

**Submission to the Finance, Economic Development and Corporate Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting on Tuesday 22 November**

*Made by Councillor Richard Cleaver under paragraph 6.5 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules set out in part 4 of the Council's Constitution.*

**In relation to Agenda Item 7** on page 20, would the committee please consider recommending that the Special Constabulary Council Tax Discount Scheme be extended to include volunteer (i.e. unpaid) PCSOs in anticipation of Lincolnshire Police possibly changing its current policy and recruiting such staff in future.

**In relation to Agenda Item 9 – Finance Update Report**

1. The item forecasts a Net Budget deficit for 2022/23 of £258k, and invites the committee to “Recommend any specific actions or interventions that should be considered in order to reduce the General Fund forecast deficit”. However, the recommendations set out in Agenda Item 6 of the papers for the full council meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> November seek council approval for increases in the 2022/23 budget far in excess of £258k. Please could you explain why there is such a difference between the recommendation to this meeting and the one being made to full council two days later? **The recommendations within the FEDCO report do not include the proposed spend and recommended use of reserves within the Council report as these have not as yet been approved.**
2. Table 2 on page 54 shows an increase of £159k in transfers from reserves between the ‘current budget’ and the latest ‘forecast spend’. What does this £159 relate to?

<b>Reserve movement</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Building Control trading account	(3)
New Burdens Grant funding (Additional resource in Finance)	55
In year use of IER grant funding	56
Corporate restructure exit costs	94
St Martin's Park- reduction in Business rates costs	(96)
Grantham SEA- Cemetery works	12
Stamford SEA- Outdoor Gym equipment ODD	7
Waste reserve	27
Member Training	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>159</b>

3. Table 2 shows a new total transfer from reserves of £2,468k but Appendix B on page 69 shows a forecast transfer from revenue reserves of £9,055k for the year. Please could you explain the difference? **Table 2 details the reserve funding for general fund revenue expenditure only whereas appendix B details the full forecast use of the reserves, including both revenue and capital spend.**
4. In section 4.2 table 6, it states that a £69k project for renovations at Stamford Arts Centre is no longer proceeding. What was that project? **Stamford foyer alterations**
5. In section 4.2 table 6, it also states that the terms and conditions attached to the Empingham Road s106 grants are unlikely to be met before 31/3/2023. Why is this considered unlikely. What is preventing the conditions being met? **The payment of this grant is dependent on the rugby club commencing construction of their new pavilion. Current projection is this is in the next financial year.**

6. In Appendix A, in the table headed Growth & Culture, a forecast variance is shown for the net budget. What are the forecast variances for income and the forecast variances for expenditure for each of the Arts venues?
7. In Appendix B, what do the forecast movements in the Local Priorities Reserve relate to?

<b>Reserve Movement</b>	<b>£'000</b>
New Homes Bonus Grant	924
Local Plan	(161)
Revenue funding	(776)
St Martin's Park	(500)
Capital Financing	(2,029)
<b>Total</b>	<b>(2,542)</b>

8. In Appendix B, why have we created a £500k inflation reserve as at 31/3/2022 from which we are forecasting that no monies move in or out for the next 4 years? **As per 9.2 of the report, this reserve was created to absorb cost pressures during the current financial year which is the proposal at year end dependent on the outturn.**
9. In Appendix B, the Useable Capital Receipts Reserve shows an increase of £2,322K in 2023/24 and £6,181k in 2024/25. What do these figures relate to? How much of these figures relates to the sale of St Martin's Park, and do they include the total expected capital receipts from St Martin's Park?

<b>Usable Capital Receipts Reserve Movement</b>	<b>£'000</b>
<b>2023/24</b>	
Council Offices	1,000
St Catherine's Road	640
St Martin's Park	1,452
Capital Financing	(770)
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>2,332</b>
<b>2024/25</b>	
St Martin's Park	(6,397)
Capital Financing	2,196
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,181</b>

10. How will the figures shown in Appendix B be affected by any decision made at full council to cancel the planned rebuilding of The Deepings' Leisure Centre? **The proposed expenditure would have been funded through borrowing so would not affect the reserve figures**
11. I note that whereas capital projections have been published up to 2025/26, there are no revenue budget projections provided for the same time period. I believe that this makes it very difficult for members of the council to make a fully informed decision on Deepings Leisure Centre at the meeting on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November.
12. Where does the liability to repay £1.3m to the Greater Lincolnshire LEP for monies unspent in relation to the Technology Innovation Centre project appear in Appendix B? **This had not been formally agreed at the point of publication.**