

POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

10 February 2022 at 6.00 pm

Present: Councillors Gunner (Chair), Pendleton (Vice-Chair), Cooper, Dixon, Oppler, Roberts, Seex and Walsh.

Councillors Bower, Coster, Edwards, Staniforth and Thurston were also present at the meeting.

642. WELCOME

The Chair welcomed Members and Officers to the meeting of the Policy & Finance Committee.

643. APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

An Apology for Absence had been received from Councillor Stanley.

644. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made.

645. MINUTES

The minutes from the meeting of the Committee held on 9 December 2021 were approved by the Committee as a correct record and were signed by the Chair at the conclusion of the meeting.

646. ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA THAT THE CHAIR OF THE MEETING IS OF THE OPINION SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS A MATTER OF URGENCY BY REASON OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

The Chair confirmed that there were no items to consider for this meeting.

647. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Chair confirmed that no questions had been submitted for this meeting.

648. CLIMATE ACTION AND BIODIVERSITY WORK PLAN 2022-2023

The Chair invited the Council's Climate Change and Sustainability Officer to present this report. He explained that following the approval of the Carbon Neutral Strategy (2022-30) at this Committee on 14 October 2021, a more detailed action plan had been requested. This report set out the actions which needed to be undertaken to achieve the 2030 carbon neutral target. Members' attention was brought to the graphs [on pages 22 and 23 of the Agenda Pack] that illustrated carbon projections in different scenarios – 'business as usual' and 'high level carbon reduction plan' – with the latter

confirming that the Council could, theoretically, meet its targets if action was taken. The report detailed sustainable projects that had already been completed, were nearing completion, had been planned or could be undertaken. He concluded that in order to meet these targets it was important that projects were spread across all scopes and service areas, whilst noting that indirect emissions that result from activities occurring in the supply chain of the council ('Scope 3') made up the majority of carbon emissions. It was confirmed that the action plan would be updated annually to reflect the changes in emissions and provide updates to projects undertaken.

The Chair invited questions. Clarity was sought over the costing figures for heat pumps [on page 25 of the Agenda Pack]. It was explained that these figures were a rough indication of comparative installation costs of gas boilers and air source heat pumps and highlighted the cost difference between the two options. It was hoped that technological improvements and economies of scale would further reduce in future making heat pumps more economically viable. The report was found to be confusing for one Member as it was a mixture of things (action points, monitoring, reviewing) and whether it would be helpful to highlight where the actions were coming from by identifying targets that the Council hoped to achieve. It was noted that the biggest impact in carbon reduction would come through the supply chain and Officers were asked to confirm the timescale for that. Officers confirmed that they were actively reviewing the procurement policy to favour more sustainable contractors.

The main aim of the action plan was questioned as to whether it was to make the Council, as an organisation, more energy efficient and 'greener' rather than the district and residents' homes. Officers confirmed the action plan did currently focus on the Council's own emissions (Scope 1, 2 and 3), however there are still some projects currently being undertaken which do impact emission reductions in the district. It was also confirmed that once the Council started to get its own emissions in order that more focus would be spent addressing district wide emissions. The CEO explained that it was essential that as an organisation we took the climate challenge seriously, it being one of the four priorities in the Council's draft vision document, and that there were large challenges for the Council to meet which it would not be able to do in isolation. This meant needing to start building partnerships with other parts of the district and beyond, and whilst reducing carbon emissions also working to increase biodiversity.

One Member, noting how delighted she was to hear the CEO being so positive and being in support of the objectives too, did not think that this came across in the action plan but that it was a brilliant step on the ladder. Partly in response to earlier discussion regarding the structure and content of the plan, it was suggested that short-term actions be brought forward to the beginning of each section to highlight them and that it was useful to have estimated carbon savings against actions, and that council and district targets needed to be better distinguished to illustrate more clearly what was being done for the Council and what was being done for the district. The significant drop shown on the graph [on page 23 of the Agenda Pack] and how this was to be achieved was questioned given that half the budget for the first year was to be staff costs and, though needed, audits of the estate and emissions and a transition to electric vehicles. The need for staff training to be linked to the work actually undertaken, for the Council to make sure residents were involved and engaged in the process as early as possible

rather than just being kept up to date, for biodiversity targets to be linked to local nature partnership obligations in readiness for the coming Environment Act, and whether a Working Group should be set up between departments were also suggested. A written response would be provided to the Member by Officers in relation to the points raised.

More general points were raised by Members on the County-wide electric vehicle charging network and how many would be fitted in Arun and by when, and commitments to electric vehicle charging points and photovoltaic (PV) panels for council-owned housing and whether these could be extended to all privately owned housing as part of the planning permission process. The Chair confirmed that the installation of electric vehicle charging points in Arun started later this year. The Director of Place clarified that in terms of planning, Government guidance did not facilitate making these conditions and that updates to policies in that direction would have to go through the Local Plan process. In response and noting that the district was one of the sunniest parts of the UK, and therefore more likely to produce more energy per PV panel than anywhere else, one Member asked whether the Council could ask Government to allow us to become the first District Authority to go all PV and all battery in all new buildings; putting Arun on the map and at the same time doing its bit for climate change. The Director of Place reiterated his earlier points and noted that the Local Plan process was currently paused, and that if the Council decided to proceed with a new Local Plan then work could be undertaken on the targets wished to be pursued and evidence could begin to be collected to explore support for them. Another Member noted that whatever policies the Council put in place had to withstand the tests of the Planning Inspector and conform to Government policy.

Having had the recommendations proposed by Councillor Cooper and seconded by Councillor Pendleton, by unanimous vote,

The Committee

RESOLVED

That the Climate Action and Biodiversity Work Plan 2022-2023 be approved, subject to the approval of the Council's Budget for 2022/2023 and £200,000 for the following:

- (1) £50,000 per annum for an Officer to support the Climate Change and Sustainability Manager;
- (2) Up to £60,000 for building audits;
- (3) £7,500 for carbon emission monitoring and supporting the assessment of supplier carbon calculations;
- (4) £2,000 for training and accreditation; and

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(5) Authority be given to the Group Head of Wellbeing in consultation with the Group Head of Corporate Support (Section 151 Officer) to delegate unallocated sums within budget to fund projects detailed in the Work Plan.

649. BUDGET MONITORING REPORT TO 31 DECEMBER 2021

The Chair invited the Interim Group Head of Corporate Support and Section 151 Officer to present the Budget Monitoring Report. She explained that the report was for the period ending December 2021.

Starting with the General Fund (GF), it was noted that there was an underspend of £1.178m against profiled budget at the end of the third quarter which was an improvement of £774k from the previous month. Income continued to be significantly buoyant and Planning fees in particular were £680k above expected. However, there were budget pressures on the GF Housing (homelessness and rough sleeping, and potentially the leisure provider). A favourable outturn was therefore anticipated of over a £1m on the GF. The Housing Revenue Account continued to operate under significant pressure particularly in the areas of planned and responsive maintenance. With regards to the Capital and Special Projects, there continued to be a significant underspend against budgets and these budgets continued to be reviewed.

The Chair invited questions. The below expected income from the Bognor Regis Arcade was raised and it was asked how this compared with previous quarters or other accounting periods, whether it was getting worse and what the prospects were for retrieving the significant sums in rent arrears. It was confirmed that there were specific pandemic-related issues with the site and that new managing agents had been procured working to explore these challenges. An update report would be submitted for Members to consider soon. Clarification was sought over items listed under 2.8.3 [on page 55 of the Agenda Pack] - the £35k spent on the Trisanto update, the £18K spent on the Palmer Road Community Sports Hub Review and the £30k spent on Economic Regeneration Project Delivery Role. The Director of Place confirmed that with regards to the £35K spent on Trisanto, this was the potential sum set aside to do the work but the eventual actual cost of the work had been far less at around £14k. A report would be taken to the next meeting of the Economy Committee on 29 March 2022 to explore the continued use of this company. The Director of Services confirmed that with regards to the £18K spent on the Palmer Road Community Sports Hub Review, this was for exploratory consultancy work looking at the project. The Interim Group Head of Corporate Support and Section 151 Officer confirmed that the figures under discussion had been vired and not spent, and all had been subject to Committee approvals.

Other points raised by Members included further concern for the situation around the Bognor Regis Arcade, clarification around the proposals within the A27/Ford Road Junction Study, and praise for the work done on the Palmer Road Community Sports Hub.

Having had the recommendations proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Cooper,

The Committee

RESOLVED - That

(1) The earmarked reserves are approved and reviewed before the end of the financial year as per previous policy to ensure that they are available to fund future years expenditure or returned to the General Fund if no longer required; and

(2) The Housing Revenue Account repairs and maintenance (Planned and Responsive) budget continues to be closely monitored to ensure that any necessary corrective action is taken if required.

650. COMMITTEE REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET - 2022/2023

The Chair invited the Interim Group Head of Corporate Support and Section 151 Officer to present this report. She explained that each Service Committee had received a similar report and all the reports fed into the Council's Budget 2022/23 report which was the next item on the agenda. Items highlighted were the budget pages in appendix A that contained committed growth items [mainly around staff pay awards assumed for this and next year], the growth items for this Committee shown in Appendix B totalling £420k and there being no capital bids for this Committee.

Having had the recommendations proposed by Councillor Cooper and seconded by Councillor Pendleton,

The Committee

RESOLVED - That

(1) The 2022/23 Revenue Budget as illustrated in Appendix A of this report be agreed;

(2) The 2022/23 list of uncommitted growth items as illustrated in Appendix B of this report be agreed; and

(3) Recommendation of the Revenue Budget and list of growth items for this Committee be included in the overall General Fund Budget when considering the overall budgets to recommend to Full Council.

651. THE COUNCIL'S REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGETS 2021/22 AND 2022/23

In introducing this item, the Chair explained that due to the number of recommendations within this report, he proposed to divide these up into sections and take multiple recommendations on block. He proceeded to the first set of recommendations regarding the Environment Committee.

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Having had the recommendations proposed by Councillor Pendleton and seconded by Councillor Roberts,

The Committee

RESOLVED

For 2021/22 financial year:

That in respect of Environment Committee, the £180,000 contribution to the Community Flood Fund and a further £100,000 in 2023/24 be approved, to enable required Partnership Contributions to continue. The £100,000 recommended in 2023/24 will be assessed at a later date. A contribution of £100k be made to a contingency budget reserve to replace the £50k annual budget to be topped up annually.

The Chair then turned to the recommendations for this Committee to consider from the other Service Committees [Minutes 555, 570, 579, 590 and 601 in the Supplement Pack] that needed to be agreed by this Committee for inclusion in the budget before the Committee could move on to the wider budget discussion.

The Chair invited questions. Clarification was sought over the details of the Bersted Brooks Country Park project and whether it was needed given the cost and the proximity of the South Downs National Park. The Director of Services confirmed a report would be going to Committee on this project. A Member [and Chair of the Environment Committee] provided some background information and spoke in favour of the project. The impact to residents from cost of living increases was also raised and whether these budgets should be reviewed to see if savings could be made on non-essential spending in order to keep future Council Tax rises to a minimum.

Having had the recommendations proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Cooper,

The Committee

RESOLVED - That

- (1) The Revenue Budget and Capital Programme for the [Corporate Support] Committee be included in the overall General Fund Budget when considering the overall budgets on 10 February 2022;
- (2) The Revenue Budget, list of growth items and Capital Programme for the [Economy] Committee be included in the overall General Fund Budget when considering the overall budgets on 10 February 2022;
- (3) The Revenue Budget, list of growth items and Capital Programme for the [Environment] Committee be included in the overall General Fund Budget when considering the overall budgets on 10 February 2022;

(4) The General Fund Revenue Budget, list of growth items, General Fund Capital Programme, HRA Revenue Budget and HRA Capital Programme [from the Housing and Wellbeing Committee] be included in the overall General Fund Budget when considering the overall budgets on 10 February 2022;

(5) The Revenue Budget and list of growth items [from the Planning Policy Committee] be included in the overall General Fund Budget when considering the overall budgets on 10 February 2022.

The Interim Group Head of Corporate Support & Section 151 Officer introduced this item explaining that each of the Service Committee's budgets had now been considered by each Committee with this Committee now needing to consider the Council's Budget 2022/23 so that it could make recommendations for approval to a Special Meeting of the Council on 23 February 2022. This report brought together all the Committee reports including the previous item on the agenda. The Budget Report included the Service Committee revenue bids and the capital budget for all Committees.

The Interim Group Head of Corporate Support & Section 151 Officer drew Members' attention to the Local Government Settlement, the draft had been issued on 16 December 2021 and had been favourable. In particular, the Council had been awarded an additional one-off allocation of New Homes Bonus of £825k which had not been anticipated. The final settlement had been announced last week and it was pleasing to report there had not been any significant changes made. Unfortunately, this had only been a one year settlement with consultation commencing again next year on "updating the system" previously referred to as the Fair Funding Review. This was likely to include the business rate reset which would be detrimental to the Council's finances. There therefore continued to be significant risks to the Council's finances from 2023/24 and so it had to be stressed how important it was for the Council to continue to hold sufficient balances as a way to mitigate these risks. However, the combination of the anticipated favourable outturn for 2021/22 in combination with the favourable settlement meant that the Council was in a much improved financial position for 2022/23 than forecast in the autumn.

The Committee's attention was then drawn to the full budget report as set out on Page 79 of the agenda and the Interim Group Head of Corporate Support and Section 151 Officer provides some key highlights on some of the more significant issues.

Looking at key financial issues, mention was made of:

- The summaries provided for the Retained Business Rate income and non-ringfenced grant income. All the changes result in a reduction of 714k from previous year.

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- The proposed increase in Council Tax of £4.95 for a band D equivalent. Members were already aware that the Core Spending Power is calculated by the Government assumed this increase. So effectively the Council was required to put up Council tax to stand still.
- The anticipated General Fund reserve movement. The GF balance would be kept at £5m. This allowed circa £2.7m to be added to the Funding Resilience Reserve at the end of this financial year. £6.659m to £9.355m. This change in presentation was intended to enable better understanding of the underlying reserve issues.
- Members were asked to note that the budget for 2022/23 required a £817k contribution from the Funding Resilience reserve as shown in table 4.8 on page 87. The table also summarised the other main budget changes
- Finally, the Committee revenue growth bids were shown in table 4.18 on page 88. The capital programme was set out in Appendix 3.
- The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget had been set out in Appendix 2, with the budget reflecting the priorities of the HRA Business Plan, recently updated and approved by Full Council. This assumed a 4.1% rent increase and a 5% garage rent increase.
- Looking at capital, it was necessary to draw Members' attention to the capital programme and financing. The capital programme was underpinned by £1.5m of usable capital receipts.
- In line with proper accounting practice the Asset Management Revenue budget had been moved to the Corporate Asset management revenue budget and was no longer included under capital and special projects.
- The budget assumed that the Arun Leisure Centre wet change was to be funded from s106 agreements which were susceptible to slippage. This £987k would internally be met by internal borrowing and the s106 receipts would be applied to reduce the borrowing when received. There remained a balance of £320k to be funded; the details on which were in 6.10 on page 91.

Finally, the Committee was reassured that the estimates as presented in the draft Budget were sufficiently robust and that the reserve balances for 2022/23 were adequate.

The Chair thanked the Interim Group Head of Corporate Support and Section 151 Officer for all her work and her team's work on this project. The Chair then invited questions.

Varying points were raised by Members some in support and some not in support of the proposed Council Tax increases. Mention was made of some of the refurbishment projects such as the Arun Leisure Centre wet change. Although this scheme was welcome and very much needed by residents, it was felt that more needed to be done to transform the local economy. Concern was raised over Section 106 slippage and how the Council needed to minimise this by designing projects in phases; the underspend over the last year and the money returned from Government. The

Sussex by the Sea Festival was highlighted as a project that could perhaps be paused as it had already been postponed for a year due to the works being undertaken as a result of the Levelling Up project, with the thought that these funds could be spent elsewhere. The success of the seasonal closure of Pier Road in Littlehampton was also mentioned and some Members pressed for confirmation that this would continue for the forthcoming season to allow for greater tourism impact and in terms of making the area a more vital seafront and riverside attraction. The Director of Place confirmed that a report on Pier Road and seasonal closures would be submitted to the next meeting of the Economy Committee on 29 March 2022 which would explain the different options moving forward.

Having had the recommendations proposed by Councillor Pendleton and seconded by Councillor Roberts,

The Committee

RESOLVED - That

For the 2022/23 financial year:

- a) The Interim Group Head of Corporate Support, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, approved a Council Tax base of 63,011 for 2022/23;
- b) The budget report in Appendices A, 1, 2 and 3 be noted.

The Committee also

RECOMMEND TO THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL ON 23 FEBRUARY 2022 - That

- (1) The General Fund Revenue budget as set out in Appendix 1 be approved;
- (2) Arun's band D council tax for 2022/23 be set at £196.47, an increase of 2.58% over 2021/22;
- (3) Arun's Council Tax Requirement for 2022/23, based on a Band D Council Tax of £196.47, be set at £12,379,771 plus parish precepts as demanded, to be transferred to the General Fund in accordance with statutory requirements;
- (4) The Council's General Fund Revenue Account Balance be set at £5m. Any balance above this to be transferred to the Funding Resilience Reserve to allow future budgets to be balanced;
- (5) The HRA budget as set out in Appendix 2 be approved;

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(6) HRA rents for 2022/23 be increased by 4.1% (CPI plus 1%) in accordance with the provisions of the rent standard;

(7) HRA garage rents be increased by 5% to give a standard charge of £13.58 per week (excluding VAT), and heating and water/sewerage charges increased on a scheme by scheme basis, with a view to balancing costs with income; and

(8) The Capital budget as set out in Appendix 3 be approved.

652. CAPITAL STRATEGY 2022/23 TO 2026/27

The Chair invited the Interim Group Head of Corporate Support and Section 151 Officer to present this report. It was explained that the adoption of the Capital Strategy by Full Council was a requirement of the Chartered Institution of Public Finance and Accountancy's Prudential Code. Responsibility for review of the strategy had moved from the Audit and Governance Committee and was now the responsibility of this Committee.

The key points of the strategy were summarised:

- the capital strategy was overarching
- it sat above the other more detailed policies, procedures and plans and referenced them to allow more detail if required
- it showed how the Council determined its priorities for capital investment decisions
- it set out how capital would be funded
- as a council we needed to adopt a strategic approach to our capital planning based on sound principles; these principles being that plans must be:
 - affordable
 - prudent
 - sustainable
 - in line with service objectives
 - give due consideration to both risk and reward

The Interim Group Head of Corporate Support and Section 151 Officer finished by concluding that the aim of the strategy was to balance capital expenditure needs and expectations with the limited resources available to the Council.

The Chair invited questions. The need to maintain existing capital infrastructure and to ensure that sufficient provision was laid out in words and strategy to make sure at all times for its maintenance. The Windmill Theatre in Littlehampton was given as an example. The Director of Place confirmed that this Capital Strategy intended to try to bring the Council back to a position that was better in terms of long term maintenance of its assets and that significant progress had been made in terms of being in a better position to maintain maintenance at more measured levels going forward. The Chief Executive noted that to put things right was a capital investment but that ongoing

maintenance costs would often come out of the Revenue Budget straining the budget which paid for the majority of the services the Council provided in the district, but that we should be building in long-term revenue support for maintenance of facilities but that that sometimes put pressures on our own revenue budgets due to financial rules around what certain budgets can be spent on.

The Chair asked Officers, in response to the previous question and answer, what safeguards were in place to avoid future occasions where maintenance works may not have been carried out. The Chief Executive explained that this would need to be built into an Asset Management Strategy and take into account the Council's long-term financial planning. The Chair asked that the Asset Management Strategy be included in the Work Programme for this Committee for the next municipal year. Another Member noted that, from looking at the figures quoted on page 111 of the Agenda Pack, asset management did not appear to be built into any significant degree. A final point was made about all figures in the report declining in terms of investment over the years, the need to look at how things were progressing in future and ultimately where future investment would be coming from. The Chief Executive noted the financial challenges ahead in the coming years acknowledged in the medium-term financial plan both on a revenue and capital basis, and Officers and Members would need to work together to address over the coming years.

Having had the recommendation proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Cooper,

The Committee

RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL

That the Capital Strategy 2022/23 to 2026/27 be approved.

653. COUNCIL VISION 2022-2026

The Chair invited the Group Head of Policy to present her report which confirmed the final wording, following public consultation, for the Council Vision 2022-2026. She highlighted that 86% of respondents to the consultation had agreed with the Council's aims for the next four years as set out in the consultation. Areas of concern had been raised in the consultation and would be passed on to the relevant departments, but it was believed that all of these had been identified by Councillors during their preliminary work on the Vision document last summer. The survey feedback had resulted in the Vision being made easier to understand; jargon having been removed; content being more focussed and proactive; and providing greater clarity over the Council's and other partners' services and roles.

It was confirmed that there would be annual progress reports against the milestones at each of the four years of the plan, and Officers were currently working on how these would be reported. A report on this would come to the next meeting of the Committee on 31 March 2022 which would include the new Corporate Plan indicators for the period as well.

The Group Head of Policy drew Members' attention to Appendix A of the report which set out the proposed wording for the Vision and in doing so she confirmed that she needed to suggest to the Committee, making an amendment to the Vision Aim entitled "Fulfilling Arun's Economic Potential" [How Will we Achieve this [Page 120 of the agenda pack] (1) which read "Create the conditions that will support, attract and retain high tech businesses, including the creative digital sector" – to the wording set out in **bold** below which if approved by Members would appear in the published Vision as:

- 1. Create the conditions that will support high tech businesses including the creative digital sector and green businesses, reducing the need for the workforce to commute out of the District.**

Having had the amendment proposed by Councillor Cooper and seconded by Councillor Pendleton it was declared CARRIED.

The Chair then returned to the substantive recommendation inviting questions on the remaining aspects of the document. A query was raised on (B) Protect and enhance our natural environment' [on page 119 of the Agenda Pack] as it was felt that this was increasingly important and needed more attention being paid to it so as to protect the District from development built on green fields destroying biodiversity.

A Member amendment was proposed for item (4) of 'Improving the wellbeing of Arun – How will we achieve this' [on page 117 of the Agenda Pack] for the inclusion of the words 'medical and dental' after 'primary' so that the amended sentence would read:

- 4. Support the NHS Clinical Commissioners to provide primary, medical and dental care facilities to meet the growing needs of our community.'**

Having had the amendment proposed by Councillor Walsh and seconded by Councillor Seex, it was declared CARRIED.

Having had the substantive recommendation proposed by Councillor Cooper and seconded by Councillor Pendleton,

The Committee

RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL

That the Council Vision 2022 – 2026 be approved.

654. OUTSIDE BODIES

The Chair confirmed that there were two feedback reports from Outside Bodies to present to this meeting.

655. FEEDBACK REPORT FROM JOINT CLIMATE CHANGE BOARD

The Committee received an Outside Body Update and Feedback report from Councillor Staniforth, the Council's nominated representative, following her attendance at a meeting of the Joint Climate Change Board held on 13 October 2021.

A suggestion was put forward by a Member of the Committee for the Council to share costs where possible on the initiatives covered by this meeting and wherever possible encourage working collectively to achieve results. The Chief Executive endorsed this point and explained how this approach would be used when working on other corporate objectives.

656. FEEDBACK REPORT FROM MEETINGS HELD OF THE GREATER BRIGHTON ECONOMIC BOARD

The Chair provided a verbal Outside Body Feedback report following meetings that he had attended of the Greater Brighton Economic Board.

Councillor Gunner confirmed that he had attended one meeting recently and could confirm that there were some challenges with the Board. For those not aware, this was public knowledge, the representative from Coast to Capital had withdrawn from the Board due to the behaviour of the current Chair. There was much nervousness being expressed about the future direction of the Board and if it had a clear strategy moving forward. It was confirmed that Council Leaders did have a meeting planned soon to consider what the future of the Board was. There had been a number of meetings mostly around green initiatives, which the vast majority of the work that the Board covered. In the previous meeting a Blue/Green Investment Panel had been agreed. Councillor Gunner confirmed that he would keep the Committee updated following any further meetings attended.

657. WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee received an updated version of its Work Programme covering the remainder of the Municipal Year.

The Committee Services Manager confirmed that an additional item would be added for the next meeting of the Committee on 31 March 2022 which was setting out the proposed heads of terms in relation to lease arrangements for the Regis Centre and an associated development opportunity for approval.

The Interim Group Head of Corporate Support & Section 151 Officer confirmed that a further report would be submitted to the next meeting setting out the details of a virement request from the Housing & Wellbeing Committee relating to the Local Hardship Fund.

In discussing the work programme, criticism was made that no work programme items had been listed beyond March 2022 and that a forward programme covering the whole of 2022/23 was required. The Committee Services Manager explained that work

Subject to approval at the next Policy and Finance Committee meeting

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programmes for all Committees was progressing but was subject to the Committee Meetings Calendar for 2022/23 being approved by Full Council on 9 March 2022.

Having received no further suggestions, the Chair thanked Members for their input.

(The meeting concluded at 7.44 pm)