

EXECUTIVE

Minutes of a meeting of the Executive of the Bolsover District Council held in the Council Chamber, The Arc, Clowne, on Monday 11th September 2023 at 1000 hours.

PRESENT:-

Members:-

Councillor Steve Fritchley in the Chair

Councillors Duncan McGregor, Clive Moesby, Sandra Peake, and John Ritchie.

Officers:- Karen Hanson (Chief Executive), Jim Fieldsend (Monitoring Officer), Theresa Fletcher (Section 151 Officer), Pam Brown (Service Director Executive, Corporate Services and Partnerships), Steve Brunt (Strategic Director of Services), Kath Drury (Information, Engagement and Performance Manager) (to Minute No. EX28-23/24), Debora Whallett (Housing Enforcement Manager), Joanne Wilson (Housing Strategy and Development Officer) (to Minute No. EX27-23/24), Grant Galloway (Chief Executive, Dragonfly) (to Minute No. EX34-23/24), Natalie Etches (Business Growth Manager, Dragonfly) (to Minute No. EX34-23/24), Katie Walters (Head of Property Services, Dragonfly) (to Minute No. EX34-23/24) and Alison Bluff (Governance).

Also in attendance at the meeting was Councillor Tom Kirkham, and observing, were Councillors Phil Smith and Jane Yates.

EX22-23/24 APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received on behalf of Councillor Mary Dooley.

EX23-23/24 URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

There were no urgent items of business to consider.

EX24-23/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Minute Number	Member	Level of Interest
EX31-23/24	Councillor Steve Fritchley	Other registerable interest due to being a Director of Dragonfly Development Ltd
EX32-23/24	Councillor Steve Fritchley	Other registerable interest due to being a Director of Dragonfly Development Ltd

EXECUTIVE

EX25-23/24 MINUTES – 31ST JULY 2023

Moved by Councillor Duncan McGregor and seconded by Councillor Sandra Peake **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of an Executive meeting held on 31st July 2023 be approved as a correct record.

MATTERS REFERRED FROM SCRUTINY

EX26-23/24 LOCAL GROWTH SCRUTINY - RESPONSE TO OUTCOME OF LEVELLING UP FUND ROUND 2 APPLICATION

Executive considered a detailed report presented by Councillor Tom Kirkham, Chair of Local Growth Scrutiny Committee, in relation to the Committee's response to the outcome of the Levelling Up Fund Round 2 application, and also to present Scrutiny recommendations as a result of the outcome.

At their meeting held on 27th June 2023, Local Growth Scrutiny Committee had received an update from relevant officers regarding the failed outcome of the Round 2 Levelling Up Fund bid. The update provided the key findings of the review body, and the strengths and weaknesses of the Council's bid.

As a result of the feedback, Scrutiny had put together two recommendations for Executive's consideration.

1. That the creation of an internal group including representatives from Scrutiny, Leader's Executive and Partnership Team, Executive and Dragonfly to identify, action and jointly write bids for future opportunities available via national and regional funding streams be recommended to Executive.

2. Executive consider the allocation of additional financial resource to support future calls for grant funding both for Levelling Up Fund and other calls for funding to ensure the maximum investment for the District can be captured.

Referring to recommendation 1 above, the Service Director Executive, Corporate Services and Partnerships, advised Members of an existing Bolsover Partnership Commissioning Group, which identified, discussed, and actioned bids, and was administered by the Leader's Executive and Partnership Team. The group also included partners and stakeholders, and representatives of the Dragonfly Management Economic Development Team. Relevant Scrutiny Members would be welcomed to attend, and this would negate the need for the creation of a further internal group and avoid duplication of work. The Chief Executive added that she and the Service Director Executive, Corporate Services and Partnerships, would speak to Scrutiny Members about how they could be part of the commissioning group and be fully involved in any future external funding opportunities.

To provide some context to the outcome of the Council's bid, the Chief Executive noted there had been a lot of frustration locally and nationally regarding the Round 1 and 2 bids. Out of 834 Round 1 bids, only 216 were successful with 156 of these being English authorities, the rest were across the UK. In Round 2, 139 authorities

EXECUTIVE

were in priority 1 with 60% of these being successful and awarded £1.2b of a total of £1.7b. In the 2nd round specifically, £216b was awarded across 529 bids of which only 111 were successful. Chief Executives and councils had expressed their frustration and provided feedback to different government departments in relation to the amount of time, effort and huge expense taken in preparing bids, which potentially did not have much probability of being successful. Lessons had been learned and Round 3 was due to be revealed quite soon - hopefully, the Council would be in a better position to consider its approach going forward. Councillor Ritchie added that this particular bid had been supported and signed off by the MP for Bolsover.

Councillor Kirkham welcomed Scrutiny's involvement with the Bolsover Partnership Commissioning Group, however, he noted the meetings were only held informally and raised concern that as the Economic Development Team were now part of Dragonfly, who had their own missions and objectives, there was a risk they might also have access to funding opportunities and therefore checks and balances needed to be put in place. The Chief Executive, Dragonfly Management, replied that Dragonfly worked for the Council and its aims and ambitions were the same as the Council's, this was reflected in all service level agreements between the Council and Dragonfly. He added that Dragonfly were currently working on a proposal to ensure that any future bids were fully supported and funding in place to obtain relevant information to make bids successful. The Service Director Executive, Corporate Services and Partnerships further added that the Council's aims and ambitions were also part of the Sustainable Community Strategy, alongside the Council's Corporate Plan, which involved engagement with all key stakeholders and partners of the Council.

Moved by Councillor John Ritchie and seconded by Councillor Steve Fritchley
RESOLVED that 1) relevant Scrutiny Members be invited to attend future Bolsover Partnership commissioning group meetings alongside other partners and stakeholders, to identify, action, and jointly write bids for future opportunities available via local, regional, and national funding streams,

2) additional financial resource be allocated to support future calls for grant funding both for Levelling Up Fund and other calls for funding to ensure the maximum investment for the District could be captured.

(Service Director Executive, Corporate Services and Partnerships)

Reasons for Recommendation

To negate the need for the creation of a further internal group and avoid duplication of work, relevant Scrutiny Members be included in future Bolsover Partnership commissioning group meetings alongside other partners and stakeholders, to identify, action, and jointly write bids for future opportunities available via local, regional, and national funding streams.

The allocation of additional financial resource to support future calls for grant funding, as and when requested by officers, would enable the Council to develop bids of a higher quality ensuring maximum opportunity for securing investment.

EXECUTIVE

Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

Executive had found an alternative option to recommendation 1 of the Scrutiny report as detailed above.

The Housing Strategy and Development Officer left the meeting.

NON-KEY DECISIONS

EX27-23/24 DRAFT EQUALITY PLAN AND OBJECTIVES 2023 – 2027

Executive considered a detailed report which sought Members' approval and adoption of the Council's draft Equality Plan 2023-2027, and to note the achievements and progress made under the last two years of the previous plan (2019-2023).

The Council was required under the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) to set equality objectives every four years. These objectives were in addition to the Council's general duty obligations (eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not) under the Equality Act.

The Equality Plan 2023-2027 provided a framework for implementing the Council's obligations regarding the general and specific equality duties, and encompassed the range of protected characteristics as defined within the Equality Act 2010. The plan set out the Council's legal responsibilities, the Council's approach to equalities, a profile of the District and the workforce, the equality objectives, and actions to achieve them.

External consultation had been undertaken via the Citizens' Panel, the Council's website, and email subscriber groups during May 2023. 174 responses were received. Most respondents (between 88% and 97%) felt that there were no further actions to include under the three equality objectives. All suggestions and comments had been reviewed with some being added as actions. Other comments had been shared with relevant service areas for them to consider. Positive comments were received about the document design, readability, and content.

Moved by Councillor Duncan McGregor and seconded by Councillor Sandra Peake
RESOLVED that 1) the Equality Plan and objectives for 2023-2027 be approved and adopted,

2) the achievements and progress made under the previous plan (2019-2023) be noted.

Reasons for Recommendation

The equality objectives had received broad support.

The Council was required to prepare and publish equality objectives every four years

Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

EXECUTIVE

Not applicable as the Council was required to set equality objectives every four years.

The Information, Engagement and Performance Manager left the meeting.

EX28-23/24 TENANT ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

Executive considered a detailed report which sought Members' approval for a Tenant Engagement Strategy to help the Council establish a clear approach to tenant engagement and meet the requirements of the Regulator for Social Housing.

The Council's Tenant Engagement Strategy and action plan, attached at appendices 1 and 2 to the report respectively, had been developed with tenants of the Tenant Participation Review and Development Group over the past 12 months.

Councillor Peake advised Members that the Tenant Participation Review and Development Group had tried unsuccessfully, to encourage younger tenants to attend their meetings. Advertisements had been placed on the Council's website and InTouch magazine and an offer of holding meetings in the south of the District. The Housing Enforcement Manager added that the group would carry on with its efforts to attract younger tenants, especially in view of the new consumer standards, which would be in force next year.

Moved by Councillor Sandra Peake and seconded by Councillor Duncan McGregor **RESOLVED** that the Tenant Engagement Strategy be approved.

Reasons for Recommendation

The Tenant Engagement Strategy was required to ensure that the Council could continue to meet the requirement set by the Regulator of Social Housing and the expectations set out in the Housing White Paper.

Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

To not have an Engagement Strategy was rejected as it was a requirement for local authorities (under the Tenant Involvement and Empowerment Standard of the Regulatory Framework for Social Housing) to involve and engage their tenants and therefore to do nothing would place the Authority at risk of challenge.

EX29-23/24 ANNUAL LETTER FROM THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT & SOCIAL CARE OMBUDSMAN 2022/23

Executive considered a report in relation to the Annual Letter from the Local Government & Social Care Ombudsman (LGSCO) 2022/23.

The Annual Letter from the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (LGSCO) contained an annual summary of statistics on the complaints made against the Council for the financial year ending 31st March 2023. It was noted that the data provided by the LGSCO may not align with the data held by the Council because the LGSCO numbers included enquiries from people who had been signposted by the

EXECUTIVE

LGSCO back to the Council, but who may have then chosen not to pursue their complaint.

During 2022/23, the LGSCO received 3 enquiries and complaints. Two were closed after initial enquiries and one case was not upheld with no fault found.

A table in the report provided benchmarking information against neighbouring local authorities.

The Chief Executive noted that this was another excellent annual letter from the Ombudsman.

Moved by Councillor Steve Fritchley and seconded by Councillor Duncan McGregor **RESOLVED** that the Annual Letter from the Local Government & Social Care Ombudsman 2022/23 be noted.

Reasons for Recommendation

To note the overall performance and receive the report and the Annual Letter from the Local Government & Social Care Ombudsman 2022/23.

Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

None.

EX30-23/24 REVIEW OF ECONOMIC LOAN FUND & EXCEPTIONAL LOAN REQUEST

Executive considered a detailed report which provided a review of the Economic Loan Fund (ELF) and sought Members' approval for an exceptional loan request.

The ELF was launched in September 2020, offering small and medium-sized businesses the option of taking out a loan from the Council of between £2,000 and £10,000 over variable repayment periods. A year after its launch, a review of the ELF was reported to Executive in October 2021. At that time, only one £10,000 loan had been agreed but the report noted the availability of COVID grant funding may have softened demand for the facility. The report recommended a further review of the scheme at the end of the 2021/2022 financial year or once all funding for the ELF had been committed. However, the current situation was that £140,000 remained in reserve for the ELF compared to the original £150,000 earmarked for this purpose, and it remained the case that only one £10,000 loan had been made since its launch in 2020.

Platform Thirty1, a well-established not for profit organisation, were seeking a loan of £25,000 to allow the organisation to manage a funding award of £249,999 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). The loan would solve a cashflow problem resulting from payment of the funding award being made in arrears. The funding award was for the Home Truths project, which was an extension of the activities that Platform Thirty1 were already carrying out in the District, primarily the Greater Creative programme in Blackwell.

EXECUTIVE

The Home Truths project would include a suite of innovative activities designed to unlock, capture, curate and celebrate local heritage in such a way that would bring generations together, develop community leaders and enhance the local environment. The project aimed to provide an ex-industrial working-class community with rich, locally owned heritage resources to mirror their rich, industrial heritage past, and have the opportunity to develop their skills and voices as they worked with professionals to co-create projects that were meaningful to them. Therefore, the programme aligned with the Council's own ambitions for empowering communities to improve their own lives and the environmental quality of the places they lived.

Moved by Councillor John Ritchie and seconded by Councillor Duncan McGregor
RESOLVED that a loan of £25,000 to Platform Thirty1 from the Economic Loan Fund (ELF) subject to completion of an appropriate loan agreement and subject to the normal conditions of the Economic Loan Fund be approved.

Reasons for Recommendation

Platform Thirty1 were a well-established not for profit organisation that had a track record of delivery in the District and was demonstrably financially sound. The loan was to maintain cashflow and was effectively secured against a much larger funding award.

The loan would facilitate the release of the funding award and result in a £300,000 investment in the District, which would be used to fund a series of community activities over three years that would be free to residents. The community activities that had already taken place were valued by the local community and had resulted in significant socio-economic and environmental benefits. It was therefore considered that the individual merits of this proposal warranted consideration of an exception to the upper limit normally attached to the ELF because the loan would be made at relatively low risk to the Council, it would make good use of an underutilised reserve; and it would unlock £300,000 of funding, which would be spent in the District for the benefit of our local communities and their local environment.

Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

To refuse to consider a loan facility was rejected because of the adverse impact of losing the £300,000 investment in the District.

To invest £25,000 in the company was rejected because this money would not be used to pay for a service.

Having previously declared his interest in the following two items of business, Councillor Steve Fritchley left the meeting.

KEY DECISIONS

EX31-23/24 BOLSOVER HOMES SCHEME – PARK LANE, PINXTON

Executive considered a detailed report which sought Member's approval to allow Dragonfly Development Limited to deliver the Park Lane, Pinxton scheme using the existing Bolsover Homes budget.

EXECUTIVE

Council had previously agreed to allocate capital funds of £36.2m to deliver Bolsover Homes schemes with the stipulation that a report be presented to the Executive for each scheme after planning permission had been awarded, viability study presented, external value statement received, and costs agreed. Only once agreed could contracts for scheme(s) be entered into.

Part of the Council's ambition was to develop the affordable housing scheme at Park Lane, Pinxton ("Park Lane"). However, this site was not included within the Bolsover Homes work programme when agreed by Council in July 2020. In addition, the land was transferred to Dragonfly Development Limited in 2019, in anticipation of an open market housing scheme. In order to develop the land as part of the Bolsover Homes scheme, an agreement from Council was required and Dragonfly Development would also need to transfer the land back to the Council.

The scheme proposed to deliver 11 much needed social/affordable rental properties comprising 4 two-bedroom houses, and 7 three-bedroom houses, all built to Nationally Designed Space Standards. The layout was shown in Appendix 2 to the report. As this was a new layout with more properties, an application for planning permission would have to be submitted, however, it was expected that planning permission would be granted. If approval were not granted, the scheme would not be able to proceed.

The properties would be designed to the principles of lifetime homes and places for people, and built to a high standard of quality to enhance the area. The Council's Housing Management Service had confirmed there was a need for good quality two and three bedroom rented properties within Pinxton and that the scheme would be acceptable to them.

In response to a Member's query regarding paragraph 2.8 of the report, the Chief Executive, Dragonfly Management, replied that it was possible to receive potential funding from both the LEP and Homes England, however, if both required a housing output from the scheme, then only one of the funding streams would be possible.

Moved by Councillor Sandra Peake and seconded by Councillor John Ritchie

RESOLVED that 1) Dragonfly Development Limited be approved as contractor to construct the 11 new homes at Park Lane, Pinxton as described in the report using a budget of £3,100,000 from the Bolsover Homes budget, supplemented with funding, subject to the following being achieved:

- D2N2 funding being granted
- Planning permission being granted
- A market competitiveness statement in respect of the construction costs
- A report to Council as mentioned in recommendation 2

2) that a report be submitted to Council to update the schemes included in the Bolsover Homes pipeline funding envelope of £36.2m for the Park Lane, Pinxton scheme, which was currently not included.

EXECUTIVE

Reasons for Recommendations

- To try to find solutions to the growing demand for affordable housing.
- To build on the work done on the future homes model and keep Bolsover in front of the curve.
- To ensure the D2N2 funding opportunity was not lost.
- To help the Council to transition to net zero by 2050 through decarbonisation of its housing stock.
- To trial the use of this modern method of construction which if proved successful could be a trail blazer for future schemes in the UK and could be used to make the Council's smaller sites less expensive.

Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

Executive could choose not to support the development, but this would not help to achieve the Council's agreed ambition of building affordable housing properties and would leave a stalled site at Pinxton, which in the future might not be able to attract the levels of funding that were possible at present. More specifically this would not help to meet the current demand for affordable housing in Pinxton.

Executive could choose to delay its decision until planning permission had been achieved. As above this could impact funding of the D2N2 award.

EX32-23/24

BOLSOVER HOMES SCHEME – WOBURN CLOSE CLUSTER, BLACKWELL

Executive considered a detailed report which sought Members' approval to carry out demolition work, and construction of 45 new dwellings at the Woburn Close Cluster scheme.

The scheme at Woburn Close would provide a replacement independent living scheme comprising of 20 self-contained flats together with a mix of 23 houses and bungalows, and a further 2 properties at a nearby disused parking area at Pendean Close. Appendix 2 to the report provided the site layout and a summary of the type and number of properties for Woburn Close, and Appendix 3 for Pendean Close.

Planning permission had been obtained for Woburn Close and it was hoped to start on site in March 2024. Planning permission had not been obtained for the two bungalows at Pendean Close, however, pre application advice was favourable. If permission were not granted, they would be removed from the scheme and the costs revised downwards.

To date, the bungalows at Woburn Close had been vacated in readiness for demolition (budget approved at Executive on 31st of July 2023). The independent living scheme remained partially occupied by residents who intended to move to the newly developed independent living scheme. If approval were given to demolish the remainder of the site this would save on empty properties council tax which was currently a cost to the Housing Revenue Account.

EXECUTIVE

Moved by Councillor Sandra Peake and seconded by Councillor John Ritchie

RESOLVED that 1) the capital expenditure budget as outlined within the report to deliver the Woburn Close affordable housing building scheme in the amount of £5,944,592.11 for the houses and bungalows and £5,637,982.58 for the Independent Living Scheme be approved,

2) an expenditure budget as outlined within the report to deliver the Pendean Close affordable housing building scheme, subject to planning permission being granted, be approved,

3) the Council enters into contract with Dragonfly Development Limited for the development of the Woburn Close Cluster as outlined in the report.

Reasons for Recommendation

- To continue to meet the growing demand for affordable housing in the District.
- To develop a fit for purposes independent living scheme in the south of the District.
- To deliver a more affordable rental residential development in the south of the District.
- To enable demolition to save the HRA the cost of Council Tax on empty properties.
- To give the best chance of achieving Homes England funding by ensuring scheme completion before March 2026.

Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

The Council could decide not to proceed with the scheme, but this would mean that there was only provision of one independent living scheme in the south of the District when there was an identified demand for more provision.

The Council could decide to delay its decision to see if prices in the construction market fell to levels which would make the scheme more viable. However, if a decision were not made there was a chance that Homes England funding could be lost which would mean that prices in the market would have to drop much lower.

The Business Growth Manager, Dragonfly Management Ltd) and the Head of Property Services, Dragonfly Development Ltd left the meeting.

Councillor Steve Fritchley returned to the meeting.

EX33-23/24

LEASE AGREEMENT FOR VISION WEST NOTTS COLLEGE AT PLEASLEY VALE BUSINESS PARK

Executive considered a detailed report which sought Members' approval to accept £500,000 of funding from D2N2 (the Local Enterprise Partnership) to invest in Pleasley Vale Business Park and facilitate a lease agreement with Vision West Notts College. Members' approval was also sought for a ten-year lease with Vision West Notts College for vacant space at Pleasley Vale Business Park.

EXECUTIVE

The value of the income generated over the term of the lease exceeded the key decision threshold, therefore, approval of Executive was required to enable the formal heads of terms to be prepared, for Legal to be instructed on the preparation of the lease, and to issue the lease to the tenant for signing.

The report further provided reasons why a new building originally proposed on Portland Drive, Shirebrook, was no longer viable and that alternative options of a proposal to potentially convert an existing commercial building on Vernon Street, Shirebrook, which D2N2 had been supportive of, was also no longer viable. It had therefore been necessary to reconsider a further alternative which involved Vision West Notts College delivering a green skills training and assessment centre at Pleasley Mills Business Park.

Members welcomed the report.

Moved by Councillor John Ritchie and seconded by Councillor Duncan McGregor **RESOLVED** that 1) the letting of the space on the 3rd floor of Mill 3, Pleasley Vale Business Park to West Notts College on the terms set out in the report, be approved,

2) negotiation of the break clause and the associated clawback and compensation clauses be delegated to the Director of Development of Dragonfly Development Limited in consultation with the Council's Chief Executive,

3) that the lease would contribute to the promotion or improvement of the economic, social, and environmental well-being of the area be noted,

4) the Council enters into a funding agreement with the LEP-D2N2 for the grant funding to deliver the Future Skills Hub at Pleasley Vale Business Park on terms to be agreed by the Chief Executive.

Reasons for Recommendation

The office accommodation which West Notts College were interested in had been vacant for a number of years with no other interested parties wanting to let the space. It was a large office space with no demand from the market for such a size / use / class.

The investment would significantly improve the premises which are currently in a poor state of repair.

The rental income generated would be secured for the 10-year term of the lease. In addition, the business rate liability, approximately £14,870 per annum, would be paid by the tenant. This was currently being paid by the Council.

The provision of a Future Skills Hub at Pleasley Vale Business Park would enhance the post-16 provision in the District, the letting was strategically important to meeting the growth ambitions of the Council. It opened up new spin off commercial ventures by working in collaboration with existing tenants, for example, Napit, to develop a

EXECUTIVE

technology campus which would further boost the vocational and technological skills for young people and upskilling the existing workforce.

Accepting these proposals would not meaningfully compromise redevelopment of Pleasley Mills.

Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

To advise D2N2 the grant funding was no longer required was rejected because this would mean losing an investment of £500,000 into the District and subsequently, not realising the benefits of the creation of a Future Skills Hub when the District was already at risk of falling behind in green skills.

Not to proceed with the tenancy and leave the space vacant awaiting further interest. This option was rejected as the space has been vacant for a number of years and there were currently no other interested parties. The business rate liability would also remain with the Council at a cost to the Council of around £14,870 per annum. This would also result in a loss of grant funding investment into the District by the LEP to support the provision of post-16 education.

To offer a standard 3-year tenancy to the interested party - this option was discounted as the tenant needs a longer-term lease to make their investment in the premises viable.

BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK ITEMS

EX34-23/24 FINANCIAL OUTTURN 2022/23

Executive considered a detailed report which informed Members of the financial outturn position of the Council for the 2022/23 financial year.

The report considered the 2022/23 outturn position in respect of the General Fund, the Housing Revenue Account (HRA), the Capital Programme and the Treasury Management activities. Consideration was also given to the level of balances at the year end and the impact which the closing position had upon the Council's budgets in respect of the current financial year.

Members were asked to note that the Council had published its draft Statement of Accounts in respect of 2022/23 on 19th May 2023. The statutory deadline of 31st May was reinstated in 2023, for the first time since before the Covid-19 pandemic. The draft Statement of Accounts 2022/23 was now subject to the independent audit from the Council's external auditors, Mazars, and would be undertaken remotely throughout July and August. The statutory date for the final audited accounts had been extended from 31st July to 30th September 2023, for all local government to try to ease the pressure on auditors and finance teams who had in some cases two years' where the audit opinion was outstanding on the accounts.

Until the accounts had been agreed by Mazars, there remained the possibility that they would be subject to amendment.

EXECUTIVE

The audit opinion on the 2021/22 accounts was received on 28th November 2022, and was included in the 12% of local government audits that were completed by the 30th November 2022 deadline.

International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) dictated that the main focus of the Statement of Accounts was on reporting to the public in a format which was directly comparable with every country that had adopted IFRS, i.e., not just the UK or even other local authorities. By contrast, the focus of the report was on providing management information to Members and other stakeholders to assist in the financial management of the Council.

Moved by Councillor Clive Moesby and seconded by Councillor Duncan McGregor **RESOLVED** that 1) the outturn position in respect of the 2022/23 financial year be noted,

2) the transfers to earmarked reserves of £1.955m and £0.043m as outlined in detail in paragraphs 2.3 and 2.17 respectively in the report, be approved,

3) the proposed carry forward of capital budgets detailed in Appendix 4 to the report, totalling £10.173m be approved.

Reasons for Recommendation

As detailed in the report.

Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

The financial outturn report for 2022/23 was primarily a factual report which detailed the outcome of previously approved budgets therefore there were no alternative options that needed to be considered.

The allocation of resources to earmarked reserve accounts had been undertaken in line with the Council's policy and service delivery framework and in the light of the risks and issues facing the Council over the period of the current MTFP. If these risks did not materialise or were settled at a lower cost than anticipated, then the earmarked reserves would be reassessed and returned to balances where appropriate.

EX35-23/24 BUDGET MONITORING

Executive considered a detailed report which provided the current financial position following the 2023/24 Quarter 1 monitoring exercise, for the General Fund, the Housing Revenue Account, Capital Programme and Treasury Management activity. From 1st April 2023, a number of Council services were transferred into Dragonfly Developments, the Council's wholly owned company. Dragonfly Developments would be responsible for operating the following services on behalf of the Council under service level agreements:

- Economic Development
- Facilities Management
- Property/Commercial Asset Management

EXECUTIVE

- Property Services and Estates
- Repairs and Maintenance
- Tourism

To ensure effective financial management continued to take place regarding the transferred services, the structure of services within the Council's financial management system had been changed. Previous MTFP reports to Members showed services in either the Resources Directorate or Strategy and Development Directorate. For the purposes of this report, the services transferred into Dragonfly were shown on appendices 1, 2 and 4 as Dragonfly Services. The remainder of the Council's services were shown in the Community Services Directorate if they were outward facing services or the Corporate Resources Directorate if they were internal support services.

The Medium-Term Financial Strategy, approved in July 2023, stated that it was the Council's intention to monitor the budgets of services transferred into Dragonfly Developments, as part of the budget monitoring process.

Moved by Councillor Clive Moesby and seconded by Councillor Duncan McGregor
RESOLVED that 1) the monitoring position of the General Fund at the end of the first quarter as detailed on Appendix 1 (a net favourable variance of £0.512m against the profiled budget) and the key issues highlighted within the report be noted,

2) the position on the Housing Revenue Account (HRA), the Capital Programme and Treasury Management at the end of the first quarter (Appendices 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6) be noted.

Reasons for Recommendation

The report summarised the financial position of the Council following the first quarter's budget monitoring exercise for the General Fund, the Housing Revenue Account, Capital Programme and Treasury Management activity.

The Medium-Term Financial Strategy approved in July 2023, stated that it was the Council's intention to monitor the budgets of services transferred into Dragonfly Developments as part of the budget monitoring process.

Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

The Budget Monitoring report for 2023/24 was primarily a factual report which detailed progress against previously approved budgets. Accordingly, there were no alternative options to consider.

The meeting concluded at 1105 hours.