CABINET

MINUTES OF MEETING
Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 25th July 2017

PRESENT: Councillor Farnell (in the Chair); Councillors Iftikhar Ahmed, Beswick, Brett, Neil Emmott, Emsley, Peter Williams, Heakin (substituting for Councillor Martin) and Hornby (substituting for Councillor Daalat Ali).

OFFICERS: S. Rumbelow (Chief Executive), M. Widdup (Director of Neighbourhoods), S. Downey (Director of Adult Care), G. Hopper (Director of Children’s Services), S. McIvor (Joint Director of Integrated Commissioning), A. Fallon (Director of Public Health), V. Bradshaw (Assistant Director – Finance), J. Rooney (Assistant Director – Information, Customers and Communities), D. Bowler (Assistant Director – Place), M. Robinson (Assistant Director – Planning and Development), J. Butterworth (Economy Directorate), B. Adams (Children’s Directorate), K. McKenzie and P. Thompson (Resources Directorate).

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: two members of the public.

APOLOGIES
20 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Daalat Ali and Martin.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
21 There were no declarations of interests.

URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS
22 The Chair advised that an additional item of business entitled ‘Future of the Section 48 AGMA Grants Scheme’, should be accepted onto the agenda as a late item on the grounds that any delay likely to be caused in not considering the item would prejudice the processing of grants by the 10 constituent local authorities in Greater Manchester that comprise AGMA.

Decision:
The report ‘Future of the Section 48 AGMA Grants Scheme’, be accepted onto the agenda.

FUTURE OF THE SECTION 48 AGMA GRANTS SCHEME
23 The Cabinet considered a report of the Chief Executive which advised that the AGMA Executive operated a grant scheme under Section 48 of the Local Government Act 1985 (“the 1985 Act”) on behalf of the ten Greater Manchester district councils. The current 2015/18 programme of grant funding to “eligible voluntary organisations” (was defined in the 1985 Act) was agreed in December 2014 by AGMA Executive and was for a three year period. Initially funding was only guaranteed for the first year, with funding for years 2 and 3 of the programme being subject to the availability of funds. However, ultimately all three years are to be funded. The scheme is currently in year 2
of the current three year funding cycle, which is due to end at the finish of the 2017/18 financial year. Funding for year 3 was agreed at the joint AGMA/GMCA Executive Board on 16th December 2016. The total funding for the three year programme is £9,943,906, including a total of £210,000 for programme management support.

AGMA Leaders had previously suggested that they would like to review options for the development of a new programme for culture under the GMCA, with a view to aligning the start of the new programme with the closure of the Section 48 scheme.

Alternatives considered:

The alternative option was to advise the GMCA that this Authority prefers not amend the existing scheme or provide other proposals in which GMCA could operate a grant scheme.

Decision:

1. The Cabinet gives initial consideration to the case for closure of the Section 48 AGMA Grants programme and authorise a consultation on closure of the scheme to be undertaken by AGMA to inform a final decision on closure to be taken at a later date;

2. The Cabinet support the development of a new funding programme for culture, under the GMCA, as a potential replacement for the Section 48 Scheme;

3. The Cabinet notes that it is intended to run the consultation for a new Combined Authority programme for culture at the same time as the consultation on closure of the Section 48 scheme.

Reasons for the recommendation:

The recommendation contained in the report require each of the ten constituent Councils in Greater Manchester to approve the proposals prior to consultation being undertaken with currently funded groups and other interested parties.

Eligible for Call-in: Yes.

MINUTES

24 Decision:

That the Minutes of the meetings of the Cabinet held on 13th and 27th June 2017 be approved as correct records and signed by the Chair.

REVIEW OF COMMUNITY CENTRE FUNDING

25 The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Neighbourhoods which summarised the outcome of consultation with two community centres,
being Wardleworth and Castlemere, following the approval of community centre review criteria that had previously been approved by Cabinet on the 21\textsuperscript{st} November 2016. Following the consultation exercise a proposal was submitted by Wardleworth Community Centre to operate the community centre on a reduced grant of £37,360: resulting in a saving of £9,340 which equated to a saving of 20%.

Alternatives considered:

An alternative proposal was submitted by Wardleworth Community Centre, which was considered by the Cabinet.

Decision:

(1) The Cabinet reviews the outcome of the consultation undertaken during Phase 2 of the savings proposals, which was the application of the approved criteria to review the use of community centres previously approved by Cabinet on the 21 November 2016;

(2) The Cabinet agrees to reduce grant funding to the two lowest scoring community centres being Wardleworth and Castlemere by 20% being a reduction of £4,670 and £1,310 respectively.

Reasons for the recommendations:

In order to contribute to the Council’s savings requirement it had been necessary to examine all areas of non-statutory service provision. Phase 1 savings proposal (report reference - NH-2017-311) had reported following consultation, a proposed criteria for an impact assessment of each of the grant-funded community centres. The proposed criteria had been the subject of formal consultation during Phase 1 of the savings proposals that was approved by the Cabinet on 21 November 2016.

The Cabinet’s members had carefully considered the alternative proposal submitted by Wardleworth Community Centre and had agreed that a 20% reduction would be appropriate in the circumstances. In the spirit of fairness, it was considered appropriate to also reduce the grant paid to Castlemere Community Centre also by 20%.

Eligible for Call-in: Yes.

INTEGRATED COMMISSIONING AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF INTEGRATED HEALTH AND CARE DELIVERY

26 The Cabinet considered a report of the Joint Director of Commissioning which described progress towards Integrated Commissioning and future plans for the development of one Integrated Commissioning Function for Health, Social Care and Public Health for Rochdale.
The report outlined the requirements for the new commissioning and delivery of Health and Care in Rochdale; namely an Integrated Commissioning function and a Local Care Organisation for all Adults Health and Care.

The report described the progress towards a single management function for the Council and HMR CCG (Heywood, Middleton Rochdale Clinical commissioning Group) with the Chief Executive of the Council becoming the Chief Accountable Officer for HMR CCG within the next 12 months. The Joint Director of Commissioning will take on the Director of Adult Social Services (DASS) responsibilities.

Members of the Health, Schools and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee had been consulted on the proposals on 20th July 2017.

Alternatives considered: To ensure that the Council and HMR CCG have a governance system and management structure in place, that is able to oversee the Financial Planning, Strategic Development and Delivery of Health and Social Care for the Borough of Rochdale.

Decision:

(1) The Cabinet approves the revised Terms of Reference for the ICB and the governance arrangements associated with this;

(2) The Cabinet approves the delegations to the ICB;

(3) The Cabinet approves the new governance and decision making structures; and delegates minor amendments to the Governance arrangements to the Chief Executive of the Council in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing, and the Leader of the Council and Chair of HMR CCG Governing Body.

Reasons for the recommendations:

The recommendations were presented to ensure that the Council and HMR CCG has a governance system and management structure in place, that is able to oversee the Financial Planning, Strategic Development and Delivery of Health and Social Care for the Borough of Rochdale; and to ensure that the Council and HMR CCG are both compliant with Greater Manchester’s ‘Taking Charge’ 2015 and had effective Governance and Financial controls in place for the delivery of the Transformation Fund agreement.

Eligible for call-in: No. Members of the Health, Schools and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee were consulted on the proposals detailed in the report on 20th July 2017.

NEED FOR EXTRA YEAR 7 PLACES 2018 - 2027

27 The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Children’s Services that presented information on the Secondary School Place Planning in the Rochdale Township for 2018 to 2027 for Secondary Year 7 places.
Alternatives considered:

If the extra capacity could not be added to Matthew Moss Secondary and with every other Secondary school in the Borough due to be full to capacity, either temporary classroom accommodation would need to be put in place or the authority would need to offer places out of the Borough.

Decision:

The Cabinet approves proposals to meet the additional demand for Year 7 places in 2018 at Matthew Moss Secondary School in Rochdale Township.

Reasons for the recommendations:

Rochdale Local Authority has a statutory duty to ensure that there are enough school places for children in its area who want them; to make arrangements for parents to apply for school places and to ensure every parent in the borough receives the offer of a school place. The Council exercises this duty by planning for enough school places.

Eligible for Call-in: Yes.

NON DOMESTIC RATES - DISCRETIONARY RELIEF POLICY AMENDMENTS

28 The Cabinet considered a report of the Chief Finance Officer which proposed amendments to the current Non Domestic Rates Discretionary Relief Policy in relation to discretionary business rates discounts outlined by government in its Spring Budget 2017.

Alternatives considered:

The changes to the Policy have been determined by Government. No alternatives could therefore be considered for the amendments in relation to small business transitional rates relief and support for local pubs. Alternatives for the operation of the local discretionary business rates relief scheme were outlined in the main report.

Decision:

The Cabinet approve the policy amendments as detailed in the submitted report and in Appendix A in relation to:

(a) supporting small business relief;
(b) support for pubs scheme;
(c) the local discretionary support scheme for those businesses facing hardship as a result of increases in bills due to the revaluation as detailed at paragraph 4.5 of the submitted report;
(d) the Chief Finance Officer, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Corporate and Resources be delegated authority to vary the
Scheme award criteria as necessary to ensure that take up is maximised.
(e) the Chief Finance Officer, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Corporate and Resources be delegated authority to utilise any remaining balances set aside for these purposes to award a discretionary grant on a case by case basis where excessive increases in the business rates bill due to the revaluation 2017 has resulted in hardship for a local business.

Reasons for the Recommendations:

The Spring Budget announced by the Chancellor on 8th March 2017 outlined proposals to support those businesses that faced the highest increases in their business rates bills as a result of the revaluation. The Government had undertaken consultation on the proposals and has now announced guidance for local authorities to implement support through existing discretionary relief powers to reduce bills to local businesses.

Eligible for Call-in: No. The report was considered by the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 18th July 2017.

FINANCE UPDATE REPORT 2017/18
29 The Cabinet considered a report of the Chief Finance Officer which informed Members of the Council’s financial position as at the end of May 2017. Effective financial management was considered essential if the Council was to keep spending within available resources. It was also vital that services make adjustments in spending to ensure that they spend in line with their approved budgets.

Alternatives considered:

Not reporting on financial performance puts at risk the achievement of the Council’s Medium Term Financial Plan. Effective budget management is regarded as critical to ensure that financial resources are spent in line with the budget and are targeted towards the Council’s priorities. Monitoring enables the early identification of variations against the plan and facilitates timely corrective action.

Decision:

1. The Cabinet notes the 2017/18 Budget position for Capital, Revenue, Savings & the Collection Fund as at 31st May 2017;
2. The Cabinet approves the Capital Virement request as detailed at paragraph 4.1.2 of the submitted report;
3. The Cabinet approves the Allocation of Capital Receipts to the Asset Management Group scheme detailed at paragraph 4.1.3 of the submitted report;
4. Approval is given to the Revenue Budget Pressure Fund requests detailed at paragraph 4.2.4 of the submitted report.
Reasons for the recommendations:

Cabinet Members were to be kept updated on the financial position of the authority, as effective budget management was critical to ensuring financial resources are spent in line with the budget and are targeted towards the Council’s priorities. Monitoring enables the early identification of variations against the plan and facilitates timely corrective action. The submitted report provided an overview of the Financial Position for the Council and focuses on the position as at the end of May 2017. A further detailed report was due to be submitted to the Cabinet in September.

Eligible for Call-in: No. The report was considered by the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 18th July 2017.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC
30 Decision: That the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following three items of business, in accordance with the provisions of Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended.

Reason for Decision: Should the press and public remain during debate on these items there may be a disclosure of information that is deemed to be exempt under Parts 1 and 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

CASTLETON SWIMMING POOL
31 The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Economy which detailed proposals for Castleton Swimming Pool, which was managed and operated by Link4Life.

Alternatives considered:

The pool could continue to be held by the Council and operated by Link4Life. This would require the council to invest substantial capital sums to carry out the repairs to the building and to continue the revenue subsidy for the operation of the facility.

The swimming pool could be closed and the site sold for development. This could realise a small capital receipt for the council although this is unlikely as the cost of demolishing the pool is likely to be greater than the development value of the site.

Decision:

(1) Castleton Swimming Pool should transfer by way of a 125 year lease at a peppercorn rent to Castleton Leisure Centre Limited; a subsidiary of Crewe Industrial Services Limited; to be held as a swimming pool for the benefit of the local community;

(2) a lease for 125 years, initially rent free, be granted to Castleton Leisure
Centre Limited for the use of the car park at Castleton Library and Community Centre.

(3) the Council supported by Link4Life provide details of the requirements and expectations for Health and Safety and provide advice received to date in relation to ensuring safety;

(4) The Acting Director of Resources be authorised to advise appropriate Council Services and to prepare the appropriate legal documents and execute such documents on behalf of the Council.

Reasons for the recommendations:

Castleton Pool is currently closed and is in need of substantial repair before it can re-open to the public. The transfer of the swimming pool to Castleton Leisure Centre Limited will secure much needed investment in the facility and secure its future. Crewe Industrial Services Limited is prepared to invest the necessary resources to secure the future of the pool.

Eligible for call-in; Yes

CLG FLOODING FUNDING AND PRIORITIES (FLOODING FUNDING FROM STORM EVA)

32 The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Neighbourhoods which reminded Members of the significant flooding in the Borough, arising from the unprecedented rainfall on 26th December 2015. The heavy rainfall on already saturated ground, combined with run-off from the Pennines, led to overtopping of the Rivers Roch, Ealees and Beal, with flooding affecting in particular Rochdale town centre and Littleborough.

Alternatives considered:

No alternatives were considered.

Decision:

The Cabinet approves the Local Transport Capital Block Funding (Integrated Transport and Highway Maintenance) Specific Grant determination (2016/17) No.31/274 be used for works required after the Boxing Day floods in accordance with the submitted report.

Reasons for the Recommendations:

The recommendations allowed Officers to expend the funding received which is in excess of £1million.

Eligible for Call-in: Yes.
INCREASING DEMAND IN CHILDREN WITH DISABILITY & SEN SERVICES

33 The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Children’s Services which detailed the key local and national drivers that are impacting on demand on the Children with Disabilities (CWD) and Special Educational Needs (SEN) service setting out the increasing demands on the Local Authority in relation to support the Council is required to provide to children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and to highlight the need for additional resources specifically in relation to a permanent increase in staffing and an increase in the SEN Home to School Transport budget.

Alternatives considered:

The alternative option was to not bridge the funding gap highlighted in the submitted report.

Decision:

(1) The Cabinet approves that the SEN Assessment Team’s budget be increased by £204,000 in 2018/19 with the pressure being contained within the overall Children’s Services budget for 2017/18; this includes an additional Educational Psychologist post and £5,000 to purchase mediation services;

(2) The Home to School Transport Budget be increased by £208,000 on an ongoing basis;

(3) If the implementation grant is withdrawn in 2018/19 the SEN budget be increased by a further £150,000;

(4) Any proposed establishment changes be agreed as a basis for formal consultation and considered for approval under the Council’s Constitution.

Reasons for the recommendations:

The recommendations were presented to ensure that the Local Authority is able to respond to the increasing demands in relation to SEND and meet its statutory duties.

Eligible for Call-in: Yes.