

CABINET

MINUTES OF MEETING Tuesday, 27 March 2018

PRESENT: Councillor Allen Brett (Chair); Councillors Iftikhar Ahmed, Daalat Ali, Blundell, Neil Emmott, Emsley, Heakin, O'Rourke and Rowbotham

OFFICERS: J. Searle (Director of Economy), M. Widdup (Director of Neighbourhoods), N. Thornton (Director of Economy), G. Hopper (Director of Children's Services), D. Wilcock (Assistant Director – Legal, Governance, Workforce), V. Bradshaw (Chief Finance Officer), D. Bowler (Assistant Director – Place), P. Moore (Head of Planning), D. Brierley (Head of Communications), R. Barker (Head of Organisational Development & Workforce), A. Akhtar (Human Resources Advisor), K. Gee (Communications Officer) and M. Garraway (Governance & Committee Services).

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

126 There were no declarations of interest.

URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

127 The Chair advised of an additional item of business had been submitted for consideration, namely a report requiring decision entitled Easy Hubs – Acquisition of premises which sought approval of entering into leases for accommodation for the Community Connector Service. The Chair of Communities, Regeneration & Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee had agreed to special urgency provisions.

ITEMS FOR EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

128 The additional item of business for Easy Hubs – Acquisition of Premises was to be considered in private on the grounds that the report contained information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

MINUTES

129 Resolved:

That the minutes of the meetings of Cabinet held on 20th February 2018 and 27th February 2018 be approved as a correct record.

FINANCE UPDATE REPORT 2017/18

130 Cabinet considered a report of the Chief Finance Officer providing details of the 2017/18 Budget position for Capital, Revenue, Savings and Collection Fund as at the end of January 2018.

Members were advised that the forecast revenue position as detailed in paragraph 1.2 of the submitted report should be amended to read 'the forecast Revenue position is an in-year saving of £1.535m.'

Alternatives considered:

There were no alternatives considered as not reporting on the Council's financial position would not enable sufficient monitoring and identification of variations against the plan.

Resolved:

That the financial update be noted.

Reason for resolution:

Effective budget management is 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.

PLANNING SERVICES: PLANNING PERFORMANCE AGREEMENTS

131 Cabinet considered a report of the Head of Planning Services seeking approval to delegate power from Cabinet to the Assistant Executive Director for Economy and Planning and Head of Planning Services to allow the Local Planning to enter into Planning Performance Agreements.

Alternatives considered:

To maintain the existing arrangements was considered to hinder the ability for the Local Planning Authority to easily enter into Planning Performance Agreements (PPA) with developers and would not support the delivery of an effective and efficient planning service.

Or the Council could retain existing statutory arrangements as set out in The Town and Country (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 which provide the fall-back position for determination dates. This approach however would not support the delivery of a high quality service to developers and investors and does not allow for cost recovery.

Resolved:

That the Assistant Director for Planning and Economy and the Head of Planning Services be authorised to:

- Formally enter into 'Planning Performance Agreements;
- To agree any subsequent variations or amendments to an approved Planning Performance Agreement;
- Secure bespoke fees associated with any Planning Performance Agreements.

Reason for resolution:

To expedite the use of PPA's with developers, and to assist with supporting planned growth and investment.

HOUSING ALLOCATIONS

132 Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Neighbourhoods which outlined proposals to enable the Council to meet the responsibility placed on it by the introduction of the Homelessness Reduction Act. Approval was sought to move from a Choice Based Lettings approach to allocate accommodation, to making direct offers to those who are found to be homeless, including

approval of proposals to make offers of accommodation in the private rented sector, in order that the Council may discharge its duty.

Alternatives considered:

To continue to use the existing policy would not meet the requirements of the Homelessness Reduction Act. No other options were considered.

Resolved:

- (1) That approval be given to the changes to the Choice Based Lettings allocation of accommodation, for those applicants that there is a statutory duty to rehouse.
- (2) That the proposal to discharge duty in private rented accommodation, where appropriate and necessary be approved.
- (3) That the Director of Neighbourhoods in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Environment and the Council's Chief Finance Officer be delegated approval of future policy changes to the Council's Housing Allocation Policy.

Reason for resolution:

To enable the Council to support those it has a statutory duty to rehouse into appropriate accommodation and aid the Council to meet its responsibilities under the Homelessness Reduction Act. Delegation of authority will enable officers to monitor housing outcomes and respond promptly to required policy changes.

GENDER PAY GAP

133 Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Resources detailing the Council's position with regards to the Gender Pay Gap and seeking approval its publication on the Council's and Government's websites.

Alternatives considered:

No alternatives were considered as the Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties and Public Authorities) Regulations 2017 require the Council to publish details of its Gender Pay Gap.

Resolved:

That details of the Council's Gender Pay Gap be published on the Council's and Government's websites.

Reason for resolution:

The Council is legally required to publish gender pay gap information relating to our employees no later than 30th March 2018.

GM WIDE CONTINUITY OF SERVICE PROTOCOL FOR THE RECOGNITION OF SERVICE BETWEEN LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND SPECIFIED EMPLOYERS WITHIN GREATER MANCHESTER.

134 Cabinet considered a report from the Director of Resources detailing the Greater Manchester Wide Continuity of Service Protocol (the Protocol) for the recognition of service between Local Authorities and specified employers within Greater Manchester. Cabinet were requested to approve the adoption

of the Protocol in principle and endorse the implementation arrangements agreed by GM Wider Leadership Team to enable the Protocol to be applied with effect from 1st April 2018.

Alternatives considered:

To advise Greater Manchester Authorities that Rochdale BC would not participate in the scheme could risk the strategy of bringing together different agencies to make public services work better and attracting jobs and investment.

Resolved:

- (1) That the adoption of the Protocol be approved by Rochdale BC in principle and the Council endorse the implementation arrangements agreed by Greater Manchester Wider Leadership Team to be applied with effect from 1st April 2018.
- (2) That agreement of the final wording of the Protocol be delegated to the Head of Workforce and Organisational Development, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Corporate & Resources.
- (3) It be noted that the Protocol does not relate to redundancy, and will be subject to any changes subsequently agreed by the Director of Governance and Pensions at Tameside MBC.
- (4) That the scheme be kept under review and regularly assessed on triannual basis and/or before any major staffing review.

Reason for recommendation:

This Protocol recognises the vital role of our workforce in delivering high quality public services and that quality employment in public services is crucial to the Greater Manchester economy and society.

CHILDCARE SUFFICIENCY ASSESSMENT 2017/18

135 Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Children's Services detailing the results of the annual Childcare Sufficiency Assessment.

Alternatives considered:

No alternatives were considered.

Resolved:

That the 2017/18 Childcare Sufficiency Assessment be approved for publication.

Reason for resolution:

The Local Authority has a statutory duty under the 2006 Children Act to publish an Annual Childcare Sufficiency Assessment.

PROPOSED SCHOOL ENLARGEMENTS - DETERMINATION OF STATUTORY PROPOSALS

136 Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Children's Services which sought approval for the enlargement of Belfield Community Primary, Lowerplace Primary, St Luke's CE Primary and Siddal Moor Sports College

following publication of responses from the statutory proposals and published notices.

Alternatives considered:

When choosing which schools to enlarge consideration has been given both cost and feasibility of all schools in the areas needed. There has been an increase in the number of children requiring school places in the Borough, to not enlarge would put the Council at risk of meeting the statutory duty to offer education places.

Resolved:

- (1) That the enlargement of Belfield CP School by providing an additional 15 places in each new admission year group from September 2018 be approved, subject to the granting of planning consent for the required building works. The enlargement of the school would increase the admission number from 45 to 60 permanently
- (2) Approve enlargement of Lowerplace Primary School by providing an additional 30 places in each new admission year group from September 2018. The enlargement of the school would increase the admission number from 60 to 90 permanently subject to the granting of planning consent for the required building works.
- (3) Approve the enlargement of St Luke's CE Primary by providing an additional 30 places in each new admission year from September 2019. The enlargement of the school would increase the admission number from 30 to 60 permanently subject to the granting of planning consent for the required building works.
- (4) Approve the enlargement of Siddal Moor by providing an additional 60 places in each New year group from September 2019. The enlargement of the school would increase the admission number from 210 to 270 permanently subject to the granting of planning consent for the required building works; with an agreed temporary rise in admission of 30 places from 210 to 240, in its existing space, for 1 year only for September 2018.

Reason for resolution:

To ensure the Council meets its statutory duty to secure a sufficient number of school places within the Borough.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

137 Decision:

That the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item 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 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT IN SCHOOLS 2018/19

138 Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Children's Services seeking approval for proposed expenditure on various School buildings improvement schemes in accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations.

The press and public were excluded during consideration of appendices A and B to the submitted report. Consideration of the rest of the item including the decision was undertaken in public.

Alternatives considered:

The proposals were put forward in line with priorities and commitments approved in previous Cabinet reports. Major priorities for the forthcoming year are additional pupil place planning (shortage of primary, secondary and special school places) as reported to Cabinet 19th December 2017 and a school building condition works programme to address the highest priority issues.

Decision:

That the expenditure be approved for the proposed final programmes detailed as within Appendix A of the submitted report, for invitations to tender to be issued and accepted and for the supporting contracts, PFI deeds of variation (where necessary) and any incidental and ancillary documentation, to be signed in order to deliver the development schemes outlined in the appendices, in accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations:

- Basic Need Programme of £16,487,281 as set out in Appendix A
- Capital Programme of £2,475,200 as set out in Appendix A.

Reason for recommendation:

A programme of works to address major condition needs and priority place planning demands are required in order to ensure that the Council satisfies statutory obligations for the provision of school places and continued education.

EASY HUBS - ACQUISITION OF PREMISES

139 Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Economy which sought approval to enter into four leases of health services premises to provide accommodation for the Community Connector Service, part of the EASY (Early Access to Support for You) Hubs project.

Alternatives considered:

The premises are already held by health service partners it was considered that the accommodation could be shared on a less formal basis. However this would not be acceptable to the landlords for anything other than a temporary period.

Decision:

That the item be deferred pending further information regarding the suitability of Cabinet making the decision.