

**Special Corporate Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel - Tuesday**  
**30<sup>th</sup> June 2020**

**REPORT TO CABINET 2<sup>ND</sup> JULY 2020**

**Meeting Summary and Recommendations on COVID-19 2020/21 FINANCIAL RECOVERY PLAN**

The Panel acknowledged the report that had been submitted to them and thanked the officers for their time taken to prepare and present it.

Detailed questioning was undertaken by the Panel and they raised points on a number of matters during the discussion of the report including:

- Income to the Council
  - What % of activity may return and when?
  - Council Tax collection fund
  - Business Rates income
  - Reintroduction of Parking Charges
  
- Financial Recovery Plans
  - Directorate recovery measures
  - Use of un-earmarked Council reserves and comparisons with other councils
  - MHCLG additional support
  - Noted auditors aware
  
- The Commercial Estate
  
- Council's Capital Programme
  
- Implications for the Council's Budget 2021 / 22
  
- Second Wave / Spike Preparations – should one occur

The meeting concluded with the Panel agreeing the following recommendations.

The Panel **RESOLVED** that it;

- (i) Commends the overall shape of the recovery plan, given the balance shown between the use of reserves, assumptions over Government funding and reduction in spending.

- (ii) Asks the Cabinet to consider the implications on the Council's Commercial Estate business tenants with regard to the timing of seeking rent arrears to be paid by the end of the year.
- (iii) Asks the Cabinet to review parking charges whilst being mindful of Climate Emergency issues.
- (iv) Asks the Cabinet to directly reference the points raised by the Cabinet Member for Resources, Councillor Richard Samuel during the debate in relation to the Council's future plans / assumptions. In particular;
  - Income levels to the Council that it has grown to rely on will not return by next year.
  - Parking income may return sooner as people are likely to be less reliant on public transport.
  - Heritage income will not return to its previous levels for some time due to the likelihood of some form of social distancing being in place over the next twelve months.
  - The Commercial Estate may take around five years to return to its previous levels of income.