### Present:

Councillors Brock and Terry

K Magee

A McNamara

S Smith

Julie Quarmby

**Apologies:**

Unite

National Education Union (NEU)

Assistant Director of HR and Organisational Development

Committee Services

Councillors Mitchell and Page

M Palfrey, Unison

### 1. ELECTION OF CHAIR

Kieran Magee was elected to serve as Chair of the Forum for the remainder Municipal Year 2022/2023.

### 2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

Councillor Terry had been appointed to serve as Vice Chair at the Annual General Meeting of the Council on 25 May 2022 (Minute 7 refers).

### 3. PROCEEDINGS OF THE LOCAL JOINT FORUM MEETING HELD ON 24 FEBRUARY 2022

The Proceedings of the Local Joint Forum meeting held on 24 February 2022 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

### 4. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY PROCESS - UPDATE

Darren Carter, Director of Finance, attended the meeting and gave a verbal update on the Medium Term Financial Strategy process which would be submitted to Policy Committee on 15 December 2022. He set out details of the following issues that would have a significant impact on the budget for the next financial year:

- The Business Rates 'reset' being deferred to 2024/25;
- The pay award;
- Inflationary pressures;
- Potential new savings;
- The Adult Social Care funding reforms starting in October 2023.

Darren explained that the current budget projections were for a £500k surplus for 2022/23 and a £3.6m deficit for 2023/24, although this could be affected by Council Tax-based growth, the postponement of the National Insurance increase and any additional capital finance savings. Darren also noted that it would not be possible to fund all of the growth bids submitted by services and the business cases were being reviewed before they were brought to the budget challenge sessions.

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Darren set out the timetable for budget setting which took into account that the promised Autumn Spending Review would not now be taking place and that this might mean a return to austerity:

- The CMT/Member budget challenge sessions would be held in October 2022;
- The Autumn statement was expected in November 2022;
- A report updating the Policy Committee on the MTFS would be submitted in December 2022;
- The provisional Local Government Finance settlement was expected in December 2022,
- The Council would set the budget in February 2023.

Darren confirmed that further work would be carried out on cost projections for inflationary increases in services provided by Adults Social Care and Brighter Futures for Children. He added that there were formulas in place to assist with these calculations.

### **AGREED -**

- (1) That Darren Carter be thanked for attending the meeting;**
- (2) That the position be noted.**

(The meeting opened at 5.03 pm and closed at 5.27 pm).