

Thurrock Borough Council

Finance Recovery Board

Minutes – Monday 16 January 2023

Attendees

Nicole Wood – Essex County Council Commissioner (Chair)

Cllr Mark Coxshall – Leader, 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 Graham Snell – Cabinet Member for Finance, 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

- 3.1. Gareth Moss and Jonathan Wilson provided an update on the financial stability workstream. The capital programme has been reviewed and MPR updated. A review of the capital programme will now progress to Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny.
- 3.2. There was a discussion regarding the day by day process for budget setting, the interdependencies of Council Tax and the EFS request and ongoing discussions with DLUHC.
- 3.3. There was a discussion on asset disposals and Nicole Wood stressed the need for pace and requested a further discussion once the valuation report has been received.

Action: Avison Young valuation report to come to FRB on 6 February 2023.

4. Budget Update

- 4.1. Gareth Moss provided an update on the budget process.
- 4.2. There was a discussion regarding the need for work on savings and assets to be considered as part of an ongoing process, beyond budget setting. The budget will need to be revisited for further savings and other work, including on fees and charges.

Action: Include a commitment to quantifying the amount of EFS in the letter to DLUHC to accompany the budget.

Action: Review of Fees and Charges to be added as a main action in the Financial Sustainability theme of the IRP.

5. Decisions taken

- 5.1. The Board noted the ongoing operation of pay panels to act on the s114 notice and the upcoming decisions on pay policy.

6. Any other business

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