

## Council – 19<sup>th</sup> October 2023

### Agenda Item 11: Notice of Motion Amendment: Southend Council Financial Situation

Under the last Joint Administration, their April 2022 – April 2023 budget was £6.835 Million overspent and a recent Cabinet paper reported that the budget that they set and voted for in February 2023 and came into effect from April 2023 is current running at a projected overspend of £14 Million with £13.4m of this sitting in Adult Social Care and Children's Services.

It is currently the worst financial position that this Council has ever faced since it became a Unitary Authority in 1998, though the Council remains in a relatively financially resilient position.

#### This Council therefore:

- 1 Notes the last Joint Administration's April 2022 – April 2023 budget was £6.835m overspent, this was reduced in-year from a projected £14.484m overspend.
- 2 Notes that the last Joint Administration set and voted for the current budget in February 2023 and is running at a current year-end projected overspend of £14 Million, with £13.4m of this sitting in Adult Social Care and Children's Services.
- 3 Notes that on 21st October 2022 the Chairman of the Local Government Association (LGA) and the leaders of all the political groups on the LGA wrote to the Chancellor regarding the tough financial positions facing local government due to short funding settlements and cost of adult social care.
- 4 Notes that independent national analysis suggests that as many as 1 in 6 local authorities could run out of money in 2023/24 without substantial additional funding.
- 5 Resolves that the Council takes appropriate measures to reduce the current deficit by working cross-party to determine and realise savings, build upon 'The Dozen Principles' as instigated by the Section 151 Officer, to address and reduce the deficit in 2022/2023 as well as instruct **the Leaders of all the Groups** to urgently write to the Prime Minister, Chancellor, and Secretary of State for Local Government asking that Government recognises that even with drastic cuts, local councils are struggling to afford statutory services and resolves to put local councils on a long-term sustainable financial footing by providing:
  - Funding that keeps pace with the growing demand for adults and children's services
  - Fully funding social care
  - Properly funding Special Educational Needs provisions

**Proposed By:** Cllr Cowan

**Seconded By:** Cllr Collins