

CABINET

MINUTES OF MEETING Tuesday, 9 February 2021

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

OFFICERS: Steve Rumbelow (Chief Executive), Neil Thornton (Director of Resources), Gail Hopper (Director of Children's Services), John Searle (Director of Economy), Asif Ibrahim (Assistant Director Legal, Governance and Workforce), Julie Murphy (Chief Finance Officer), S. Smith (Deputy Chief Finance Officer), M. Garraway (Committees and Constitutional Services Manager)

91 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

92 GM CLEAN AIR PLAN UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report of the Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Sustainability / Director of Neighbourhoods seeking approval to enter into a collaboration agreement with the other 9 GM local authorities and GMCA/TfGM.

Alternatives considered

In July 2017 the Secretary of State issued a Direction under the Environment Act 1995 requiring seven Greater Manchester local authorities to produce a feasibility study to identify the option which would deliver compliance with the requirement to meet legal limits for nitrogen dioxide in their areas.

Resolved

1. That the progress of the Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan be noted.
2. That the next steps for the development of the Clean Air Plan and Minimum Licensing Standards be noted.
3. That the distribution of Bus Retrofit funding commenced in December 2020;
4. That it be noted Government ministers have agreed to consider extending Greater Manchester's Clean Air Zone charges to the sections of the A628/A57 which form part of the Strategic Road Network, within the proposed Manchester's Clean Air Zone boundary, subject to the outcomes of an assessment, which is expected to be completed by early 2021.
5. That it be noted the GM Clean Air Plan is required to take action to tackle nitrogen dioxide exceedances until compliance with the legal limits has been demonstrated and that the nearer term influence of COVID-19 on air quality is not expected to lead to sufficiently long term reductions in pollution such that the exceedances of the legal limits of nitrogen dioxide will not occur without implementing a Clean Air Zone.
6. That it be noted the GM Clean Air Plan final plan will be brought forward for decision makers as soon as is reasonably practicable and no later than summer 2021.

7. That it be noted the outputs of the MLS will be reported alongside the GM Clean Air Plan as soon as is reasonably practicable and no later than summer 2021.
8. That approval be given to the establishment of GM joint committees and to delegate to those committees the Authority's functions as set out within paragraph 9.5 of the submitted report; and that the terms of reference contained within the submitted report be approved.
9. That the Portfolio Holder for Climate Change and Sustainability be appointed as Rochdale BC Members to both committees for purposes as set out within the submitted report at paragraph 9.5 with and the specific terms of reference, as set out in Appendix 6.
10. That the Assistant to the Portfolio Holder for Climate Change and Sustainability be appointed as substitute for both committees for purposes as set out within the submitted report at paragraph 9.5 with specific terms of reference, as set out in Appendix 6.
11. That approval be given for Rochdale Borough Council to enter into a collaboration agreement with the other 9 GM local authorities and GMCA/TfGM to clarify amongst other matters the rights, responsibilities and obligations of the authorities in relation to those contracts set out in Appendix 2 of the submitted report, that are required to maintain delivery momentum in line with JAQU funding agreements.
12. That approval be given for a delegation to the Director of Neighbourhoods in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Climate Change and Sustainability, and Assistant Director Legal Governance & Workforce to agree the final form of the collaboration agreement.
13. That approval be given for a delegation to the Director of Neighbourhoods in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Climate Change and Sustainability, and Assistant Director Legal Governance & Workforce to award the contracts set out in Appendix 2 of the submitted report (subject to government funding) that are required to implement a charging Clean Air Zone in Spring 2022 to ensure the achievement of Nitrogen Dioxide compliance in the shortest possible time and by 2024 at the latest as required by the Ministerial Direction.
14. That approval be given for a delegation to the Director of Neighbourhoods in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Climate Change and Sustainability to approve the submission of supplementary information to the Government's Joint Air Quality Unit (JAQU).

Reason for resolution

Rochdale BC along with the other 9 Greater Manchester local authorities is subject to a Ministerial direction dated 16 March 2020 requiring the submission of an Interim Full Business Case (FBC) (along with confirmation that all public consultation activity has completed) as soon as possible and by no later than 30 October 2020. Under this direction Rochdale BC along with the other 9 Greater Manchester local authorities is under a legal duty to ensure that the GM CAP Charging Clean Air Zone Class C with additional measures) is implemented so that NO₂ compliance is achieved in the shortest possible time and by 2024 at the latest and that human exposure is reduced as quickly as possible.

93 DISCRETIONARY FEES & CHARGES 2020/21– CARELINE SERVICE

Consideration was given to a report of the Cabinet Member for Social Care and Ageing Well / Director of Commissioning seeking approval for the setting of the Careline Service fees for 2021/22.

Alternatives considered

Not to operate the service as a self-financing model and increase the fees and charges on an annual basis in line with inflation, however, this would not sustain the model and ultimately lead to the potential need to subsidise the service.

Resolved

1. That the fee levels for the Careline service for the 2021/22 financial year be approved as:
 - Careline 3.10 per week
 - Careline plus 5.10 per week
 - Careline (no landline) 4.60 per week
 - Careline plus (no landline) 5.60 per week
2. That the introduction of an additional charge of £1.50 per week added to the basic charges for service users buying the Careline service who don't have a telephone landline, be approved

Reason for resolution

Careline charges to service users need to remain affordable and offer good value for money to encourage elderly and vulnerable people who would benefit from the service to choose to buy it.

94 E-SCOOTER TRIAL - PERMISSION TO TENDER

Consideration was given to a report of the Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Sustainability / Director of Neighbourhoods seeking approval for

Alternatives considered

To not undertake an E-Scooter trial in Rochdale Town Centre.

Resolved

1. That the implementation of a 12 month e-Scooter Trial to operate in the area focussed around Rochdale Railway Station, Rochdale Town Centre and other key amenities in the town to be implemented by 31st March 2021 and end on 31st March 2022, be approved.
2. That the commencement of a tender process to seek a supplier and operator for the e-Scooter trial be approved.
3. That the Assistant Director (Legal, Governance and Workforce) be approved to execute the necessary legal agreements and contact awards,
4. That should the pilot scheme be deemed to have been successful, a six month extension be approved until 31st September 2022 to enable the Council to undertake a further procurement process to award a Borough wide long term contract for an e-Scooter scheme to be rolled out on a phased basis across the Borough.

Reason for resolution

The Department for Transport announced at the start of 2021 that e-Scooter Trials should be in place and operating by 31st March 2021. This e-Scooter Hire scheme is to trial a model for shared mobility across the Borough focussing initially on Rochdale and provides a sustainable travel option to / from employment areas, town centres and local amenities

95 FINANCE UPDATE REPORT 2020/21 PERIOD 8

Consideration was given to a report of the Cabinet Member for Corporate Delivery / Chief Finance Officer seeking approval for the utilisation of New Burdens Administration grants to cover costs incurred for administering grants related to Covid 19, Budget Pressure requests, amendment to the purpose of the Property Growth Fund capital scheme and a switch budgets within Economy Service. Cabinet were requested to note the forecast 2020/21 financial positions for Revenue Funds, Dedicated Schools Grant, Capital Funds, the Collection Fund as at the end of November 2020, the £1,793k Waste Levy reserve refund which has been received from Greater Manchester Combined Authority, the forecast unachieved Savings target, the forecast Health & Social Care Pool Budget position, requests for a new reserve for Children's Services, relating to the No Wrong Door initiative, and 2 reserves to earmarked for Covid 19 costs which have not been incurred in 20/21 but are expected to materialise in future years; and for the budget carry forward of Neighbourhoods underspends to ringfence £170k of in-year savings for the provision of school meals, net Capital budget changes of £722k, and, the Capital re-phasing of £11,017k approved by the Chief Finance Officer.

Alternatives considered

Not reporting on financial performance puts at risk the achievement of the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan. 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.

Resolved

1. That the utilisation of New Burdens Administration grants to cover costs incurred for administering grants related to Covid 19 of £209k, and government funding of £1,759k to compensate for lost Sales, Fees & Charges.
2. That the Budget Pressure requests from Resources and Neighbourhoods Directorates be approved.
3. That the amendment to the purpose of the Property Growth Fund capital scheme be approved.
4. That the switch of budgets within Economy Directorate be approved.
5. That the forecast 2020/21 financial positions for Revenue Funds, the Dedicated Schools Grant, the Capital Funds and the Collection Fund as at the end of November 2020, be noted.
6. That the £1,793k Waste Levy reserve refund which has been received from Greater Manchester Combined Authority be noted.

7. That the forecast unachieved Savings targets in Neighbourhoods, Economy, Resources and Public Health Directorates be noted.
8. That the forecast Health & Social Care Pool Budget position be noted.
9. That the requests for a new reserve for Children's Services, relating to the No Wrong Door initiative, and 2 reserves to earmarked for Covid 19 costs which have not been incurred in 20/21 but are expected to materialise in future years; and for the budget carry forward of Neighbourhoods underspends to ringfence £170k of in-year savings for the provision of school meals, be noted.
10. That the net Capital budget changes of £722k, be noted
11. That the Capital re-phasing of £11,017k 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.

96 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved

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

Reason for the Decision

Should the press and public remain during the debate on the following 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.

97 MANAGEMENT OF HOLLINGWORTH LAKE COUNTRY PARK - PROPOSAL FOR INVESTMENT

Consideration was given to a report of the Cabinet Member for A Safer and Inclusive Community / Cabinet Member for Quality of Place/ Director of Neighbourhoods seeking approval for proposals for the development of the wider Hollingworth Lake Country Park (HLCP) in addition to the Water Activity Centre.

Alternatives considered

The submitted report included evaluation of the financial and operational requirements of managing the country park as well as developing a 'vision' for the future operation of the park.

Resolved

1. That previously approved funding for the approved post for Link 4 Life to continue to operate the country park, be confirmed.
2. That Cabinet supports the production of a final business case regarding the future investment of a new building at Hollingworth Lake Waterside Activity Centre.
3. That approval be given to commencement of negotiations with United Utilities to revise the lease currently granted to the Council at Hollingworth Lake to ensure a long-term future to for the Council.

4. That approval be given to the inclusion of the capital schemes in the Capital Programme.
5. That the proposals for a feasibility to establish a hotel and restaurant facilities in the vicinity of the Country Park be approved.
6. That S106 planning contributions relating to the provision and/or maintenance of recreational open space from any redevelopment of the Akzo Nobel site for housing be ring-fenced towards improvements that complement and support the proposals within the HLCP.
7. That the principle of a revised future operating model whereby additional car park income is re-invested into the facilities and activities with the eventual aim of providing a subsidy free model be approved.
8. That approval is given to the funding of the £55k deficit noted in 21/22 from Budget Pressures Fund, prior to it being refunded from the surplus generated in 22/23.
9. That the termination provisions contained in the Lease from United Utilities dated 16 June 2006 be noted including the risks to the investment should the Lease be terminated in accordance with such provisions.

Reason for resolution

The recommendations aligned with Sport England's ten principles of Active Design - achieving as many of these as possible within an Active Environment will optimise opportunities for active and healthy lifestyles and these include, walkable communities, connected walking and cycling routes, co-location of community facilities, appropriate infrastructure, network of open space and activity for all.