

# **ECONOMIC GROWTH AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE**

## **MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD**

10 NOVEMBER 2021

The meeting commenced at 9.05 am in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool.

### **Present:**

Councillor Paddy Brown (In the Chair)

Councillors: Ben Clayton, Brian Cowie, Pamela Hargreaves and Jim Lindridge.

Officers: Chris Little, Director of Resources and Development  
Beverley Bearne, Assistant Director, Development and Growth  
Steve Hilton, Communications and Marketing Team  
David Cosgrove, Democratic Services Team

### **11. Apologies for Absence**

Councillors Rob Cook and Mike Young.

The Chair delayed the start of the meeting 5 minutes to allow Elected Members to arrive in the Civic Centre.

### **12. Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Clayton declared a personal interest in Minute No. 14.

### **13. Minutes of the meeting held on 28 September 2021**

Received.

### **14. Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2022/23 to 2024/25 – Issues Referred from Finance and Policy Committee** *(Director of Resources and Development)*

#### **Type of decision**

Budget and Policy Framework.

## **Purpose of report**

The purpose of the report was to enable Members to consider the savings proposals referred from Finance and Policy Committee and to determine the feedback they wish to refer back to Finance and Policy Committee.

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

The Director of Resources and Development presented a detailed report to Members outlining the background to the current financial position the Council faced. At the meeting of the Finance and Policy Committee on 13th September 2021 an updated MTFS report had detailed the forecast budget deficits for the next three years, including the impact of reducing the total deficit from £11.435m to £7.523m by increasing Council Tax up to the level of the forecast national Referendum Limit, including the 3% deferred Adult Social Care precept. Members had considered the issues detailed in the report and made detailed recommendation to Council, which were considered and approved on 30 September 2021. A savings plan now needed to be developed to deliver total savings of £7.523m. The majority of this deficit was front loaded in 2022/23. To support the plan it was recommended that reserves were used to phase the deficit over the next three years as set out in the report.

In accordance with the Council's Constitution, Finance and Policy Committee were seeking the views of individual Policy Committees on the savings proposals for their areas. Accordingly, details of proposed savings for 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25 were summarised in exempt appendices which contained exempt information under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation Order 2006) namely: - Paragraph 1 - Information relating to any individual and Paragraph 2 - Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual) the Director stated that they only represented 65% of the total three year deficit of £7.523m. If some of these proposals were not supported by Members this percentage would reduce and alternative savings would have to be identified.

A Member queried the impact of the recent Government Budget Statement. The Director commented that there may be some additional money allocated to local government next year. However, some would simply be pass-ported through to the care sector to meet the increases in the national living wage and some to meet the increased National Insurance contributions on staffing costs. It is unclear if councils will receive a one year or multi-year settlement as the fairer funding review had been delayed a further year. At this time

the detailed settlement for Hartlepool was not known and unlikely to be confirmed until mid-December.

Members agreed to move into closed session to consider the savings proposals set out in the exempt appendix to the report.

### **Decision**

That the meeting move into closed session.

## **15. Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation Order) 2006**

Under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public were excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraphs referred to below of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

Minute 16 – Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2022/23 to 2024/25 – Issues Referred from Finance and Policy Committee – This item contains exempt information under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006 namely (paragraph 1) Information relating to any individual and (paragraph 2) Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual.

## **16. Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2022/23 to 2024/25 – Issues Referred from Finance and Policy Committee** *(Director of Resources and Development)*

This item contains exempt information under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006 namely (para's 1 and 2)

### **Type of decision**

Budget and Policy Framework.

### **Purpose of report**

The purpose of the report was to enable Members to consider the savings proposals referred from Finance and Policy Committee and to determine the feedback they wish to refer back to Finance and Policy Committee.

**Issue(s) for consideration**

Details of the Committee's discussions are set out in the exempt section of the minutes.

**Decision**

Details of the Committee's decision are set out in the exempt section of the minutes.

**17. Any Other Items which the Chairman Considers are Urgent**

None.

The Committee noted that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday 30 November 2021 at 10.00 am in the Civic Centre.

**H MARTIN**

**CHIEF SOLICITOR**

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