

Finance & Investment Portfolio
Update for Scrutiny Committee – 19th January 2023

The nine months since last appearing before the Scrutiny Committee have seen the:

- continued delivery of a balanced ten year budget;
- management of inflationary pressures;
- above budgeted 2022/23 pay award funded;
- comprehensive review of discretionary income;
- quintupling of treasury management income;
- examination and progression of placemaking and regeneration opportunities;
- implementation of HM Government’s Council Tax Energy Rebate and Household Support Fund;
- conclusion of HM Government’s Covid related business grants;
- disposal of surplus land at Oakhill Road, Alder Way and Russet Way;
- establishment of a Council Tax relief to incentivise the development of certified Passivhaus ‘Classic’, ‘Plus’ and ‘Premium’ homes in support of our Net Zero 2030 commitment;
- launch of the Rural England Prosperity Fund, bringing UK Shared Prosperity Fund investment in the District to over £1.5m in 2023/24 and 2024/25 alone;
- streamlining of the budget process;
- noting by Council of the Local Government Association Peer Challenge’s findings, and subsequently implementing the Peer Challenge Team’s recommendations;
- appointment of two independent members to the Audit Committee;
- leasing of refuse freighters to upgrade our fleet earlier than previously planned;
- Council remain in a stronger position than much of the rest of the sector but recognition too that we are not able to, nor should we, rest on our laurels.

As ever, I am indebted to officers and Member colleagues for their sterling work, support and good humour.

Matthew Dickins
Portfolio Holder for Finance & Investment
January 2023