Report of the Portfolio Holder for Corporate and Finance

To

Overview & Scrutiny Committee (Corporate)

On

5 January 2021

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| **RESPONSE OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR CORPORATE AND FINANCE TO OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (CORPORATE) RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY** |

Cabinet would like to thank the members of Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Corporate) for their hard and detailed work in reviewing the proposals made for the 2021/22 to 2023/24 Medium Term Financial Strategy.

I have set out my responses to each of the recommendations and conclusions made as part of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee’s report, below:

1. That the effects of the Chancellor’s Spending Review on the proposed Medium Term Financial Strategy be welcomed.

**RESPONSE –**

**The Cabinet welcomes the effects of the Chancellor’s Spending Review on the proposed Medium Term Financial Strategy.**

1. That the proposed increase in the Council’s element of the Council Tax for 2021/22 be supported.

**RESPONSE –**

**Thank you for your comments regarding Council Tax.**

1. That the increase in the parking charge at Mansfield Woodhouse train station from £1.00 to £2.00 per day be supported.

**RESPONSE –**

**Thank you for your comments regarding the parking charge at Mansfield Woodhouse train station.**

1. That My Mansfield be reduced from three editions annually to two and that the Executive’s proposal to reduce to one not be supported.

**RESPONSE –**

**The Cabinet are happy to accept this recommendation, as the budget is still balanced with this reduction from three issues of My Mansfield to one. This will be reflected in the final budget which will be presented to Council on 21 January 2021; we thank Overview and Scrutiny for their comments.**

1. That a 2% increase in fees and charges where the Council is responsible for setting such fees be supported.

**RESPONSE –**

**Thank you for your comments regarding fees and charges.**

1. That the financial effect of the reduction in the number of the Executive be noted.

**RESPONSE –**

**Thank you for your comments regarding the number of the Executive.**

1. That Special Responsibility Allowances be reduced by 10% and that the involvement of the Council’s Independent Panel into Members’ Allowances be confirmed.

**RESPONSE –**

**The Cabinet is happy to investigate a 10% reduction in the Special Responsibility Allowance, however, this is dependent on the involvement of the Council’s Independent Panel into Members’ Allowances, as to whether this can be implemented in time for the start of the 2021/22 financial year.**

1. That there be no reduction in the level of the Ward Allowance.

**RESPONSE –**

**The Cabinet are happy to accept this recommendation, and will reflect such in the final budget which will be presented to Council on 21 January 2021; we thank Overview and Scrutiny for their comments**

1. That any budget General Fund surplus from these proposals be transferred to the Economic Stimulus Fund.

**RESPONSE –**

**The amount available to transfer to the Economic Stimulus Fund will depend on the figures that are derived from the Local Government Finance Settlement, whilst also taking account of the effects of Covid-19 on the Council’s budget in 2021/22.**

1. That the increase in Council house rents in line with Government rent guidelines be noted.

**RESPONSE –**

**Thank you for your comments regarding Council dwelling rents**

1. That the Consolidated General Fund and Housing Revenue Account Capital programmes be supported.

**RESPONSE –**

**Cabinet thank Overview and Scrutiny (Corporate) for their support of the Consolidated Capital Programme 2021/22 to 2023/24.**

Once again Cabinet would like to thank Overview and Scrutiny Committee for its comments.

**4. COMMENTS OF STATUTORY OFFICERS**

(a) Head of Paid Service – No specific comments.

(b) Deputy Monitoring Officer – No specific comments.

(c) Section 151 Officer – The changes accepted by Cabinet still produce a balanced budget, in line with statutory requirements.

**5. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Budget papers held in the Accountancy section.

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