

**Response from the meeting of Cabinet on the O&S Committee's Comments –  
6 March 2023**

Item 4 – Treasury Management Strategy 2024/25

**Scrutiny Comment:**

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee thanked officers for their hard work bringing the detailed and thorough report forward. The Committee was reassured by explanations around sensitivity analysis and the impact on Milverton Homes.

The Committee welcomed the initiative to bring forward more information on Treasury Management and affordability when decisions were being made on capital expenditure. It was pleased that the Portfolio Holder, Councillor Chilvers was keen to explore the initiative to set clear parameters to enable councillors to be confident in future borrowing decisions.

**Cabinet Response:**

The recommendations in the report were approved.

Item 6 – Housing Revenue Account Business Plan Review 2024

**Scrutiny Comment:**

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee did not scrutinise this report at the meeting but made comments to Cabinet.

Members were keen to see maximum attendance at training sessions so asked that these, where possible, avoided holiday periods. However, to mitigate for this, the Committee requested that training sessions should be recorded (whilst also appreciating that external trainers might not be open to this request).

The Committee also requested that when HRA reports were to be considered in future, this should always be accompanied by a briefing to Members in advance.

The Committee intends to add this report to the Overview & Scrutiny workplan in line with dates for further training.

**Cabinet Response:**

The recommendations in the report were approved.

Item 11 – Change Programme – Case for Change

**Scrutiny Comment:**

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee was keen to see that Customer Services were baselined and tracked to ensure that these reflected the commitment made in the Corporate Strategy to improve Council services.

The Committee requested a specific update on Change Programme progress following the Programme Board meeting scheduled in June.

**Recommendation to Cabinet**

The Committee recommended that all Members received regular communications from the Members Advisory Group detailing the outcomes, outputs and actions.

**Cabinet Response:**

The recommendation from the Overview & Scrutiny Committee and the recommendations in the report were approved.

Item 13 – Q3 Budget Update 2023/24

**Scrutiny Comment:**

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee thanked officers for the detailed and comprehensible report. The Committee supported the Finance Team's strategy to work with budget managers to improve budget management to smooth volatility and reduce peaks. This would result in a more measured view of what was going on.

**Cabinet Response:**

The recommendations in the report were approved.

Item 14 – Annual Governance Statement 2022/23

**Scrutiny Comment:**

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee did not scrutinise this report at the meeting but made comments to Cabinet.

The Committee expressed concern about the lateness in signing off the AGS which the Head of Finance explained was linked to the delay in signing off the Council's Statement of Account and he explained how this would be overcome in the future with a backstop date being agreed.

The Committee requested that the AGS should be produced sooner in order to support a strong focus on governance.

**Cabinet Response:**

The recommendations in the report and addendum were approved.