

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held in the Penn Chamber, Three Rivers House, Rickmansworth, on Monday, 9 September 2024 from 8.00 pm - 8.26 pm.

Present: Councillors Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst (Chair), Sarah Nelmes, Chris Lloyd, Louise Price, Andrew Scarth, Tom Smith, Jonathon Solomons, Jon Tankard, Oliver Cooper, Andrea Fraser, Philip Hearn, Reena Ranger, Chris Mitchell, Christopher Alley and Kevin Raeburn

Apologies:

Councillors Steve Drury, Vicky Edwards, Stephen Cox and Stephen King

Officers in Attendance:

Stephen Rix, Associate Director of Legal and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer)
Alison Scott, Director of Finance
Emma Sheridan, Associate Director of Environment
Matthew Stickley, Interim Group Manager – Democratic and Electoral Services
Joanne Wagstaffe, Chief Executive

PR124 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Stephen Cox and Stephen King, from Councillor Vicky Edwards for whom Councillor Christopher Alley attended as a substitute, and from Councillor Steve Drury for whom Councillor Kevin Raeburn attended as a substitute.

PR224 MINUTES

RESOLVED: To confirm as being a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 15 July 2024.

PR324 NOTICE OF URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

PR424 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

PR524 BUDGET MONITORING REPORT TO 30 JUNE 2024

The Director of Finance introduced the report. The recommendation(s) were moved by Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst and seconded by Councillor Andrew Scarth.

In response to questions, officers advised that all figures contained within the projections were 'worst case' figures to allow for prudent financial planning.

In response to questions, officers confirmed that positive variances were created from earned interest, that the council was cash positive, and that a tender had been undertaken for a new parking contract. Officers confirmed that forecasts were expected to be reasonably accurate come the year-end. The committee discussed assumptions around interest rates and previous decisions to invest council finances for long-term returns.

RESOLVED: to recommend to Council that:

1. The revenue budget virements as set out in appendices 1 to 3 be approved and incorporated into the three-year medium-term financial plan.
2. The revenue budget supplementary estimates as set out in appendices 1 to 3 be approved and incorporated into the three-year medium-term financial plan.
3. The revenue variances to be managed as set out in appendices 1 to 3 be noted.
4. The capital variances as set out in appendices 1 to 3 be approved and incorporated into the three-year medium-term financial plan.

PR624 RIVER CHESS BED TRANSFER AT SCOTSBRIDGE

The Associate Director of Environment introduced the report. The recommendation(s) were moved by Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst and seconded by Councillor Chris Lloyd.

The committee noted that the request for support for the transfer was requested as the timeline for the proposed works required an agreement in principle, and that Hertfordshire County Council had commissioned the feasibility study which could be provided to members following the meeting, but which may not be in the public domain. The committee noted that the risks associated with agreeing a letter of support were low-to-none, and that broader questions about land ownership should be directed to the lead authority.

RESOLVED:

1. To support progression of the project and agrees to accept the land transfer as outlined within Appendix B.
2. To note the implications of doing so as outlined at point 2.11 and that further detailed heads of terms will be developed as the project progresses.
3. To agree for a letter to be written to support the project and that the transfer of land ownership takes place only once the project is due to commence on the ground and not before and that the commuted sum is calculated once detailed designs have been agreed in order to calculate the required additional, ongoing maintenance.

PR724 LOW CARBON SKILLS FUNDS PERMISSION TO PROCURE

The Chair noted that the item had been withdrawn.

PR824 OTHER BUSINESS - IF APPROVED UNDER ITEM 3 ABOVE

There was no urgent business.

PR924 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

The motion to exclude the press and public was not moved.

CHAIRMAN