

CABINET

MINUTES OF MEETING Tuesday, 28 January 2020

PRESENT: Councillor Brett (Chair); Councillors Wardle, Rowbotham, Ahmed Blundell, Emsley and Heakin

OFFICERS: Neil Thornton (Director of Resources), Gail Hopper (Director of Children's Services), Julie Murphy (Chief Finance Officer), Mark Widdup (Director – Neighbourhoods), David Wilcock (Assistant Director Legal, Workforce and Governance), R. Barker (Head of HR) and John Addison (Resources Directorate)

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor Cocks, Councillor Hartley, Councillor Massey and Councillor Smith.

61 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Neil Emmott, Councillor Ali, Councillor Robinson, Councillor Wazir and Councillor Dearnley

62 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

63 URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

There were no urgent items of business.

64 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 2nd December 2019 be approved and signed as a correct record.

65 FINANCE UPDATE REPORT 2019/20

The Cabinet considered a report of the Chief Finance Officer which presented the Council's forecast 2019/20 financial position as at the end of November 2019.

RESOLVED

- 1) That the forecast 2019/20 budget positions for Revenue, Savings and Capital as at the end of November 2019 be noted.
- 2) That the Revenue Budget Pressure Fund requests for 2019/20 totalling £0.145m be approved.

- 3) That the net Capital re-phasing of £15.846m be noted.
- 4) That the Capital funding switch detailed in 4.4.3 of the report be noted.
- 5) That the Capital budget increase of £0.614m in 4.4.4 of the report be noted.
- 6) That the Capital budget return of £0.050m in 4.4.5 of the report be noted.

66 COLLECTION FUND 2019/20

The Cabinet considered a report of the Chief Finance Officer which provided an update on the forecast Collection Fund outturn position for 2019/20 as at the end of November 2018.

The Collection Fund Position for 2019/20 was a forecast surplus of £1.779m, comprising:

- £1.103m surplus relating to Business Rates;
- £0.676m surplus relating to Council Tax.

The Council's share of the forecast 2019/20 Collection Fund outturn surplus was £1.668m

RESOLVED

That the forecast 2019/20 Collection Fund outturn position be noted.

67 RESEARCH REPORT - 'UNKNOWN AND UNSEEN: THE SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL NEEDS OF THE KASHMIRI COMMUNITY IN ROCHDALE'

The Director for Neighbourhoods, Community and Culture provided Cabinet with a research report. It was reported that following feedback from a 'community equalities listening event' hosted by the council, members of the Kashmiri heritage community highlighted concerns around their unmet needs in Rochdale.

Members were informed that between 2015 – 2017 the University of Manchester were asked to undertake a research project to identify the social, cultural and economic needs of the Kashmiri community in Rochdale borough and to explore a method for delivering services to communities who do not fit into existing monitoring systems.

The research report provided information to Members on Kashmiri heritage communities including: approximate population size in Rochdale borough, migration and settlement, growth of community infrastructure, socioeconomic factors and their needs in relation to health, education, the criminal justice

system. The report also included a series of recommendations for the Council, partners and national bodies to consider.

RESOLVED

- 1) That Cabinet note the recommendations stated throughout the research report.
- 2) That Cabinet note that council Officers and external partners had shared the findings of the report and developed an action plan.
- 3) That a copy of the report be sent to the Major of Manchester and Leaders of all other GM Authorities

68 RESPONSE TO CLIMATE EMERGENCY MOTION

The Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing presented a report that sets out the scale of the challenge we face to meet the Climate Emergency Motion declared by the Council. It set out the work that had been done before the Council Motion and since it was declared. The report outlined what actions and leadership were needed to work towards the ambitions of the Council Motion.

Members endorsed the report and agreed that any working group should include representatives from the Rochdale Eco School and hold a conference with the boroughs young people.

RESOLVED

That Cabinet:

1. Endorse the approach which uses the GM 5 Year Environment Plan as a framework which the Council will follow locally and build actions around as set out in paragraph 3.14 of the report;
2. Approve the proposed Draft Climate Emergency Strategy, for consultation, which was attached as Appendix 3 of the report;
3. Approve the membership of the proposed Climate Emergency Working Group that was suggested in the Council Motion as detailed in paragraph 3.23 of the report.
4. Approve the draft terms of reference detailed in Appendix 1 of the report which would then be agreed by the Working Group once formed.
5. Approve the formation of a Climate Change Business Group as detailed in paragraph 3.30 of the report.
6. Note the existing GM and Council projects and activities which should contribute to the 2038 target as set out in Appendix 2 of the report;
7. Note that a request for an initial capital budget allocation had been included in the budget process to support the climate emergency agenda as detailed in paragraph 5.1 of the report.

8. Consider the personnel implications set out in paragraph 7.1 of the report and approve the proposal to establish a post of Climate Emergency Officer for an initial three year fixed term contract.
9. Note that the Climate Emergency Working Group once established would be tasked to agree the final Climate Change Strategy and produce a detailed climate emergency action plan which could form the basis of future discussions and decisions at Cabinet.

69 GREATER MANCHESTER'S CLEAN AIR PLAN - TACKLING NITROGEN DIOXIDE EXCEEDANCES AT THE ROADSIDE - UPDATE

The Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing presented a report that set out the progress that had been made following the Government's response to Greater Manchester's Outline Business Case to tackle Nitrogen Dioxide Exceedances at the Roadside (OBC), and the implications for the 10 Greater Manchester (GM) local authorities in relation to the schedule of work and statutory consultation on the Clean Air Plan.

RESOLVED

That Cabinet;

1. Note progress made to date;
2. Note the ministerial direction under the Environment Act 1995 (Greater Manchester) Air Quality Direction 2019 which requires all ten of the Greater Manchester local authorities to implement a charging Clean Air Zone Class C across the region;
3. Agree the need to continue to proceed towards developing the implementation and contract arrangements of a charging Clean Air Zone in Greater Manchester utilising the initial tranche of £36m of funding as required by the ministerial direction / feedback;
4. Delegate authority to Director of Neighbourhoods in conjunction with the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing to determine the preparatory implementation and contract arrangements that need to be undertaken utilising the initial tranche of £36m of funding to deliver the CAZ and other GM CAP measures, as set out at paragraph 4.11;
5. Note that the report to determine the timings for commencing the consultation will be received in the Spring of 2020;
6. Note the outstanding need to secure a clear response from the Government on clean vehicles funding asks;
7. Note that Highways England have not been directed to act in relation to tackling NO₂ exceedances in the same way as the Greater Manchester local authorities, and that this will leave some publicly accessible areas of GM adjacent to trunk roads managed by Highways England, with NO₂ exceedances that are not being addressed by the Highways England plan;
8. Delegate authority to the Director of Neighbourhoods in conjunction with the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing to agree the final content and submission of the documents listed in Appendix One for formal submission to AQU and note their Publication status;

9. Delegate authority to the Director of Neighbourhoods in conjunction with the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing to determine any further technical reports for formal submission to JAQU; and
10. Note that the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing will co-sign a letter from the GM Authorities to the Transport Secretary asking them to bring forward the launch of a statutory consultation to strengthen rules on vehicle idling.

**70 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC
RESOLVED**

That the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following five items of business, in accordance with the provisions of Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended.

71 HOLIDAY PAY

Members received a report that provided Members with information on the Council's proposed approach to resolve a dispute relating to the underpayment of holiday pay in light of recent case law in this area.

RESOLVED

That Cabinet approves to pay a plusage of 7.66% to a defined list of non-contractual payments to compensate for employees not receiving these regular payments when taking holidays.

72 HR AND PAYROLL SYSTEM CONTRACT

Cabinet were provided with a report on options to replace the Councils contract for a HR and Payroll system from June 2020.

RESOLVED

- 1) That Cabinet approve the appointment of MHR as HR & Payroll System supplier for a maximum of four years.
- 2) That the Assistant Director (Legal, Governance & Workforce) be authorised to execute all necessary legal agreements to give effect to this decision, subject to Council approval of capital funding for this project at Budget Council in February 2020.

**73 ST MARY'S GATE ROCHDALE - PROPOSED ACQUISITION OF
PROPERTY**

The Senior Property Manager presented to Members a report seeking approval to acquire a strategic property in the centre of Rochdale.

RESOLVED

- 1) That Cabinet accepts a surrender of the leasehold interest of the property and of the associated car parking spaces for a sum of £355,000 (three hundred and fifty-five thousand pounds).
- 2) That the Assistant Director of Resources, Legal, Governance & Workforce be authorised to complete all formal legal documentation in connection with the purchase.
- 3) That that delegated authority be granted to the Leader and the Cabinet Member for Planning, Development and Housing to approve amendments up to the value of 10 percent.

74 CONSENT FOR PROPOSED DISPOSALS OF LAND

The Senior Property Manager presented to Members a report seeking formal consent from Cabinet to declare surplus two Council-owned sites that are considered suitable for residential development.

RESOLVED

- 1) That Cabinet declares the two sites surplus to its requirements, and authorises their disposal.
- 2) That authority be delegated to the Portfolio Holders for Finance and for Planning, Development & Housing to determine the marketing arrangements and terms and conditions of the disposal of these sites.
- 3) That the Assistant Director of Resources, Legal, Governance & Workforce be authorised to advise appropriate Council Services, to prepare appropriate legal documents and execute such documents on behalf of the Council.