# Ward member Report to Parish Councils in Tysoe Ward.

# 06-11-2024

# State of the District

The State of the District is reported on an annual basis and forms part of the decision and planning process for resource allocation at SDC.

## Population

It is no surprise that the District has a ageing population with nearly 50% over the age of 49, 25% 65+, and only 15% under 18 of the just under the estimated 142,000.

## Business

The latest figures available are for 2023 which showed just over 8,500 businesses in the Stratford District with 8.8% in agriculture.

## Housing

At the end of March 2024 there were 66,405 dwellings in the District of which new were 1,435.

The Median House Price in the District is £375,000 compared to £290,000 for England as a whole, of which 71% are Owner Occupied. The median cost of Rental properties increased by 13% [£100 per month] since the end of March 2023.

Across the District it is estimated that 2,267 properties are vacant. 6% of vacant properties are owned by Housing Associations and 66% of these are long term vacant. As Social Housing is a major issue in the District, this situation needs to be addressed.

## Poverty & Cost of Living Crisis

76% of all adults in the District are employed of which 23% are self-employed.

There are a number of indicators highlighting Living Poverty. They include:

* Fuel Poverty
* Receiving Low Income or Unemployment benefits
* Renting private housing in combination with either of the above.

The most up-to-date data is for 2022 which means that the numbers living in poverty in the District will have risen from the 16.5% of households. In August of this year 9,312 people were claiming Universal Credit of which 4,004 were in employment.

In Tysoe Ward in August 2024 80 people are receiving UC of which 17 are in employment.

## Crime

Recorded Crimes in the District were 7,904 (to July 2024) or 60 crimes per 1,000 residents of which 24 per 1,000 residents were Violent or Sexual offences and 6 per1,000 vehicle crime.

# Finance

# Summary

Overall performance to Budget looks positive, but the predicted favourable outturn hides problems within the overall operation of the Council. A fundamental problem is that this Administration is not pushing forward with promised project completions.

At a ‘Top Down’ level, un-forecast positive Outturns mask underlining issues that should be addressed.

# Capital Budget

In February 2024 the LibDem led council agreed a capital expenditure in 2024/25 of £1,735.000. With slippage of projects from 2023/24 and S106 the current budgeted expenditure is £7,921,331.

Accumulated capital receipts and capital grants at the beginning of FY 2024/25 was £6,226,768. Therefore, a further £205,000 will be require a budgeted Capital Finance movement.

Looking at actual spend, and therefore budgeted projects completion this Council is very much under performing and failing to deliver on programmed projects.

Of the S.106 funds held of £12,500,000 only £974,000 has been achieved. Committed CIL money of £3.1m still has £1.2m unallocated.

# Revenue Budget

The estimated outturn at the end of FY2024/25 is a favourable £685k. This number, however, hides the poor forecast performance of a number of revenue streams.

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| Unfavourable Forecast 2024/25Outturns |  |  |
| Council Tax | £50k | Debt collection Fees |
| Housing Benefit Admin | £25k | Hired Services |
| Housing Benefits | £75k | Under recovery of overpayments & shortfall in Subsidy |
| Planning & Enforcement | £100k | Reduction in Reduced Planning Income & CIL admin |
| Leisure Centres | £20k | Repair Costs |
| Off-Street Parking | £85k |  |
| Parks & Playing fields | £40k | Damage to facilities following floods |
| Property | £40k | Work schedule backlog |
| Refuse Collection | £75k | Value of recycled materials below forecast |
| Legal Services | £20k | Agency Costs |
| Resources | £40k | Agency Costs |
| Total | £570k |  |

There are several favourable forecast outturns. Notably Interest Income from deposited Reserves of £933k due to good investment management left over from the Conservative Administration prior to May 2023. The effect of the current budget may halt the reduction in interest earnings; however this is not likely to be a long-term positive revenue stream as funds are reduced to manage shortfalls in

other revenue streams and the BoE is likely to reduce interest rates this month and inflation set to rise from this Governments actions.

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| Effect on Revenue Reserves – General Reserve Account |  |
| Opening Balance April 2024 | £13,062,463 |
| Contributions to General Reserve [Feb 2024] | £ 2,550,853 |
| Earmarked reserves funding [Feb 2024] | (£ 4,331,000) |
| Estimated Outturn Position | £11,967,316 |