

Financial Resilience Sub-Committee

Minutes of a meeting of the **Financial Resilience Sub-Committee** held on **Monday 9 November 2020** at **10.30 am**, facilitated by Microsoft Teams.

Present

Councillors

Chair Ian Houlder

Victor Lukaniuk

Substitutes attending for a full member

Robert Nobbs

In attendance

Sarah Broughton, Cabinet Member for Resources and Performance

19. **Substitutes**

The following substitution was declared:

Councillor Robert Nobbs substituting for Councillor Elaine McManus.

20. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Elaine McManus.

21. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 2020 were confirmed as a correct record by the Chair.

22. **Declarations of interest**

Members' declarations of interest are recorded under the item to which the declaration relates.

23. **Financial Resilience - September 2020**

The Sub-Committee received Report number FRS/WS/20/003, which reported on the investment activities of West Suffolk Council from 1 April 2020 to 30 September 2020.

The total amount invested at 1 April 2020 was £29,990,000 and at 30 September 2020 it was £27,900,00.

The 2020 to 2021 Annual Treasury Management and Investment Strategy Statements approved on 25 February 2020, sets out the Council's projections

for the current financial year. The budget for investment income for 2020 to 2021 was £142,141, which was based on a 0.65% target average rate of return on investments.

As at the end of September 2020, interest actually earned during the first half of the financial year amounted to £54,297.81 (average rate of return of 0.398%) against a profiled budget for the period of £71,070, (average rate of return of 0.65%), a budgetary deficit of £16,772.69. The deficit related to continued low interest rates as a result of the Covid-19 -pandemic which started in mid-March 2020.

The report also included a summary of the capital borrowing budget 2020 to 2021; borrowing and income – proportionality; borrowing and asset yields; borrowing and temporary loans and other market considerations.

The Sub-Committee scrutinised the report in detail, and asked questions to which responses were provided. In particular discussions were held on the low interest rates currently available and debt collection relating to industrial and retail units.

In response to a question raised regarding car park income and what was the collection cost per month, officers agreed to provide a written response.

In response to a question raised regarding the solar farm performance and investment return for 2019 to 2020, officers agreed to provide a written response on the financial figures for members.

It was the proposed by Councillor Victor Lukaniuk, seconded by Councillor Ian Houlder, and with the vote being unanimous, it was

RECOMMENDED:

That subject to the approval of Cabinet and Council, the Financial Resilience Report (September 2020), being report number FRS/WS/20/003, be approved.

24. Dates of future meetings

The Sub-Committee noted the dates for future meeting(s), as listed below. All dates were Mondays starting at 10.30am and would be held as indicated:

- 18 January 2021 via Microsoft Teams.

The meeting concluded at 11.13am

Signed by:

Chair
