

Agenda

Finance and Performance Panel (Panel of the Scrutiny Committee)

This meeting will be held on:

Date: **Monday 22 January 2024**

Time: **6.00 pm**

Place: **Zoom - Remote meeting**

For further information please contact:

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Members of the public can attend to observe this meeting and.

- may register in advance to speak to the committee in accordance with the [committee's rules](#)
- may record all or part of the meeting in accordance with the Council's [protocol](#)

Information about speaking and recording is set out in the agenda and on the [website](#)

Please contact the Committee Services Officer to register to speak; to discuss recording the meeting; or with any other queries.

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All public papers are available from the calendar link to this meeting once published

Committee Membership

Councillor James Fry (Chair)

Councillor Tiago Corais

Councillor Dr Hosnieh Djafari-Marbini

Councillor Chris Jarvis

Councillor Dr Amar Latif

Councillor Dr Christopher Smowton

Apologies received before the publication are shown under *Apologies for absence* in the agenda. Those sent after publication will be reported at the meeting.

Agenda

	Pages
1 Apologies	
2 Declarations of Interest	
3 Chair's Announcements	
4 Notes of the previous meeting	9 - 14
<p>The Panel is asked to agree the notes of the meeting held on 06 December 2023 as a true and accurate record.</p>	
5 Finance and Performance Panel Work Plan	15 - 16
<p>The Panel is asked to consider the Work Plan and agree any amendments.</p>	
6 Report back on recommendations	17 - 26
<p>At its meeting on 13 December 2023, Cabinet considered the following reports from the Finance and Performance Panel and made responses to the recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Integrated Performance Report Q2 2023/24• Treasury Management Mid-Year Report <p>Cabinet's responses to recommendations were presented to the Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 16 January 2024 for noting.</p> <p>The Panel is asked to note Cabinet's responses to its recommendations.</p>	
7 Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2024/25	27 - 56
<p>Cabinet, at its meeting on 24 January 2024, will consider a report from the Head of Financial Services seeking approval for changes to the Council's Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2024/25. Cllr Ed Turner, Deputy Leader (Statutory) and Cabinet Member for Finance and Asset Management, Nigel Kennedy, Head of Financial Services and Laura Bessell, Benefits Manager have been invited to present the report and answer questions. The Panel is asked to consider the report and agree</p>	

any recommendations.

8 Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Rent Setting Report 2024/25

57 - 68

Cabinet, at its meeting on 24 January 2024, will consider a report from the Head of Financial Services presenting the outcome of the Council's annual rent review and associated rent setting proposal for 2024/25 in respect of all Council dwellings within the Housing Revenue Account, including the setting of associated services and facilities charges. Cllr Ed Turner, Deputy Leader (Statutory) and Cabinet Member for Finance and Asset Management, Nigel Kennedy, Head of Financial Services and Jason Jones, Finance Business Partner (HRA) have been invited to present the report and answer questions. The Panel is asked to consider the report and agree any recommendations.

9 Corporate Key Performance Indicator (KPI) Review [presentation]

The Panel is asked to receive a presentation followed by an opportunity for discussion; and to agree any recommendations.

Cllr Susan Brown, Leader of the Council, Mish Tullar, Head of Corporate Strategy and Sally Hicks, Business Intelligence Unit Lead have been invited to present this item and answer questions.

10 Dates of future meetings

The Panel is asked to note the dates and times of future meetings of the Finance and Performance Panel:

- 26 March 2024, 6pm

Meetings will take place remotely via Zoom.

11 Matters Exempt or part exempt from publication and exclusion of the public

If the Panel wishes to exclude the press and the public from the meeting during consideration of any aspects of the preceding or following agenda items it will be necessary for the Panel to pass a resolution in accordance with the provisions of Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 specifying the grounds on which their presence could involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as described in specific paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act if and so long, as in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest

in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

(The Access to Information Procedure Rules – Section 15 of the Council’s Constitution – sets out the conditions under which the public can be excluded from meetings of the Council).

11a Budget 2024/25 - Draft Report of the Budget Review Group

The draft 2024/25 Budget Review Group report will follow.

At the request of the Budget Review Group, the following items will be considered as part of this item:

- Museum Income – modelling and assumptions
- Strategic Review of Services Provided Across Community Services – outline scope
- Leisure Management Contract – *discussion following consideration of report by Scrutiny Committee on 16 January 2024*
- Strategic Review of Spend on Services Provided by ODS – outline scope

Reports on the above items will follow or updates will be provided at the meeting; discussions on these items may feed into the draft Budget Review Group report, along with any recommendations arising from discussion.

Peter Matthew, Executive Director (Communities and People), Nigel Kennedy, Head of Financial Services and Ian Brooke, Head of Community Services have been invited to present and answer questions.

The Panel is asked to:

1. **Agree** any recommendations to Cabinet on the basis of the presentations and discussion on the items listed above.
2. **Approve** the draft 2024/25 Budget Review Group report for submission to the Scrutiny Committee meeting on 06 February 2024 for approval and submission to Cabinet, subject to any necessary amendments.
3. **Delegate authority** to the Scrutiny Officer, in consultation with the Finance and Performance Panel Chair, to implement any agreed amendments to the report and make any necessary minor editorial amendments prior to submission to the Scrutiny Committee.

11b Exempt Treasury Management Matters [discussion item]

Information for those attending

Recording and reporting on meetings held in public

Members of public and press can record, or report in other ways, the parts of the meeting open to the public. You are not required to indicate in advance but it helps if you notify the Committee Services Officer prior to the meeting so that they can inform the Chair and direct you to the best place to record.

The Council asks those recording the meeting:

- To follow the protocol which can be found on the Council's [website](#)
- Not to disturb or disrupt the meeting
- Not to edit the recording in a way that could lead to misinterpretation of the proceedings. This includes not editing an image or views expressed in a way that may ridicule or show a lack of respect towards those being recorded.
- To avoid recording members of the public present, even inadvertently, unless they are addressing the meeting.

Please be aware that you may be recorded during your speech and any follow-up. If you are attending please be aware that recording may take place and that you may be inadvertently included in these.

The Chair of the meeting has absolute discretion to suspend or terminate any activities that in his or her opinion are disruptive.

Councillors declaring interests

General duty

You must declare any disclosable pecuniary interests when the meeting reaches the item on the agenda headed "Declarations of Interest" or as soon as it becomes apparent to you.

What is a disclosable pecuniary interest?

Disclosable pecuniary interests relate to your* employment; sponsorship (ie payment for expenses incurred by you in carrying out your duties as a councillor or towards your election expenses); contracts; land in the Council's area; licenses for land in the Council's area; corporate tenancies; and securities. These declarations must be recorded in each councillor's Register of Interests which is publicly available on the Council's website.

Declaring an interest

Where any matter disclosed in your Register of Interests is being considered at a meeting, you must declare that you have an interest. You should also disclose the nature as well as the existence of the interest. If you have a disclosable pecuniary interest, after having declared it at the meeting you must not participate in discussion or voting on the item and must withdraw from the meeting whilst the matter is discussed.

Members' Code of Conduct and public perception

Even if you do not have a disclosable pecuniary interest in a matter, the Members' Code of Conduct says that a member "must serve only the public interest and must never improperly confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person including yourself" and that "you must not place yourself in situations where your honesty and integrity may be questioned". The matter of interests must be viewed within the context of the Code as a whole and regard should continue to be paid to the perception of the public.

Members Code – Other Registrable Interests

Where a matter arises at a meeting which directly relates to the financial interest or wellbeing** of one of your Other Registrable Interests*** then you must declare an

interest. You must not participate in discussion or voting on the item and you must withdraw from the meeting whilst the matter is discussed.

Members Code – Non Registrable Interests

Where a matter arises at a meeting which ***directly relates*** to your financial interest or wellbeing (and does not fall under disclosable pecuniary interests), or the financial interest or wellbeing of a relative or close associate, you must declare the interest.

Where a matter arises at a meeting which affects your own financial interest or wellbeing, a financial interest or wellbeing of a relative or close associate or a financial interest or wellbeing of a body included under Other Registrable Interests, then you must declare the interest.

You must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room, if you answer in the affirmative to this test:

“Where a matter affects the financial interest or well-being:

- a. to a greater extent than it affects the financial interests of the majority of inhabitants of the ward affected by the decision and;
- b. a reasonable member of the public knowing all the facts would believe that it would affect your view of the wider public interest You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting.”

Otherwise, you may stay in the room, take part in the discussion and vote.

*Disclosable pecuniary interests that must be declared are not only those of the member her or himself but also those member’s spouse, civil partner or person they are living with as husband or wife or as if they were civil partners.

** Wellbeing can be described as a condition of contentedness, healthiness and happiness; anything that could be said to affect a person’s quality of life, either positively or negatively, is likely to affect their wellbeing.

*** Other Registrable Interests: a) any unpaid directorships b) any Body of which you are a member or are in a position of general control or management and to which you are nominated or appointed by your authority c) any Body (i) exercising functions of a public nature (ii) directed to charitable purposes or (iii) one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union) of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management.