

CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 20 FEBRUARY 2024

41. APPROACH TO TRANSFORMATION

The Strategic Director of Resources presented the report.

A discussion was had about the £500,000 budgeted within the report. Members felt that it was a large amount of money and seemed a somewhat arbitrary figure. The Strategic Director of Resources advised that this was a preparatory budget for the steering group, which had only met once.

A Member was concerned that asking Heads of Service did not seem that proactive, that the steering group might struggle with capacity, and that she would expect to see a clearer plan. The Strategic Director of Resources advised that Officers would develop clear intentions throughout the Transformation Programme and that the report before them was a starting point. He also clarified for Members that the process would be director-led, but Officers would be invited to contribute at appropriate junctures.

Several Members discussed the importance of monitoring the Transformation Programme, including a breakdown of how the budgeted £500,000 was spent, what the aims of the process were as they developed, and how successfully these aims were achieved. The Strategic Director of Resources concurred and repeatedly emphasised to Members the importance of having robust monitoring procedures in place. The Corporate Scrutiny Committee would play an important role in this process, savings would be tracked by the Finance Team, and efficiencies would be targeted with clear KPIs. The Strategic Director also advised that Officers had been and would be consulting with the Local Government Association and other Local Authorities.

A Member suggested that it was important to examine how capital could be invested to increase revenues for the Council, so the focus was not solely on cutting spending on services.

The Chair felt that the Transformation Steering Group's terms of reference were actually just aims and that greater consideration needed to be given to how performance would actually be measured and monitored.

The Chair thanked Members for their comments.