

MINUTE

of

JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (FIRST TIER)

Minute of Meeting held at 2.00pm in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock on 15 February 2024.

Present:

Councillor Tony Buchanan
Provost Mary Montague

Councillor Owen O'Donnell

Union Representatives:

Kerry Cameron (UNISON)
Karen Catlow (UNISON)
John Guidi (SSTA)

Des Morris (EIS)
Steven Larkin (UNISON)

Councillor Owen O'Donnell in the Chair

Attending:

Louise Pringle, Director of Business Operations and Partnerships; Margaret McCrossan, Head of Accountancy (Chief Financial Officer); Sharon Dick, Head of HR and Corporate Services; Alison Drummond, Health and Safety Manager; Tracy Morton, Education Senior Manager (Developing People); and John Burke, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies:

Deborah Clarke (UNISON).

MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

1. The Committee considered and approved as a correct record the Minute of the meeting held on 14 September 2023.

REVENUE BUDGET 2023/24

2. Under reference to the Minute of meeting of 14 September 2023 (Item 2 refers) when an update on the budget had been noted, the Head of Accountancy (Chief Financial Officer) provided an overview of the budget position for the Council, advising that there had been no change since Trades Unions had been advised of a £15m shortfall in January.

She reported that it had been agreed in 2023/24 that the PFI Service Concession Reserve Monies would be used over the 3 years from 2023/24 to 2025/26. Taking account of this funding and using £5m of one-off monies from reserves as planned, a shortfall of £7m remained.

The Head of Accountancy (Chief Financial Officer) went on to explain the position in terms of Council Tax funding, clarifying that a Council Tax Freeze grant of just over £3.1m had been offered, the equivalent of a 4.66% rise in Council Tax. If this was accepted, the projected shortfall would be reduced to £3.9m. She also confirmed that £2.1m of savings had been approved by the Council in December, leaving a gap of £1.8m, if a Council Tax Freeze was implemented.

It was confirmed that budget proposals were to be submitted to the Council on 28 February, with all political groups able to propose amendments to these. It was explained that details of the budget proposals could not be shared at present, but that they would become available when the Agenda for the Council meeting was issued on 23 February 2024.

In response to a question from Mr Larkin, the Head of Accountancy (Chief Financial Officer) confirmed that every 1% increase in Council Tax resulted in approximately £676k of additional funding. Accordingly, an additional 3% rise on top of the proposed 4.66% funding level was required to cover the shortfall.

It was confirmed that discussions would take place with staff in services affected by savings proposals to reassure and inform them of what was proposed and would be taking place.

The Committee noted the position and comments made.

COUNCIL HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

4. The Committee considered and noted the Minute of the meeting of the Council's Health and Safety Committee held on 29 August 2023.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

5. It was noted that the next I meeting was scheduled to take place on Thursday, 16 May 2024.

CHAIR