

184. PUBLIC CONTRIBUTIONS

There were no public contributions.

185. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Members were reminded that declarations of interest should be made as and when the specific agenda item to which they related was under discussion.

186. URGENT MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR

No urgent matters were brought forward.

187. AGREEMENT OF AGENDA ITEMS PART I AND II

There were no Part II items.

188. QBR 4

The purpose of the report was to receive the QBR and update Members on the surplus for the financial year 2021/22.

Slide presentations were received from the ICT, Strategy & Performance Manager and the Finance Manager (S151 Officer).

The ICT, Strategy & Performance Manager introduced the QBR presenting the Performance Highlights, summarising the positives and negatives on each of the following four Themes:

- Theme 1 – Local Economy
- Theme 2 – Communities, Health & Housing
- Theme 3 – Our Environment, Our Future
- Theme 4 – Our Council

Following queries from Councillor Hames regarding phone calls increasing it was advised this was during Covid and they have now slowed down. The Chief Executive and ICT, Strategy & Performance Manager were not aware of any complaints received due to the waiting time of calls being answered. The discussion progressed to the main switchboard and the changes made. It was agreed for the changes to be included in the Members Bulletin.

The Finance Manager (S151 Officer) continued the presentation by providing a detailed explanation on the key favourable variances within the report. A decision would be required from Communities & Resources on how to allocate the surplus. The Finance Manager (S151 Officer) advised the surplus may need to contribute to next year's pay award, however, more details regarding the employers pay offer to the unions would be ascertained at a conference call the next day and then be included within the C&R report.

The report was noted.

QBR Questions and Answers

Questions regarding the QBR were asked for in writing prior to the meeting to allow Officers time to formulate a response.

The Chair presented the Q&A supplement during which the following additional comments/questions were raised:

- Regarding the question from Mr Dengate on the floating offshore initiative he asked more specifically what the next steps would be for Torridge District Council? It was advised that a written response would be ascertained from the Head of Communities & Place.
- Councillor Hames expressed his concern to the lack of responses to the People & Places consultations. The Chief Executive advised of the efforts made to promote this and that progress was being made to consult more with Town & Parish Councils so that these Members can engage more with residents and constituents.
- The take up at the work hub in Torrington was disappointing, hopefully usage would increase.
- In response to an additional question asking where the electrical equipment gets taken, it was confirmed that an answer would be ascertained from the Operational Services Manager and distributed to the group.
- The new measure on Affordable Housing in a question from Mr Dengate referred to page 47, measure LE172. The ICT, Strategy & Performance Manager provided further clarification on this.
- It was confirmed that the Questions and Answers to the QBR are made public.

189. ANNUAL REPORT

The Chair presented the annual report of the Internal Overview & Scrutiny Committee which detailed work conducted over the last year and future work for the Committee.

Details of the Social Values legislation were given by the ICT, Strategy & Performance Manager and how this would be progressed with the Task & Finish group.

The report was noted.

190. CONSIDERATION OF THE FORWARD PLAN

The forward plan was discussed and updated.

The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm and closed at 2.50 pm

Chair:

Date: