

**BUDGET AND
PERFORMANCE PANEL**

6.00 P.M.

29TH SEPTEMBER 2022

PRESENT:- Councillors Joan Jackson (Chair), Ross Hunter (Vice-Chair), Victoria Boyd-Power, Roger Dennison, Colin Hartley and Sally Maddocks

Apologies for Absence:

Councillor Phillip Black

Officers in attendance:

Luke Gorst

Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer

Paul Thompson

Chief Financial Officer (Head of Finance & Section 151 Officer)

Stephen Metcalfe

Principal Democratic Support Officer

18 ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS AUTHORISED BY THE CHAIR

There were no items of urgent business.

19 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

20 BUDGET AND PERFORMANCE PANEL - FINANCIAL OVERVIEW AND STRATEGIC DIRECTION - CORPORATE SERVICES DIRECTORATE

All Members of Council had been invited to attend the meeting for this item.

The Head of Finance/Section 151 Officer and Head of Legal Services/Monitoring Officer provided a presentation on the Corporate Services Directorate. The services contained in the Directorate included Democratic, Finance, Legal, ICT, HR and OD and Internal Audit. The presentation covered the following main areas:

Corporate Services – How much does this cost.

Salary Costs.

Accountancy Services.

Exchequer Services.

Procurement and Insurance.

Revenues and Benefits Shared Service.

ICT.

Internal Audit.

Legal Services.

HR and OD.

Democratic Services.

The Challenges and Opportunities for each service were outlined.

Members asked questions on the following subjects: -

- Arrangements for Internal Audit and qualifications required for staff working in this area.
- Skill sets and recruitment.
- Inconsistencies and duplication from other services.
- P2P.
- Insurance costs and increases. Economies of scale.
- Debts collected.
- Audit/Freud work.

The Chairman, on behalf of the Panel, thanked officers for their attendance, for the presentation and information provided.

21 DELIVERING OUR PRIORITIES: PERFORMANCE, PROJECTS AND RESOURCES, Q1 2022-23

The Panel received a report from the Chief Finance Officer that provided members with an update on performance, projects, and resources during the first quarter of 2022/23 (April – June 2022).

Attached at Appendix 1 was the report presented to Cabinet on 13 September 2022. This provided Members with a view of progress against the Council's agreed priorities for Quarter 1 of the 2022/23 performance monitoring cycle.

The Panel was asked to consider the Cabinet report and attachments in line with their Terms of Reference within the Constitution relating to the monitoring and review of the council's performance.

Members asked a number of questions in relation to gas cost increases, cost of living, overspends, staff pay award, Directorate variances, voids, capital programme/projects, OBR processes, reserves, collection fund, write-offs, structural deficit queries, reducing expenditure/increasing income, ownership of commercial property/maximising income and Heysham 1 Power Station life extension.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

Chair

(The meeting ended at 8.02 p.m.)

**Any queries regarding these Minutes, please contact
Stephen Metcalfe, Democratic Services - email sjmetcalfe@lancaster.gov.uk**