

Northern Rother District Councillors' Report January 2022.

Community Infrastructure Levy Governance.

The Levy allows local authorities to raise funds from developers undertaking new building projects in their area in order to fund infrastructure projects.

Cabinet agreed to set up a new Levy Panel comprising Members and Officers and that Levy funds be distributed in accordance with the Council's Levy Governance and Funding protocol.

Council Tax Reduction Scheme.

Cabinet agreed to improve access to the Reduction Scheme for self-employed people who are also carers or are registered disabled.

The current scheme reflects previous national benefits in assuming a minimum level of working and income. It was agreed that the current scheme disadvantages those households where full-time work is not possible and where they are carers or are disabled. Changes will be effective 1 April 2022.

Public Spaces Protection Order.

A new PSPO up to 2023 was approved by Cabinet. Members agreed to replicate the existing PSPO with additional restrictions on alcohol consumption and aggressive begging in public spaces in Battle and alcohol consumption in public spaces in Camber.

Hybrid Meeting Protocol.

Members have agreed a policy that covers how Members and the public will be able to join committee meetings remotely. Whilst current legislation does not permit formal decision-making committees to be held as hybrid meetings i.e. all voting committee members must be physically present in the meeting room, non-committee members, non-voting committee members, officers and members of the public with speaking rights will be able to join the meeting remotely.

Revenue Budget and Capital Programme Monitoring Quarter 2 – 2021/22.

The revenue forecast for Quarter 2 shows a deficit of over £2.79 million, £93,000 greater than the approved planned use of reserves. The Capital Programme is forecast to slip by £53.5 million in 21/22 due to timing differences, some of which are caused by delays due to Covid-19.

Medium Term Financial Plan 2022/23-2026/27.

Cabinet believes the Council can deliver a balanced budget without the use of reserves by 2026/27 with a combination of sound financial management and the successful delivery of the Financial Stability Programme.

Performance Report Second Quarter 2021/22.

The focus for 2021/22 has been set on 5 themes:

Housing and Communities – to monitor the delivery of the Housing and Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy.

Economic Development and Poverty – to monitor the impact of the Pandemic on household incomes, council tax and business rates collection.

Waste Collection – to monitor the proportion of household waste collected that is sent for reuse, composting and recycling.

Additional Income – to monitor significant non-tax income as a part of the Council's revenue streams.

Planning processing – to monitor the processing times of applications.

Designation of Monitoring Officer, Deputy Monitoring Officer and Chief Finance Officer.

Members agreed that Lorna Ford, Deputy Chief Executive be designated as the Council's Monitoring Officer and that Lisa Cooper be designated as the Council's Deputy Monitoring Officer with effect from 17 January 2022.

Cabinet also agreed to designate Antony Baden as the Council's Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer) with effect from 1 January 2022.

Councillors Martin Mooney and Tony Ganly.