

CABINET

MINUTES OF MEETING

Tuesday, 26 May 2020

PRESENT: Councilor Brett (Chair); Councillors Daalat Ali, Neil Emmott, Emsley, Iftikhar Ahmed, Heakin and Rowbotham

OFFICERS: S. Rumbelow (Chief Executive), M. Widdup (Director of Neighbourhoods), N. Thornton (Director of Resources), G. Hopper (Director of Children's Services), D. Wilcock (Monitoring Officer), J. Murphy (Chief Finance Officer) and M. Garraway (Committee and Constitutional Services Manager).

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor Dearnley

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillor Blundell and Councillor Wardle

1 MINUTES

Consideration was given to the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on the 12 March 2020.

RESOLVED

That the the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on the 12 March 2020 be approved as a correct record.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3 HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Children's Services which sought approval for the re-tendering of the Home to School/College Transport contract. The current contract ends on 31 July 2020 with a new contract required to be in place for September 2020 as the Local Authority has a statutory duty to provide home to school/college transport for eligible Special Educational Needs children and young people.

Alternatives considered

There is no reasonable alternative if the Council is to comply with procurement and education regulations.

RESOLVED

That the proposal to re-tender for the Home to School/College Transport contract be approved.

Reason for resolution

The Local Authority has a statutory duty to provide transport for learners with special educational needs when it is not possible for the child or young person to attend a school or college near to their home because the setting is unable to meet their additional needs.

4 FINANCE OUTTURN REPORT 2019/20

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Finance Officer which informed Cabinet of the Council's final outturn financial position as at the end of 2019/20; and sought approval for a contribution to Equalisation Reserve totalling £3.2m; and approval of a capital budget switch request of Better Care Funding which have incurred limited expenditure in 2019/20 of £0.031m.

Alternatives considered

Not reporting on financial performance puts at risk the achievement of the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan. Effective budget management was critical to ensuring financial resources are spent in line with the budget and were targeted towards the Council's priorities. Monitoring enabled the early identification of variations against the plan and facilitated timely corrective action.

RESOLVED

1. That Cabinet notes the final 2019/20 outturn positions for Revenue, Capital and Corporate Debt as at the end of 2019/20.
2. That Cabinet notes the summary of 2019/20 Equalisation Reserve movements detailed in 4.1.1 of the submitted report.
3. That Cabinet approves the contribution to Equalisation Reserve detailed in 4.1.2. of the submitted report.
4. That Cabinet notes the Budget Carry Forward requests and members endorse the exception detailed in 4.1.3. of the submitted report.
5. That Cabinet notes the final Health & Social Care Pool Budget position as detailed in section 4.2. of the submitted report.
6. That Cabinet notes the net Capital budget increase of £6.980m shown in section 4.4.1. of the submitted report.
7. That Cabinet notes the Capital re-phasing of £48.309m detailed in section 4.4.2 of the submitted report.
8. Cabinet approves capital budget switch request detailed in 4.4.3 of the submitted report.
9. That Cabinet notes the return of £3.526m of Capital funding detailed in 4.4.4. of the submitted report.

Reasons for the decision

Cabinet Members should be kept updated on the financial position of the authority, as 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.

5 COLLECTION FUND OUTTURN 2019/20

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Finance Officer reporting the Collection Fund outturn position for 2019/20. Members were informed there was a surplus of £0.932m, comprising:

- £1.869m surplus relating to Business Rates;
- £0.937m deficit relating to Council Tax.

The Council's share of the 2019/20 Collection Fund outturn surplus was £1.057m.

Alternatives considered

Not reporting on financial performance puts at risk the achievement of the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan. Effective budget management was critical to ensuring financial resources are spent in line with the budget and were targeted towards the Council's priorities. Monitoring enabled the early identification of variations against the plan and facilitated timely corrective action.

RESOLVED

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

Reason for resolution

The Collection Fund outturn report for 2018/19 was presented to Cabinet for noting as part of the budget monitoring process.

6 DELEGATED APPROVAL REPORT 2019/20

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Finance Officer providing details of approvals of spend under delegated powers in relation to Revenue and Capital Schemes funded by additional grants or income during 2019/20.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

7 HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE POOL BUDGET RISK SHARE AGREEMENT 2020/21

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Finance Officer proposing changes to the Health & Social Care Pool Budget Risk share agreement for 2020/21, taking into account the expected financial impact of Covid 19, recommending that both partners are responsible for their own pooled fund gap in 2020/21, noting this is a time limited proposal and a risk sharing approach will be implemented for 2021/22.

Alternatives considered

To continue with the existing risk share agreement would not be prudent as both organisations are facing significant pressures as a result of Covid 19, with access to separate funding support schemes from the Government. Agreeing that each partner would be responsible for their own share of the pool gap and overspend would allow for greater transparency in understanding the full impact on each organisation of Covid 19,

RESOLVED

That Cabinet approves that the Health & Social Care Pool budget risk share agreement is changed for 2020/21 so that both partners are responsible for their own pooled fund gap and in year underspend or overspend.

Reason for resolution

Due to a high level of uncertainty around what the financial impact the Covid 19 pandemic will be on both the Council and Clinical Commissioning Group, along with the continued pressures arising from the Health & Social Care pool fund, including an overspend within Children's Services, it was considered prudent for both partners to be responsible for their own pool gap and in year underspend or overspend for 2020/21.