

Report of the Chairman on the work of the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee

The committee met on 19 October 2021 and 29 November 2021. This report gives an overview of the key items considered by the Committee.

19 October 2021

The committee received an update on proposals for the Staines Health and Wellbeing Centre. This report contained exempt information, so questions will need to be taken in a closed session of Council.

29 November 2021

1. The committee welcomed the directors of Knowle Green Estates who presented their annual report.
2. The committee decided to retain the existing Tenancy Strategy pending further consideration of the financial viability of Knowle Green Estates.
3. The committee received updates on the capital and revenue budgets. As part of its considerations, it agreed that the borough's pay award for 2021/22 should be revised in the light of the national settlement.
4. The outline budget for 2022/23 was discussed. The committee is proposing that a graduated council tax premia be applied to empty residential properties. It was agreed that the budget should be drawn up on the assumption that council tax will be increased by the maximum permitted amount, whilst also requesting that savings and efficiencies be identified to close budget gaps.
5. The council tax base for next year was reviewed.
6. A mid-year report on the council's treasury management strategy was noted. The committee requested that the inclusion of sustainability measures/scores for investments be explored with the council's treasury management advisers.
7. A tendering exercise for fire alarms systems and emergency lighting installations was agreed. The committee requested that smaller local companies be encouraged to submit bids by enabling the contract to be divided into lots.
8. A corporate plan for 2021-23 is being recommended to Council for adoption.
9. Updates on Staines Library Hub and Museum, and the 5th Floor of Communications House in Staines were received. These reports contained

exempt information, so questions will need to be taken in a closed session of Council.

10. A proposal for considering options for collaborative with other boroughs was agreed, with a joint member and officer Working Group being formed. Some of the information in this report was exempt, so questions may need to be taken in a closed session of Council.
11. The committee heard that service committees had been reviewing their elements of the corporate recovery plan. The committee will be receiving a full update early next year.
12. The committee agreed to hold an additional meeting on Wednesday 19 January 2021 at 7.00pm.

Councillor L Nichols

Leader of the Council

Chair of the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee