

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

COUNCIL CHAMBER, WYRE FOREST HOUSE, FINEPOINT WAY, KIDDERMINSTER

THURSDAY, 3 NOVEMBER 2022 (6PM)

Present:

Councillors: M J Hart (Chairman), S E N Rook (Vice-Chairman), J Aston, V Caulfield, N J Desmond, P Dyke, C Edginton-White, T L Onslow, C Rogers, D Ross, D R Sheppard and A Totty.

Observers

Councillors: G W Ballinger, B Brookes, I Hardiman and M Rayner.

Observed remotely: Councillors: J F Byng and R H Coleman.

OS.28 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor: S Miah.

OS.29 Appointment of Substitutes

Councillor A Totty was a substitute for Councillor S Miah.

OS.30 Declarations of Interests by Members

No declarations of interest were made.

OS.31 Minutes

Decision: The minutes of the meeting held on 1 September 2022 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to the following amendment:

Councillor V Caulfield was present at the meeting.

OS.32 Budget and Performance Monitoring Second Quarter 2022-23

The Committee considered a draft of a Cabinet report from the Head of Resources and s151 Officer on the Council's financial and other performance at the end of Quarter 2 ending 30 September 2022. The report also presented the current projected outturn position for the 2022-23 financial year.

The Head of Resources and s151 Officer presented the report and outlined the key issues.

The Committee considered and fully scrutinised the report and each page of appendix 4 in turn. The Head of Resources, the Head of Revenues, Benefits

and Customer Services and the Head of Community and Environment Services were able to provide members with verbal responses to their questions.

Agreed: The Overview and Scrutiny Committee noted the draft Cabinet report.

OS.33 Council Tax Reduction Scheme Review 2023/24

The Committee considered a draft of a Cabinet report from the Head of Revenues, Benefits and Customer Services that provided the results of the consultation exercise that the Council is required to undertake if there are any proposed changes to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme.

The Head of Revenues, Benefits and Customer Services presented the report and outlined the key issues.

The Committee discussed the report and were given the opportunity to ask questions. Members acknowledged that for each financial year, every billing authority must consider whether to revise its scheme or replace it with another scheme. In light of the current cost of living crisis, the Committee unanimously agreed to support the recommendations as set out in the draft Cabinet report.

Agreed: The Overview and Scrutiny Committee Recommend to Cabinet to recommend to Council that:

The minimum contribution for working age Council Tax Reduction Scheme claimants is reduced from 20% to 10% with effect from 1st April 2023.

OS.34 Work Programme

The Committee reviewed and noted the updated work programme that was tabled at the meeting, for the remainder of the municipal year.

OS.35 Press Involvement

There were no further items for scrutiny that might require publicity.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 6.48pm.