

# **ECONOMIC GROWTH AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE**

## **MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD**

13 January 2023

The meeting commenced at 10.00 am in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool.

**Present:**

Councillor Young (In the Chair)

Councillors Clayton, Feeney, Lindridge, Loynes

Also Present: Councillor Cowie as substitute for Councillor Brown in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4.2.

Officers: Chris Little, Director of Resources and Development  
Denise McGuckin, Managing Director  
Amanda Whitaker, Democratic Services Team

### **25. Apologies for Absence**

Councillor Brown and Hargreaves

### **26. Declarations of Interest**

.Councillor Clayton – has a unit in HEC

### **27. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 November 2022 were received.

### **28. Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2023/24 to 2024/25** *(Director of Resources and Development)*

**Type of decision**

Budget and Policy Framework

## **Purpose of report**

To provide an update on the MTFs and to enable the Committee to scrutinise / comment on the 2023/24 savings proposals referred from Finance and Policy Committee.

## **Issue(s) for consideration by the Committee**

The Director of Resources and Development gave an outline of the report originally submitted to the Finance and Policy Committee on 12 December 2022 and updated Members on the subsequent impact of the Government's 2023/24 provisional settlement issued on 19 December. The Director outlined the strategy agreed by the Finance and Policy Committee to address the budget deficit the Council faced in 2023/24 and 2024/25. The Director advised members that the spending power, including the increased Council Tax and Adult Social Care precept, provided in provisional settlement was £1.188m more than forecast and it would be recommended that Finance and Policy Committee use these resources to reduce use of one off funding to balance the 2023/24 budget and put the Council's financial position on a more sustainable basis. Included in that strategy were a number of budget savings identified across all departments for 2023/24 and the report outlined those proposals that fell within the remit of this committee. The Director highlighted that the Finance and Policy Committee had requested that should any of the savings proposals not be supported by a relevant Policy Committee, that committee should forward alternative proposals to the same value as it was key that the savings proposed across the Council as a whole be met in 2023/24.

The Director outlined each of the savings proposed for services within this Committee's remit, as detailed in Appendix C to the report. Details of any comments made by the Committee to be forwarded to the Finance and Policy Committee are included in the decision below.

Elected Members debated issues arising from the report. Officers responded to clarification sought from members on issues set out in the report. The Committee then considered the individual savings which were provided in Annex A – Appendix C and for ease of reference the items relevant to this Committee had been shaded.

## **Decision**

The Committee considered the recommended 2023/24 savings proposed detailed in Annex A - Appendix C relating to the services within this Committee's portfolio and Members made the following comments to be reported back to Finance and Policy Committee on 23rd January in relation to each of the savings proposed.

Budget Reduction Heading	Budget Reduction 2023/24 £000	Economic Growth and Regeneration Committee comments
Business Support Grants	25	No specific comments were made. Information to be provided by Managing Director regarding small business grants available from Tees Valley Combined Authority.
HEC Review Operating Model	23	No specific comments were made.

The meeting concluded at 10.25 a.m.

**H MARTIN**

**CHIEF SOLICITOR**

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