

**Response from the meeting of the Executive on the
F&A Committee's Comments – 10 November 2020**

Item Number: 3 – Fees and Charges

Requested by: Councillor Nicholls & Green Group

Reason Considered:

Councillor Nicholls: Because of the impact on residents and to look at the governance arrangements for the proposals

Green Group: What is the rationale behind these changes?

For example, no increases are proposed (Tables 1/2/3) for building plan submission fees, inspection fees or building notices. Other sectors like Senior Citizens playing bowls see rates increase by 14.58%. There is a projected shortfall in Building Control fees of £136,000 yet an increase of 0.00%. We suggest it would be possible to consider fee exemptions for applications for solar panels, other thermal elements and replacement windows in domestic alterations (Item 3/page 30) as incentives within the Climate Action Programme.

Scrutiny Comment:

The Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee supported the recommendations in the report.

Executive Response:

Councillor Hales thanked the Finance and Audit Committee and the Programme Advisory Board for their advice. The recommendations in the report and addendum were approved.

Item Number: 4 – Sherbourne Resource Park – Proposal to become a Partner Council

Requested by: Councillor Nicholls

Reason Considered:

The financial commitments being made, the legal obligations, and to ensure proper scrutiny of the risks and opportunities.

Scrutiny Comment:

The Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee supported the recommendations in the report.

Executive Response:

The recommendations were approved.

Item Number: 6 – Creative Quarter: Spencer Yard

Requested by: Councillor Nicholls

Reason Considered:

The financial commitments being made, the legal obligations, and to ensure proper scrutiny of the risks and opportunities.

Scrutiny Comment:

The Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee recommend to Executive that authority be delegated to the Deputy Chief Executive (BH) in consultation with the Chair of the Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee, the Leader of the Council and the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Business, to further investigate and look in detail at the proposed Heads of Terms included in Confidential Appendix 2. Given the Council's unanimous support of the Climate Emergency Action Plan, Members ask that detailed terms on the environmental standards of the proposals be considered, and whether it is sensible to include environmental conditions into the lease. Members feel that the efficacy of those conditions is something the Programme Advisory Board should look at and monitor.

The Executive are required to vote on this because it forms a recommendation to them.

Executive Response:

Councillor Rhead, as the Portfolio Holder for Environment, stated that he was in support of the comments from the Finance and Audit Scrutiny Committee, but requested an amendment to the recommendation to ensure it would not affect the viability of the scheme.

Councillor Hales thanked officers for their time and efforts, and welcomed the input from both Scrutiny Committees. He was happy to accept the recommendation from the Finance and Audit Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor Nicholls, the Chair of the Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee, agreed to the suggested amendment to the recommendation from the Finance and Audit Scrutiny Committee, to include "subject to not adversely affecting the viability of the scheme".

The recommendations in the report were approved, subject to the additional amended recommendation from the Finance and Audit Scrutiny Committee.

Item Number: 9 – Significant Business Risk Register

Requested by: Councillor Nicholls

Reason Considered:

To focus on risks in the red zone and to understand what can be done to reduce the risk

Scrutiny Comment:

The Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee recommend to Executive to review Environmental Risk 16 on the Risk Register, "Failure to meet the District's ambition to be carbon neutral within specified timeframes", to more clearly indicate if this risk refers to the ambition to become carbon neutral as a Council, District or both together. Members felt that as it stood, this was unclear and would benefit from being broken down into different aspirations and their risks, or making it more clear if it is an overarching risk for the whole programme.

The Executive are required to vote on this because it forms a recommendation to them.

Executive Response:

Councillor Rhead suggested an amendment to this recommendation, to clarify that there were two separate targets, one for the District and one for the Council.

Councillor Nicholls, the Chair of the Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee, agreed to Councillor Rhead's suggested amendment, to include: "Failure to meet the District's ambition to be carbon neutral within specified timeframes, be split in two risks that refer to the ambition to become carbon neutral as a Council and as a District".

The recommendations in the report were approved, subject to the additional amended recommendation from the Finance and Audit Scrutiny Committee.