

CABINET

MINUTES OF MEETING

Tuesday, 29 June 2021

PRESENT: Councillor Neil Emmott (Chair); Councillors Daalat Ali, Iftikhar Ahmed, Blundell, Rowbotham, Wardle, Massey, Meredith, O'Rourke and Smith

OFFICERS: S. Rumbelow (Chief Executive), M. Widdup (Director of Neighbourhoods), C. Richardson (Director of Commissioning), J. Searle (Director of Economy), J. Murphy (Chief Finance Officer), A. Ibrahim (Monitoring Officer) and M. Garraway (Resources Directorate).

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: G. Davies (Rochdale Development Agency)

**1 MINUTES
RESOLVED**

That the Minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 27 April 2021 be approved as a correct record.

**2 WITHDRAWAL OF ITEM
RESOLVED**

That the agenda item on Bolwee Park Golf Range be withdrawn.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Blundell declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in relation to agenda item 12 Rochdale Development Agency Core Revenue Funding 2021-22 as a board member of Rochdale Development Agency, S. Rumbelow declared an interest in agenda item 12 Rochdale Development Agency Core Revenue Funding 2021-22 as a board member of Rochdale Development Agency and J. Searle declared an interest in agenda item 12 Rochdale Development Agency Core Revenue Funding 2021-22 as the Chief Executive Officer of Rochdale Development Agency.

4 FINAL OUTTURN REPORT 2020/21

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 2020/21; and sought approval for Budget Pressures requests for capital budget switches within Neighbourhood's Service.

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 the final 2020/21 outturn positions for Revenue, DSG, Capital, and the Collection Fund as at the end of 2020/21, as detailed in section 4, be noted.
2. That the Covid-19 reserve for future use against Covid-19 costs pressures and losses of income and the movement in corporate reserves available for future non Covid-19 budget pressures be noted.
3. That the intention of Link4Life to change the pension arrangements for most new employees, and establish a new defined contribution scheme, as mentioned in section 4.1.6, be noted.
4. That the final Health & Social Care Pool Budget position as detailed in section 4.2.be noted.
5. That the Budget Pressure requests detailed in section 4.3 be approved.
6. That it be noted that several budget pressure requests have been returned by directorates for 2020/21.
7. That after accounting for agreed Budget Carry Forwards, any remaining in-year savings have been transferred to the Equalisation Reserve, be noted.
8. That the unachieved Savings target in section 4.4. be noted
9. That the net Capital budget changes of £13,653k for 2020/21 detailed in section 4.6.1.be noted.

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 CARELINE POLICY

Consideration was given to a report of the Cabinet Member for Adult Care and Wellbeing / Director of Commissioning which sought approval to conduct a consultation on a draft Careline Policy and that following consultation, members agree any issues or changes arising from consultation, be delegated to the Director of Commissioning in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Care and Wellbeing.

Alternatives considered

To continue to have informal decision making around the delivery of the Careline service, using existing custom and practice, which was a known risk when trying to respond to challenges and complaints.

RESOLVED

1. That the draft Careline policy is considered and approved for public consultation.
2. Following consultation, that any issues or changes arising from consultation, the Director of Adult Care in consultation with the Portfolio Holder be approved to amend and approve the policy.

Reason for resolution

Not having a formal policy could lead to the service failing to deliver and perform as strongly as possible, which could in turn lead to reduction in numbers of service users, or failure to attract sufficient new service users to make the financial model viable.

6 FUTURE HIGH STREET FUND - GRANT AWARD FOR ROCHDALE RIVERSIDE PHASE 2 (UPPERBANKS)

Consideration was given to a report of the Cabinet Member for Economy and Communications / Director of Economy which sought approval to accept an offer of £17,080,457 from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) towards the Rochdale Riverside Phase 2 (Upperbanks) scheme in Rochdale town centre.

Alternatives considered

No alternatives were considered.

RESOLVED

1. That the funding offer from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government be accepted.
2. That the Chief Finance Officer be authorised to sign the Memorandum of Understanding.

Reason for resolution

To support delivery of the Rochdale Riverside Phase 2 (Upperbanks) scheme.

7 NEIGHBOURHOODS ROCHDALE UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report of the Cabinet Member for Economy and Communications / Director of Economy which sought approval for the acceptance of funding from Brownfield Land Funding for the proposed 'Neighbourhood Rochdale' housing development at Drake Street and Oldham Road (Central Retail Park).

Alternatives considered

To not accept the funding or current designs.

RESOLVED

1. That the £3.76m Brownfield Land Funding offer to support the residential development be approved.
2. That the RIBA Stage 3 designs of the scheme be approved subject to confirmation of the financial viability of the scheme as a whole.
3. That the Assistant Director (Legal, Governance & Workforce) be authorised to enter into any legal agreements necessary to give effect to this decision in consultation with the Cabinet member for Economy and the Director of Economy and the Director of Resources.

Reason for resolution

In order to ensure timely delivery of Neighbourhood Rochdale, it is expedient to accept the GM Brownfield Land Funding and make progress on the scheme design.

**8 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. Reason for the resolution Should the press and public remain during debate on these three 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.

9 ENVIRONMENTAL FLEET VEHICLES

Consideration was given to a report of the Cabinet Member for Environment and Facilities / Director of Neighbourhoods which sought approval of an Interim Procurement Strategy for the Replacement of the Council's Vehicle Fleet.

Alternatives considered

Extend the retention of existing fleet and be subject to GM ULEZ charges which would also contravene RBC Carbon Reduction Policy

RESOLVED

1. That the EM VRP Group proceed with the formal procurement of the vehicle fleet supply contracts as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.
2. That the Director of Neighbourhoods, following endorsement by the Portfolio Holder for Climate Change & Sustainability alongside the Portfolio Holder for Environmental Management, Facilities Management and Properties be delegated to approve any developments and amends to the current Vehicle Procurement Strategy for vehicle, plant and related machinery replacements detailed above.
3. That the Director of Neighbourhoods, in consultation with the Cabinet Members for Environmental Management, Facilities Management and Properties alongside the Portfolio Holder for Highways and Housing be delegated authority to conduct the procurement and award and enter into the contracts set out in this report and all other necessary or ancillary agreements with the successful bidder(s) for this year's replacement schedule and future years up until and including the 2023/24 scheduled replacements.
4. That the Director of Neighbourhoods be delegated authority for any non-strategic amends to the replacement programme and schedule in terms of vehicle requirements and specifications in conjunction with Corporate Finance as part of the council's normal budget setting process.

Reason for resolution

To ensure the authority contributes to its carbon reduction and emissions targets as well as avoiding the financial pressures that would come into effect for non-compliant vehicles used as part of our activities when the GM ULEZ charges come into effect.

**10 ROCHDALE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (RDA) CORE REVENUE FUNDING
2021-2022**

Consideration was given to a report of the Cabinet Member for Economy and Communications / Assistant Director of Economy seeking approval for funding for Rochdale Development Agency (RDA) under the Agreement for Services, noting a review of the RDA to be reported at future meetings of the Cabinet.

Alternatives considered

The alternative is not to provide the revenue funding under the Agreement for Services, or not to provide it at the same level.

RESOLVED

1. That the revenue payment under the Agreement for Services to the RDA for 2021/22 of £403,874, be approved providing for a future percentage uplift to reflect whatever is agreed nationally in the Local Government pay settlement, and that this will be an annual Cabinet decision before the start of each financial year.
2. That a review of the Agreement for Services with RDA in advance of the next financial year (2022/2023), and the use - for this year only - of a Change of Control note be approved.
3. That in view of the Portfolio holder's position as a Director of RDA, the Leader's approval is required for any additional Council funding for the RDA, in consultation with the Council's client officer from the 1st July 2021, Mark Robinson, Assistant Director, Economy Directorate, and the Chief Finance Officer.
4. The Assistant Director (Legal, Governance & Workforce) be authorised to execute the Change of Control Notice and enter into any legal agreements necessary to give effect to this decision.

Reason for resolution

To enable the RDA to continue to provide services on behalf of the Council in line with the Borough's Growth Plan and RDA Delivery Plan for 2021/22, pending the review of the Service Agreement.