

MINUTES

Environment, Health and Housing Committee

Date: Tuesday, 24 January 2023

Venue: Council Chamber, Town Hall, St Annes Road West, St Annes FY8 1LW

Committee Members

Councillor Tommy Threlfall (Chairman) Present: Councillor Chris Dixon (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors Karen Buckley (substitute) Angela Jacques (substitute), John Kirkham

(substitute) Frank Andrews, Noreen Griffiths, Will Harris, Roger Lloyd.

Other Councillors Present: Councillors Roger Small, Shirley Green and Viv Willder.

Darren Bell, Tracy Manning, Ian Williamson, Kirstine Riding, Adam Sugden, Cheryl **Officers Present:**

Bennett, Edyta Paxton, Sarah Salthouse, Christine Wood.

Mr Keith Ashcroft, Ms Nicki Rushton (Environment Agency), Mr Simon Holding, Mr Other Representatives:

Steven Wong and Gaynor Hult (United Utilities) and 2 members of the public

Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone in attendance to the meeting in particular Mr Keith Ashcroft, Nicki Rushton (Environment Agency) and Simon Holding, Steven Wong and Gaynor Hult (United Utilities)

Public Platform

There were no speakers on this occasion.

Procedural Items

1. Declarations of Interest

Members were reminded that any disclosable pecuniary interests should be declared as required by the Localism Act 2011 and any personal or prejudicial interests should be declared as required by the Council's Code of Conduct for Members. There were no interests on this occasion.

2. Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the Environment, Health and Housing Committee meeting held on 15 November 2022 as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

3. Substitute Members

The following substitutions were reported under Council procedure rule 23 (c):

Councillor Karen Buckley substituted for Councillor Bobby Rigby

Councillor Angela Jacques substituted for Councillor Ben Aitken

Councillor John Kirkham substituted for Councillor Sally Nash-Walker

Information Item

4. Presentation – Business Health Matters project

Sarah Salthouse, Health Activator within Community Engagement at Fylde Council attended the meeting to deliver a presentation regarding a current project 'Business Health Matters'. Ms Salthouse advised that the project included free Workplace Health Champion Training offered to any small or large business within Lancashire which was level 2 or 3 accredited.

Ms Salthouse advised that identified Workplace Health Champions within a company were individuals who were passionate about improving and maintaining the wellbeing of colleagues and their role would be to become involved in national campaigns to help employees to make health and wellbeing changes within an organisation and signpost colleagues to local support and identify any health needs. Course content of training provided to Workplace Health Champions included:

- Factors affecting mental and physical health
- Behaviour change
- Safeguarding
- Healthy eating
- Plan and deliver wellbeing sessions in the Workplace

Positive feedback from employees at Fylde Council and Kirkham Town Council was included within the presentation.

Ms Salthouse requested that anyone interested in becoming involved in the role of Workplace Health Champion to make contact at sarah.salthouse@fylde.gov.uk, 01253-658751.

On behalf of the Committee, the Chairman thanked Ms Salthouse for her presentation and attendance at the meeting.

Decision Items

5. <u>Budget Setting – Fees and Charges 2023/24</u>

The Chairman introduced the report which advised that each year, as part of the budget-setting process, the schedule of fees and charges for the coming year (for each of the services that the Council provides) was reviewed by budget-holders prior to that schedule being considered by the relevant Programme Committee and finally being approved at the March Budget Council meeting.

The report further advised that each Programme Committee was required to recommend to Council for approval a schedule of fees and charges for those activities within the remit of the Committee.

The report requested that Members considered the proposed schedule of fees and charges for those services within the remit of the Committee as attached to the report at Appendix A and provide a recommendation to Council in this regard.

The Committee was advised that a full schedule of proposed fees and charges for all Council services for 2023/24 was accessible at the link below:

https://new.fylde.gov.uk/council/finance/draft-fees-charges-2023-24/

Following presentation of the report, the Chairman invited questions. Councillor Buckley referred to Fixed Penalty Notices/Fly Tipping charges and that there was no proposed increase in the charges and enquired if there was any flexibility in the setting of these. The Committee was advised that the charge was prescribed and in relation to legislation.

Following discussion, it was RESOLVED:

- 1. To recommend to Council the proposed schedule of fees and charges applicable for 2023/24; and
- 2. To note that the final fees and charges for 2023/24 would be approved by the Budget Council in March 2023.

6. <u>Budget Setting – Prioritisation of Capital Bids</u>

The Chairman introduced the report which at Appendix 1, as attached to the report, following the success of the 2022/23 Tree Planting Programme, sought the investment of a further £25,000 additional revenue to enable the continuation of tree planting in the financial year of 2023/24.

The Committee was advised that it was proposed that baseline data from the tree canopy survey combined with in-house knowledge of low canopy areas was used to formulate a new tree planting proposal for delivery in winter 2023/24. A planting plan would be formulated between the Parks and Coast Service and Regeneration Service for consideration by the Carbon Neutral Working Group and would be subject to consultation with key officers, Members, and partners. Further community events would be organised.

The Chairman advised that 600 trees had been planted and that it was hoped to plant 3000 trees in the coming year.

The Vice-Chair requested suggestions from the Committee around the locations for which trees should be planted.

Following presentation of the report, the Chairman invited questions. Clarification was sought around the potential involvement of schools, parish councils, and options for planting on public and private land which were addressed by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

Following discussion, it was RESOLVED:

- 1. That the Environmental, Health and Housing Committee supports the Capital Bid detailed in Appendix 1 relating to the Tree Planting Scheme 2023/24; and
- 2. That a further list of prioritised bids be provided by the Committee for consideration by the Budget Working Group.
- 7. Fully Funded Revenue Budget Increase Holiday, Activity and Food Programme (HAF)

The Chairman invited Tracy Manning, Deputy Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer to introduce the report which requested that the Committee consider and recommend to the Finance and Democracy Committee approval of a fully funded revenue budget increase of £27,000 in 2022/23 funded from the specific Holiday, Activity and Food Programme grant for the delivery of the scheme in Fylde.

The Committee was advised that as part of the Government's commitment to tackling child hunger, funding had been made available to deliver a school holiday programme of physical and enrichment activities, together with a healthy meal, for children in receipt of free school meals. The objectives of the programme for attendees were outlined within the report.

The Committee was further advised that Committee approval was required to proceed with a project of this value.

Following presentation of the report, the Chairman invited questions. Councillor Buckley requested details of how many children had benefitted from the programme. The Committee was advised that figures had not yet been received but that the scheme had engaged with over 49% of children in receipt of free school meals.

Thanks were expressed by the Committee for all those who had been involved in delivering the programme.

Following consideration of this matter, it was RESOLVED: - That the Environment, Health and Housing Committee recommend to the Finance and Democracy Committee approval of a fully funded revenue budget increase of £27,000 in 2022/23 funded from the specific Holiday, Activity and Food Programme grant, for the delivery of the scheme in Fylde.

8. <u>Fully Funded Revenue Budget Increase – Community Cost of Living Grants</u>

Tracy Manning introduced the report which advised that as part of the commitment to tackling the cost-of-living crisis, NHS Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board had allocated funding to award to community groups who could help support Fylde residents in need of extra assistance during the winter.

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The report advised that the objective of the funding was for Community based providers to:

- Help support people who lived in Fylde during the winter 2022/2023
- Provide support for warm spaces and food hubs.
- Consider innovative bids in the remit of supporting the community during the winter.

The report further advised that Fylde had been provided with a budget allocation of £80,000 to administer in grants to community sector organisations during the period of January to March 31, 2023.

Ms Manning advised that budget allocation of £80,000 would enable Ms Edyta Paxton, Health, and Wellbeing Officer to work with community groups during the winter period to provide support for warm spaces and food and to consider bids which were assessed together with Integrated Care Board colleagues.

Committee approval was required to proceed with a project of this value.

The Chairman commented that it was good to see Fylde working closely with other partners on this successful scheme.

Following consideration of this matter, it was RESOLVED: - To approve a revenue budget increase of £80,000 fully funded from NHS Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board to award Community Grants in Fylde for the period of January to March 2023.

9. <u>Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO): Alcohol Consumption</u>

The Chair invited Mr Ian Williamson to present the report. Mr Williamson reminded that several parts of the Borough were presently covered by Public Space Protection Orders which allowed a constable to require a person to stop drinking alcohol and surrender the alcohol to the constable. Mr Williamson advised that those orders were due to lapse during October 2023. The orders could be extended, but only if they remained necessary to prevent nuisance or annoyance to the public, or disorder, associated with the consumption of alcohol in the area they covered.

The report requested that the Committee consider whether it was minded to extending the orders or any of them and proposed delegating authority to do so to the Head of Environmental Health and Housing following the mandatory processes of consultation, publicity, and notification, with the matter being referred to the Committee for further consideration if consultation or publicity responses suggested it appropriate.

The report also requested the Committee to consider whether the orders as extended should be varied to give authorised Council Officers the same powers as a constables as currently, only a constable, including a Police Community Support Officer, if so designated by a Chief Constable could require a person to cease drinking alcohol or surrender alcohol although the legislation also permitted for the Authority to be given authorisation as Council Officers to take alcohol from members of the public which would permit Council Enforcement Officers to intervene in situations where the only formal recourse would presently be to contact the police. The Committee was advised that this would be a multi-disciplinary approach which would be welcomed by the police.

Mr Williamson advised that there were 10 areas, as detailed in the report within the Borough covered by PSPOs. Details of streets covered by the PSPOs were detailed at appendix 1 as attached to the report. Mr Williamson further advised that PSPOs were not intended to remain in force indefinitely but that an order could be extended for a further three years if the order had not lapsed.

Mr Williamson reported that there had been an increase in rough sleepers and street beggars in the urban areas of the Borough in recent years and local businesses in urban areas of the Borough had expressed frustration at antisocial behaviour caused by street drinking, expressing concern that this could cause loss of business.

A Committee member expressed support for the scheme stating that since the implementation of PSPOs in Freckleton, anti-social behaviour had reduced. Councillor Buckley stated that she supported the proposed extension of the scheme and the proposed variation to be extended to Council Officers.

Councillor Buckley stated that she supported the extension of the PSPOs and proposed variation to give authorised Council Officers the same powers as a constable but also referred to the resource and officer burden that would be incurred to the Authority if the variation was approved. Councillor Buckley expressed concern regarding street

drinking within St Annes town centre which she considered contributed to anti-social behaviour. Councillor Buckley also referred to other town centres where she believed street drinking bans had been implemented and had been successful. Councillor Buckley suggested that a proposal to ban the consumption of alcohol in town centre streets form part of the consultation.

A Committee member expressed concern at the potential responsibility on authorised Council Officers and stressed the requirement that Council Officers would be working together with police officers. The Chairman echoed the comments and expressed concern regarding the safety of authorised Council Officers.

RESOLVED:

- 1. That the Environment, Health and Housing Committee was minded to supporting recommendations 1 and 2 as detailed in the report; and
- 2. Requests a further report be presented to the Committee advising of options to strengthen the Public Spaces Protection Orders to ban the consumption of alcohol, in town centre locations.

10. Fylde Housing Needs Survey

The Chair invited Kirstine Riding, Housing Service Manager to submit a report and presentation advising the Committee of the findings of the Fylde Housing Needs Survey which had been completed in January 2022 to February 2022.

Ms Riding advised that the survey was a 'snapshot' in time and that it referred to the housing needs in the Borough at the time that the survey had been undertaken. Ms Riding also advised that it was the statutory role of the Local Authorities to assess and meet identified housing needs in their area. There had been weekly social media promotion of the survey which had included interviews with registered providers, letting agents and larger employers (NHS). It was reported that the survey had been very robust with the total response rate at 20.4% from the targeted sample, rising to 24.4% if additional completions were included.

Ms Riding reported that 2,973 households had completed the survey, of which 2,492 were households originally targeted through sampling with 481 completed on-line.

The background, methodology, main findings, and implications of the survey as detailed in the report and presentation were outlined to the Committee with a particular focus on the need for affordable housing in relation to income and affordability, affordable housing need, types of affordable housing, housing history and future aspirations and the needs of particular groups.

It was RESOLVED as recommended in the report that the Environment, Health and Housing Committee: -

- 1. Note the findings of the Fylde Housing Need Survey completed in January 2022 and use the data to secure affordable housing that meets the needs of the Borough; and
- 2. That Officers work with Registered Providers to have in place separate nominations arrangements, with stock in Fylde, for households in rent arrears as a direct cause of affordability in their own homes; and
- 3. That Officers work with Fylde Coast Housing Providers to amend the Consistent Assessment Policy (CAP) of MYHomeChoiceFyldeCoast, to enable households with housing debt of over £500, to be eligible to register if assessed as being in housing need due to the affordability of their current accommodation.
- 11. Update Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020-2025

Ms Riding introduced the presentation and report updating the Committee on the Fylde Council Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020-2025 to meet the Local Authority Requirements under the Homeless Reduction Act 2018 and Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

The report and presentation provided information on the circumstances of clients approaching the Housing Service for housing and homelessness advice. Details and figures for homelessness assessments were outlined to the Committee along with reasons for those changes. Ms Riding advised that although the demand on the service had increased, the service continued to be successful in preventing and relieving homelessness by sourcing alternative secure accommodation within both the social and private rented sectors. The service has seen an increase in clients

approaching from the private rented sector, clients with no fixed abode (sofa surfers) and rough sleepers. The service had seen an increase in approach from clients with multiple support needs with no existing support in place.

Positive addition changes to the service were highlighted to the Committee including the Lancashire Changing Futures Programme, Rough Sleeper Initiative, Ex-Offenders and Rough Sleeper Accommodation Project, Domestic Abuse Outreach Worker, Homeless Floating Support Service, HMO Inspection Programme, and the Moving on Service. On behalf of the Committee, the Chairman thanked Ms Riding for her presentations and reports.

It was RESOLVED as recommended in the report that the Environment, Health and Housing Committee: -

- Note the contents of the report and update on progress Fylde's Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy, 2020-2025 to meet the Local Authority Requirements under the Homeless Reduction Act 2018 and Domestic Abuse Act 2021; and
- 2. Recommend to Finance and Democracy Committee approval of a fully funded revenue budget increase for the total of £33,224 to be met by MHCLG New Duties funding (£2,768 22/23 and £30,456 in 23/24 to continue Part IV duties under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

Information Items

The following information items had been received and were noted by the Committee.

12. <u>St Annes Bathing Waters 2022</u> (This item was considered following consideration of item 4 and prior to consideration of item 5)

The Chair invited Mr Darren Bell, Head of Technical Services to introduce the report which was to provide an update of the quality of the water at the two St Annes Bathing Waters and to enable the Committee to consider and scrutinise the latest position on bathing water quality.

Mr Bell advised that the report was presented to the Committee on an annual basis and reminded that the Environment Agency (EA) was responsible for the implementation of the Bathing Water Directives including monitoring and reporting of water quality and ensuring action was taken to meet the appropriate standards for the directives throughout the UK. Mr Bell further advised that the EA was responsible for regulating water discharges to the aquatic environment.

Mr Bell reported that there had been huge investment in bathing waters in the Northwest and stated that the report presented did not necessarily reflect the level of investment. The report advised of the changes to the directive that had been made in 2012 which had set guideline standards for Escherichia coli and Intestinal enterococci. The new standard four classifications were Excellent, Good, Sufficient and Poor. The report also advised that the EU directive had required that by the end of 2015 bathing season, all bathing waters were at least at sufficient classification each year.

Detailed within the report was a table indicating the different parameters for bathing water quality classification. Also detailed within the report was a table indicating the classification results for the Fylde Coast eight bathing waters from 2015 to 2022. St Annes North and St Annes pier had received a sufficient classification for 2022. The table also included results for Southport as a comparator as Southport results were based on the same estuary which demonstrated that Southport had also received a sufficient classification for 2022.

Mr Bell expressed disappointment at the sufficient classification as the result was viewed as unusual as 2022 had been a particularly dry year which would not usually produce this result. The EA had provided initial DNA samples taken during the years of 2017 and 2022 which had strongly indicted seabirds and human sources.

Mr Ashcroft advised that the Bathing Water Directive was a public health directive which had been absorbed into UK legislation following the UK leaving the European Union and that the issue was around faecal matter in water and the detrimental effect on bathers.

Mr Ashcroft further advised that the EA had identified the Northwest as a priority issue area and that there had been major investment in previous years on the Ribble Estuary which had been continued due to issues on Blackpool and the broader Fylde beaches. The EA also regulated United Utilities and businesses discharging into

the Water Environment. Mr Ashcroft advised of the significant improvement stating that the data from 2015 was from the revised bathing water directive in which there had been significant tightening on the previous standards.

Mr Ashcroft reiterated that 2022 results were disappointing and that the bathing water quality had been determined primarily to be sewage spills. Continuing investment around Preston, Burnley and Wigan had significantly reduced the impact of the spills.

Ms Nicki Rushton advised that investigations of the DNA analysis were currently being carried out to attempt to determine the cause of the disappointing findings as it was suspected that there could be a combination of factors such as sewer spills, cows, sheep, or birds. The EA had adopted a multi-Agency approach working with the Council and Turning Tides (part of which is Love My Beach) to identify the cause, understand how this had occurred and follow up with an action plan to address the issues.

Ms Ashton reiterated Mr Ashcroft's comments advising of an internal group that had been established to prioritise investigation of DNA analysis, work with partners and identify solutions to improve the bathing waters two of which were the St Annes bathing waters, currently identified as a priority.

Mr Simon Holding, Area Business Manager, United Utilities (UU) provided an update to the Committee advising that UU was committed to improving natural landscapes across the Northwest. Mr Holding outlined to the Committee the significant historical investment of UU (£1.2bn invested up to 2020) within the area to reduce the impact of wastewater on the natural environment and of long-term ambitions to eliminate pollution incidents.

Ms Gaynor Hult, UU also advised, as outlined in the Information Note, future plans to reduce spill frequency which included the launch of a near-real time portal showing spill locations during 2023 to allow customers and stakeholders the ability to access information data.

Mr Bell advised that to move Bathing Water Quality forward at Fylde a steering group had been established comprising of Councillors, Officers, United Utilities, and the Environment Agency (as referred to above) to meet on a quarterly basis and deliver the actions points (as detailed at point 12 of the information note) and attain blue flag status. In addition, a technical group had been suggested to better understand and interpret the bathing water data which would include a project to desilt and improve the water quality in Liggard Brook.

The Chairman advised that concerns had been expressed around the frequency of DNA testing analysis during the bathing water season (commitment of 20). Ms Rushton advised that DNA analysis was not routinely carried out on all samples. DNA analysis was only carried out when further evidence was required. A Member requested a commitment that further DNA analysis continued until the facts/causes were identified. Ms Rushton assured that DNA analysis would continue in the interests of furthering investigations to understand the evidence.

Following presentation of the information, the Chairman invited questions. These related to the following areas: potential sources and areas of contamination/DNA analysis, sources, and frequency of process of water sampling, national and local monitoring, funding sources, partnership/working together, economic, and social impact of pollution, sharing of information data with the public/local organisations, established steering group and anticipated time period of resolution of the issues, which were addressed by the appropriate officer and representatives of EA and UU.

The Chairman stressed the importance of gathering facts and working together to attain blue flag status.

On behalf of the Committee, the Chairman thanked all concerned for the information and attendance at the meeting.

13. Flooding and Surface Water Management Annual Report

Mr Bell advised that this report had been produced because of the work undertaken by the Environment, Health and Housing Committee on flooding and surface water management. Mr Bell also reminded that at a meeting of the Committee held on 14 October 2021 a report had been submitted concerning the review of flooding and surface water management. The report had outlined several recommendations of the Member Working Group which had been established in November 2020 to review flood risk and surface water management. At the meeting it had been resolved that an annual report be presented to the Committee to monitor progress on each of the recommendations of the working group.

Attached to the report at appendix 1 was the annual review of flood risk and surface water management in Fylde Borough which advised of progress on each of the recommendations of the working group. Mr Bell advised that significant progress had been made on the recommendations and highlighted to the Committee progress on the main recommendations which included the appointment of Mr Adam Sugden, Principal Engineer who had a wealth of experience in dealing with surface water management. Mr Bell also advised that an apprentice Civil Engineer had also been appointed.

The Chairman acknowledged the significant improvements that had been achieved and the importance of working together with partners to achieve further progress on the recommendations of the working group.

14. Disabled Facilities Grant Update 2022/23

This information report provided an update on the management of the Disabled Facilities Grant Programme in Fylde due to amendments that had been made to the policy between 2022/23 following a review that had been undertaken in 2022 due to an increased cost of materials, fluctuating fuel costs and demands on contractors following the pandemic.

15. HMO Inspection Programme

This information report provided an update on the approved inspection programme on houses of multiple occupancy over a 2.5-year period.

The report reminded that the programme had been approved in August 2021 and had been running successfully since March 2022. The report advised that the programme had commenced on 14 March 2022 and had originally run on a 5-week rotation with inspections taking place once every fourth week.

The update advised that the review of the programme had concluded that the rotation should increase to 4-weeks with inspections taking place over two days during the second week.

The report further advised that 143 properties had been inspected and that many properties had been visited more than once due to notices being served and progress inspections being conducted.

16. Annual Overview – Fylde Community Safety Partnership Annual Report 2021-22

This information report advised on the performance of the Fylde Community Safety Partnership.

The report further advised that the performance report was a statutory requirement under the Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations and Section 19 and 20 of the Police and Justice Act 2005 as amended by Section 125 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, the Police and Crime Act 2009 and the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.

17. Mid-Year Performance Reporting 2022/23

This information report provided details of the key performance outcomes for the first half of the financial year 2022/23 which were reported against the targets set for the year. Commentary in the report was provided by performance exception.

The report advised that the performance information was relevant to the Committee's terms of reference and the responsibility of the Committee to monitor the performance of the services within its remit.

18. Capital Programme Monitoring Report 2022/23 - Position as at 30 November 2022

This information report provided an update on the approved Capital Programme of the Council as at 30 November 2022 and specifically for those schemes under the remit of the Committee.

The report was provided to enable the Committee to consider and scrutinise the Capital Programme monitoring reports for those schemes under the remit of the Committee and was based upon information extracted from the financial ledger system of the Council for the period to 30 November 2022 and updates provided by budget holders.

Attached to the report at appendix A was the 2022/23 In-Year Scheme Monitoring Report as at 30 November 2022. Attached to the report at appendix B was the Updated 5-year Capital programme 2022/23 to 2026/27, by scheme. Attached to the report at appendix C was the Updated 5-year Capital Programme 2022/23 to 2026/27, financing. Attached to the report at appendix D was the Updated 5-year Capital Programme 2022/23 to 2026/27 summary.

19. General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring Report 2022/23 – Position as at 30 November 2022

This information report provided an update on the General Fund Revenue Budget of the Council as at 30 November 2022 and specifically for those under the remit of the Committee.

The report was provided to enable the Committee to consider and scrutinise the Capital Programme Monitoring Reports for those schemes under the remit of the Committee and was based upon information extracted from the financial ledger system of the Council for the period to 30 September 2022 and feedback and commentary received from budget holders.

Attached to the report at appendix A were details of Revenue Monitoring 2022/23 – Period 8 to 30 November 2022 (Variation in excess of £5K).

20. Budget Setting - Revenue - First Draft

This information report advised that the first draft of the revenue budget for 2023/24 had been prepared and was available via the link below.

https://new.fylde.gov.uk/council/finance/budget-book-2023-24-first-draft/

The report also advised that as in previous years, the budget had been prepared on a continuation basis and had been updated to reflect all Committee and Council decisions made to date and the budget-rightsizing exercise and all virements.

The report informed that the provision of a first draft of the 2023/24 Revenue Budget to the Council's Programme Committees allowed members of each Programme Committee to review the draft revenue budget for the services within the Committee's terms of reference and to provide any comments or feedback as appropriate to the Committee Lead Officer, Service Director, or budget holders.

It was reported that the first draft did not reflect any changes to fees and charges for 2023/24 as these would be considered by Programme Committees during the January cycle of meetings. The first draft also did not reflect any revenue growth items or the revenue implications of capital bids.

It was further reported that at the current stage the draft budget for 2023/24 did not include recharges in respect of support services and service management costs as these elements remained to be finalised. A further budget-rightsizing exercise would be carried out early in 2023 and this first draft would be updated to reflect any changes arising from that piece of work.

The final revenue budget for 2023/24 would include any subsequent decisions made and would be presented to Members for approval at the Council meeting on 2 March 2023.

The Chair advised the Committee to contact the relevant officers regarding the information reports for further information or questions they may have.

RESOLVED: That the Environment, Health, and Housing Committee notes the above Information reports.

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