



Present **Members: Alderman Scott, Councillor McQuillan, Councillor Peacock**

Officers: D Wright, Chief Finance Officer

Agenda No.	Item	ACTION
1.	Apologies	
	Alderman Callan, Alderman S McKillop, Councillor Mairs	
2.	Declarations of Interest	
	David Wright – Item 5 Employer Discretions Policy	
3.	Minutes of previous FWG	
	Noted	
4.	Leisure VAT update	
	<p>CFO provided a verbal update including background, leisure activities which would be included in the VAT claim and the approximate amount which Council could expect to receive.</p> <p>Discussion ensued regarding how customers may be affected in relation to pricing of leisure activities and how the income from the claim could potentially be used.</p> <p>CFO responded to questions stating that VAT relief is applied to Council due to the statutory obligation to provide leisure activities; that this year is business as usual and any claim made will be seen in year; and that inflationary costs are usually made in line with inflation. CFO</p>	

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	<p>confirmed that any price increases to leisure activities will need to go through the Leisure and Development Committee.</p> <p>In responding to questions the CFO explained the breakdown of the VAT claim and which activities the claim would mainly come from.</p>	
5.	Employer Discretions Policy	
	<p>CFO advised that there is a variety of discretions an employer can offer and provided some examples. CFO highlighted that redundancy is something that needs to be addressed; there is not a redundancy policy in place and tis is something that needs to be put in place. CFO advised a report can be presented containing 4 options.</p> <p>In response to questions the CFO advised he can query what other Councils are doing in relation to redundancy and provide the information in the report. It was stated there is potential for a structural review and the redundancy policy needs to be in place before the structural review.</p>	CFO
6.	A.O.B.	
	<p>In response to questions the CFO advised that the reduction in electricity costs will hopefully be seen over the winter months when there is more used – currently Council are on budget for energy use. CFO also advised that a report for car parking charges will be brought to the rates workshop on 29th November 2023.</p>	
7.	Date of Next Meeting	
	TBC	

This being all the business the meeting closed at 6:50pm