

**BUDGET AND
PERFORMANCE PANEL**

6.00 P.M.

6TH JULY 2022

PRESENT:- Councillors Phillip Black, Tim Dant, Roger Dennison, Joan Jackson, Geoff Knight and Sally Maddocks

Also Present:

Caroline Jackson, Leader of the Council, Councillor Anne Whitehead, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Finance and Resources

Councillors Mandy Bannon, Dave Brookes, Gina Dowding, Tim Hamilton-Cox, Joyce Pritchard and Paul Stubbins

Officers in attendance:

Mark Davies	Chief Executive
Paul Thompson	Chief Financial Officer (Head of Finance & Section 151 Officer)
Stephen Metcalfe	Principal Democratic Support Officer
Phillip Abel	Democratic Support Officer

1 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

It was proposed by Councillor Black, seconded by Councillor Dennison and unanimously agreed:-

“That Councillor Joan Jackson be appointed Vice-Chair of the Budget and Performance Panel for the Municipal Year.”

Resolved:-

That Councillor Joan Jackson be appointed Vice-Chair of the Budget and Performance Panel for the Municipal Year.

The Vice-Chair took the Chair.

2 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 17th March 2022 were signed by the Vice-Chair as a correct record.

3 ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS AUTHORISED BY THE CHAIR

There were no items of urgent business.

4 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest made at this point.

5 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW AND STRATEGIC DIRECTION

Councillor Caroline Jackson, the Leader of the Council and Councillor Anne Whitehead, the Cabinet Member with particular responsibility for Finance and Resources had been invited to this meeting to address the panel concerning the outcomes of Cabinet's established priorities and intentions. Mark Davies, Chief Executive, had also been invited together with Paul Thompson, Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer who was also invited to give a presentation. All elected members had been invited to the meeting for this item.

Councillor Caroline Jackson addressed the panel and provided an update on progress made towards the goals that were reported the previous year at this panel. The following subjects were reported:-

- The Revenue and Capital Budgets.
- Outcomes Based Resourcing and Performance Monitoring.
- Large-scale ongoing projects including Mainway, the Canal Quarter and the Frontierland site.
- The Eden Project
- Asset Management

The Section 151 Officer then gave his presentation on the Financial Overview and Strategic Direction of the City Council.

Members were presented with information concerning the current budget and the financial pressures faced by the City Council and the financial resilience measures and projects being undertaken to guide the strategic direction of the Council in the years to come.

Members then asked questions on the following subjects:-

- Existing and proposed measures to reduce gas and electricity usage at Council properties.
- The potential for a review of planned spending and a freeze on reserves.
- Business rates associated with Heysham Power Station and the proposed Eden Project site.
- The impact of smaller projects on the wider Corporate Programmes of which they form a part.
- The provision of a SWOT analysis to provide a broader overview of the Council's financial and strategic position.

Councillor Anne Whitehead highlighted the budgetary difficulties faced by the City Council and drew a comparison to the start of the COVID-19 pandemic where budget revisions were required in short order. She spoke of the increasing difficulty of delivering balanced budgets but stressed the importance of moving forward to ensure the City Council remains financially viable while providing the required statutory services and the need to work more closely with partners and the community to achieve the Council's outcomes.

The Vice-Chair, on behalf of the Panel, thanked Cabinet Members and officers for their attendance, for the presentation and information provided.

6 DELIVERING OUR PRIORITIES: Q4 AND END OF YEAR 2021-22

The panel received a report from the Chief Executive that provided an update on performance and projects during quarter 4 of 2021/22 (January-March 2022) and some annual measures covering April-March 2022.

Mark Davies, Chief Executive, introduced the report. Councillor Whitehead provided an update on current Corporate Programmes and the work done to make information on each project available for Members to view. She also spoke to the panel about the Q4 21/22 performance reporting and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on some of the reported figures as well as how the Outcomes Based Resourcing project will improve performance monitoring.

Resolved: -

That the report be noted.

7 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Members were advised that next meeting of the Panel is scheduled for 29th September.

It was noted that the former Chair of the Panel had previously requested additional meetings to provide an overview of each Directorate in terms of service units and their subjective budgets. The dates of these meetings were now to be agreed after consultation between the Vice-Chair of the Panel and relevant Officers.

Chair

(The meeting ended at 7.37 p.m.)

**Any queries regarding these Minutes, please contact
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