

Consultation

The views of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee were requested at the meeting on 4 October 2022 on the following areas and are provided below:

The policy related to any 'windfalls' or additional resources from further delays in Local Government Finance Reform

- The potential for investment in addressing the employment gap between the able bodied and those with disabilities should be considered.
- Any further funding necessary to deliver the leisure centre should be identified from alternative sources.

The review of reserves

- No specific views.

Capital investment priorities

- The level of further capital investment in the Birmingham Road Site should be taken in the context of the investment needs of the wider District including investment in Burntwood Town Centre.
- Any capital investment in a new Depot should only be considered when the new National Waste Strategy is implemented.
- Capital investment in Bird Street should not be a priority at present.
- Initiatives aimed at both achieving the climate change pledge such as solar farms, and that provide income streams to the Council should be considered a priority.
- The Greenway should be a priority if it enables connectivity around the District for instance to Chasewater and the Cathedral and promotes active travel.
- Any investment requirement in Closed Circuit Television should reflect areas with demonstrable need and the Council should also seek funding from the Police and Fire Commissioner.

The Review of the Local Council Tax Support Scheme

- No specific views.

The potential level of the District's Council Tax increase for 2023/24

- Options in relation to a freeze in 2023/24 followed by 1.5% in later years and a freeze in 2023/24 followed by 2% in later years should be considered and modelled.

Other Views

- The Council should seek clarity from Government on the Energy Bill Relief Scheme for Businesses and other Non-Domestic Customers given it is only for a limited time period.