

Contact Officer: Andrea Woodside

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

CABINET

Tuesday 30th May 2017

Present: Councillor David Sheard (Chair)
Councillor Shabir Pandor
Councillor Peter McBride
Councillor Naheed Mather
Councillor Musarrat Khan
Councillor Viv Kendrick
Councillor Graham Turner

Apologies: Councillor Masood Ahmed

239 Membership of the Committee

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Ahmed.

240 Minutes of previous meetings

RESOLVED –

That the Minutes of the Meetings held on 4 April and 2 May 2017 be approved as a correct record.

241 Interests

No interests were declared.

242 Admission of the Public

It was noted that all Agenda Items would be considered in public session.

243 Deputations/Petitions

No deputations were received.

244 Member Question Time

No questions were asked.

245 Review of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2018/19

Cabinet gave consideration to a report which sought authority to consult on options to redesign the Council Tax Reduction Scheme for the year 2018/2019, and beyond. It was noted that the matters to be included within the scheme were set out within Schedule 12A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992. The report advised that, if the Council made a decision to revise the scheme, it must do so no later than 31 January 2018, for a scheme to have effect from 1 April 2018.

The report set out details of the options of; (i) making no major changes to the existing scheme (ii) reducing protection – a 10% scheme (iii) removing protection and having a standard 20% Council Tax Reduction Working age scheme (iv) a complete redesign and (v) general changes to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme.

Cabinet noted that the report was intended to give notice of an intention to change the Council's approach to providing a Council Tax Reduction Scheme, prior to undertaking a public consultation and the submission of a report to a future meeting of Cabinet. The proposals for consultation were set out at Appendix 1 of the considered report.

RESOLVED

- 1) That the options for redesign of the Council's Council Tax Reduction Scheme, as detailed within the report, be noted.
- 2) That approval be given for an 8 week Council Tax Reduction Scheme consultation process to be undertaken.
- 3) That the Service Director – Finance, IT and Transactional Services be given delegated responsibility to progress the consultation exercise and prepare the Council for any changes that may occur from the proposed options.
- 4) That a report detailing the outcome of the consultation exercise be submitted to a future meeting of Cabinet.

246 Council Financial Outturn & Rollover Report 2016-17; incorporating General Fund Revenue, Housing Revenue Account, Capital & Treasury Management

Cabinet received a report which set out details of the Council's 2016-2017 financial outturn position for the General Revenue Fund, Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and Capital Plan, including proposals for revenue and capital rollover from 2016-2017 to 2017-2018.

Cabinet noted that the Council's General Fund (net) Revenue budget for 2016-2017 was set at £310.8m and that there was a (net) funding transfer from reserves to a general fund during the year totalling £0.9m in 2016-2017, which resulted in a revised budget of £311.7m. The report advised that Council spend was £314.4m in

2016-2017 and that there was a reported overspend of £2.7m, equivalent to a 0.8% variance against the revised budget.

The report advised that, subject to approval, capital rollover proposals and the update of the five year capital plan would be incorporated into in-year financial monitoring in 2017-2018, and reported quarterly to Cabinet, from Quarter 1 onwards.

RESOLVED

- 1) That, in terms of the General Revenue Fund, (i) the revenue outturn position for 2016-2017 be noted, (ii) the year-end position on corporate reserves, including available 'financial resilience' reserves, be noted and (iii) it be noted that regular monitoring and review of corporate reserves in 2017-2018 will be reported to Cabinet as part of the quarterly financial monitoring cycle including consideration of the potential re-direct of earmarked reserves to support deferred District Committee spend commitments.
- 2) That, in terms of the Housing Revenue Account, (i) the revenue outturn position 2016-2017 be noted, and (ii) the year end position on HRA reserves be noted.
- 3) That, in terms of Capital, (i) the Council capital outturn position 2016-2017 be noted, (ii) approval be given to £39.2m capital rollover from 2016-2017 to 2017-2018, (iii) approval be given to the revised Capital Plan for the 5 year period 2017-2022, after taking into account rollover, the re-phasing of schemes and changes to grant assumptions, and (iv) it be noted that a further review of the updated capital plan to inform the annual refresh of Council multi-year budget strategies is scheduled for submission to Council during Autumn 2017.
- 4) That the review of treasury management activity 2016-2017, as set out in Appendix A of the considered report, be noted.
- 5) That Officers be asked to note Cabinet's concerns regarding the potential for expenditure late on in the financial year.

247 Update on the Kirklees Local Plan and the Community Infrastructure Levy

Cabinet received a report which provided an update on the progress of the Local Plan and Community Infrastructure Levy. The report advised that both documents had now been examined by an Independent Planning Inspector, appointed by the Secretary of State, and it set out a summary of outcomes of the publication consultation and the process of submission and examination.

Cabinet noted that the timetable for the Local Plan was set out within the existing Local Development Scheme, with the Examination set out for April to November 2017 and the adoption of the plan in early 2018.

Appendix 1 of the considered report set out details of the process of preparing the Local Plan. The report advised that the Planning Inspector was likely to identify a series of main matters, issues and questions which would provide the main context

of the Examination and initially seek written representations. Following this, the Council would advertise the arrangements for hearings for a six week period prior to the hearings commencing.

RESOLVED

- 1) That the update and progress on the Local Plan and Community Infrastructure Levy (Draft Charging Schedule) be noted.
- 2) That authority be delegated to the Strategic Director (Economy and Infrastructure) to update the Local Plan timetable on a regular basis throughout its Examination in Public, via the Council's website.
- 3) That authority be delegated to the Strategic Director (Economy and Infrastructure), in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member/s, to prepare and agree a schedule of proposed main modifications (related to matters discussed at examination hearings) for a six week public consultation, if required by the Planning Inspector, in accordance with the Council's statement of community involvement, and other minor modifications as may be necessary to make the plan sound or comply with other legal requirements.

248 Quarter 4 Corporate Performance Report 2016/17

Cabinet received a report which provided an overview of the Council's corporate performance at the end of Quarter 4, 2016/2017. The report provided an update on progress on the outcomes and an overview of performance, risk, and the New Council programme.

The report highlighted a number of key points, which included; (i) the launch of the 2017-2020 Kirklees Hate Crime Strategy (ii) the completion of 93% of major planning applications within agreed timescales (against a target of 70%), and (iii) the Stronger Families Programme exceeding the engagement target, with the engagement of 1055 families.

A copy of the Quarter (4) Executive Team Corporate Performance Report (January to March 2017) was provided as an Appendix to the considered report.

RESOLVED

That the Quarter 2 Corporate Performance Report 2016-2017 be received and noted.

249 Leeds' Bid to be European Capital of Culture in 2023

Cabinet received a report which sought approval for the Council to provide a letter of support to Leeds City Council in relation to their bid to be European Capital of Culture 2023.

The report advised that the bid would be submitted at the end of October 2017 and that a successful bid would be considered as a major opportunity for the wider

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region to boost cultural, social and economic development, and develop and create more jobs and skills within creative industry, as well as promoting pride and well-being.

Cabinet noted that the decision regarding the European Capital of Culture 2023 would be announced during Autumn 2018 and that the benefits of winning would provide the attraction of major national funding and events to the region, boost tourism, and raise the profile of Leeds and the wider region as a major European City.

RESOLVED

- 1) That support be given to Leeds' bid to be European Capital of Culture 2023 by the provision of a letter of support to be included within the bid.
- 2) That the involvement of cultural organisations from Kirklees in the bid be encouraged and that the potential benefits from employment and skills development opportunities, and access to initiatives, be noted.
- 3) That, should Leeds be successful, the potential call on regional funds to invest in the delivery of the bid be noted.

250 Ward Budgets 2017/18

Cabinet gave consideration to a report which sought approval for the criteria of ward budgets in 2017-2018, whereby each ward was allocated £10,000 to spend in 2017/2018. The proposed criteria for the allocation of monies, and the use of outstanding New Homes Bonus resources was set out within Appendices 1 and 2 of the considered report.

Cabinet noted that the criteria proposed supported the overall delivery of Council priorities and were intended to increase Ward Councillor responsibility in terms of devolved resources and maximising the use of local community skills, assets and resources to make communities thrive.

RESOLVED

- 1) That approval be given to the proposed new criteria in respect of ward budgets, and New Homes Bonus, as set out in Appendices 1 and 2 of the considered report, and that a proportionate governance process be developed in consultation with the Head of Audit and Risk.
- 2) That the following sentence to be deleted from Appendix 1, Paragraph 1.1 'Any money not committed by that time, or fully expended by 31 March 2018 will return to corporate funds.'