

# Thurrock Borough Council

## Finance Recovery Board

### Minutes – Tuesday 20 December 2022

#### Attendees

Nicole Wood – Essex County Council Commissioner (Chair)

Cllr Graham Snell – Cabinet Member for Finance, Thurrock Council

Cllr John Kent – Opposition Group Leader, Thurrock Council

Ian Wake – Acting Head of Paid Service, Thurrock Council

Jonathan Wilson – Acting Section 151 Officer, Thurrock Council

Mark Bradbury – Interim Director of Place, Thurrock Council

Debbie Knopp – Director of Transformation, Essex County Council

Patrick McDermott – Chief of Staff to the Commissioners, DLUHC

#### Apologies

Gavin Jones – Essex County Council Commissioner

Cllr Mark Coxshall – Leader, Thurrock Council

## **1. Welcome and Introductions**

- 1.1. Nicole Wood welcomed the Board. All attendees had received papers.

## **2. Minutes and actions of the last meeting**

- 2.1. The Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

## **3. Workstreams Update and Budget timeline**

- 3.1. Jonathan Wilson provided an update on the financial workstreams and the budget setting roadmap.
- 3.2. In the discussion that followed, Nicole Wood highlighted the importance of member involvement in the review and reprioritisation of the capital programme. Cllr Kent raised the impact of this review on particular projects in the borough.
- 3.3. The discussions with DLUHC on the new financial model have been positive.
- 3.4. The Board discussed the engagement of members on the budget process in January.
- 3.5. Reflecting on the work on the capital programme, the Board discussed the need for other parts of the organisation to lean and support finance colleagues with review.

**Action: Products and dates for Commissioner QA of the capital programme to be agreed.**

**Action: FRB to be updated on the work on asset disposals at the next meeting.**

## **4. Financial Model**

- 4.1. Jonathan Wilson provided an update on the financial model. While the model is helpful, it illustrates that there is no path to sustainability despite using the levers the council has.
- 4.2. Nicole Wood thanked colleagues for their work on the model demonstrates the need to take down the debt and while the numbers will change it is illustrative for discussions on the nature of support.

## **5. Draft EFS Letter**

- 5.1. The Board reviewed the draft letter to the Secretary of State to formally request EFS from the government.
- 5.2. Some changes to the dates in the text were suggested and the content of the letter was agreed.

**Action: Text of the EFS letter to be updated to reflect this discussion.**

## **6. Decisions taken**

- 6.1. The s114 report from the Acting s151 was noted by the Board.

## **7. Any other business**

- 7.1. There being no other business the meeting closed.