

Contact Officer: Andrea Woodside

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

CABINET

Tuesday 22nd August 2017

Present: Councillor David Sheard (Chair)
Councillor Peter McBride
Councillor Naheed Mather
Councillor Musarrat Khan
Councillor Erin Hill
Councillor Graham Turner

Apologies: Councillor Shabir Pandor
Councillor Viv Kendrick
Councillor Cathy Scott

303 Membership of the Committee

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Kendrick, Pandor and Scott.

304 Minutes of previous meetings

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meetings held on 25 July and 31 July 2017 be approved as a correct record.

305 Interests

No interests were declared.

306 Admission of the Public

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

307 Deputations/Petitions

Cabinet received the following deputations:

- (a) from Conscious Youth CIC seeking to raise awareness of Motor Neurone Disease among Councillors and the community, and encouraging the Council to adopt the MND charter.
- (b) from local residents of Lockwood regarding the impact of the introduction of a one way system at Victoria Road, Lockwood.

(c) from Mr S Bradbury regarding his access to Council buildings within Kirklees.

The Leader of the Council responded to the deputations.

308 Public Question Time

No questions were asked.

309 Member Question Time

Cabinet received a question from Councillor Cooper asking that urgent attention be given to the issue raised at Agenda Item 5 (Minute No. 3076 refers) regarding Victoria Road, Lockwood.

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member (Councillor Khan).

310 Corporate Financial Monitoring Report - Quarter 1 for 2017-18

Cabinet received a report which provided financial monitoring information in respect of the General Revenue Fund, Housing Revenue Account and Capital Plan, at Quarter 1, 2017-2018. The report advised that the Council's General Fund controllable (net) revenue budget for 2017-2018 was set at £294.7m, which included planned (net) revenue savings of £54m. A further £8.3m of 'temporary resources' had been added to this budget in-year, reflecting a planned drawdown from one-off earmarked reserves to fund a number of one-off deferred expenditure commitments or other developments, which resulted in a revised budget of £302.9m at Quarter 1. There was a forecast overspend of £5.8m against the £302.9m revised budget at Quarter 1, which was equivalent to a 1.9% variance against revised budget.

Cabinet noted that the Council was on track to deliver £49m (net) savings in-year against its £54m savings target, equivalent to 90% achievement, and that the £5.8m forecast overspend represented a shortfall against target savings in-year.

The report advised that General fund reserves were forecast to reduce in-year by £25.2m, to £64.9m and that the forecast reduction included £8.3m earmarked reserves. Of the remaining £64.9m general fund reserves at year end, earmarked reserves totalled £25.6m, and statutory schools reserves totalled £9.8m.

The report also advised that the forecast capital outturn at Quarter 1 was £80.8m, resulting in an underspend of £29.0m, equivalent to 26.4%. It advised that this projected underspend reflected in part the timing in delivery of a number of strategic priority capital schemes, including £8.3m relating to the HD-One development and the revolving credit facility to Kirklees College no longer being required.

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Cabinet noted that the report provided a summary of the current and forecast financial performance against revenue and capital budgets, as at Quarter 1, and that the budgets supported the overall delivery of Council objectives and priorities.

RESOLVED

- 1) That the Quarter 1 forecast revenue monitoring overspend be noted.
- 2) That the forecast reduction in general fund reserves in-year at £25.2m and year end position at £64.9m be noted.
- 3) That the favourable in-year financial performance on Collection Fund be noted.
- 4) That the Quarter 1 forecast HRA surplus at £159k, and forecast reserves position at year end at £49.7m, be noted.
- 5) That proposals to bring the forecast £5.8m overspend in line with budgets by year end be noted.
- 6) That proposals to incorporate key intelligence from Quarter 1 monitoring into the forthcoming budget strategy update 2018-2022, as appropriate, be noted.
- 7) That it be noted that further proposals for the use of new Adult Social Care monies will be submitted to Cabinet and Council as part of the budget strategy update report.

311 West Yorkshire +Transport Fund (WY+TF)

Cabinet received a report which requested that consideration be given to underwriting land acquisition costs. The report explained that, further to the Cabinet report of 9 February 2016, the Council was now able to seek funding for the acquisition of land at the Outline Business Case stage which would allow Officers to commence negotiations with landowners to try and secure land at an earlier stage, which could be beneficial. In order to enable the Council to underwrite land acquisition costs until approval for reimbursement is secured from West Yorkshire and Transport Fund, the report requested that the Council establish a rolling 'West Yorkshire Land Acquisition Fund' within the Strategic Regeneration Capital Budget with an initial allocation of £0.85m, whereby the initial scheme in Kirklees where land acquisition would be required would be the A629 Halifax Road (Phase 5) but that other schemes would follow.

Cabinet noted that the fund would be monitored through regular finance reports submitted to the Council's West Yorkshire plus Transport Fund Programme Board.

RESOLVED

- 1) That approval be given to (i) establishing, within the Strategic Regeneration Capital Budget, a rolling 'WYTF Land Acquisition Fund' with an initial allocation of £0.85m (ii) commencing negotiations with land owners for land required to

deliver the A629 Halifax Road (Phase 5) project (iii) developing the WYTF A629 Halifax Road (Phase 5) project to an outline business case stage with a target date of submission in October 2017 (iv) seeking funding approval via the WYCA Investment Committee to continue scheme development in order to achieve full business case status which would permit delivery of the scheme, when accepted, and (v) the submission of a report to Cabinet seeking consideration of full scheme approval and implementation, with authorisation in a similar timeframe to (iv), to enable the WYTF A629 Halifax Road Phase 5 to progress to construction.

- 2) That the exercise of the authority for the Council to acquire parcels of land for highway purposes, where the acquisition price is between £250,000 and £500,000 be delegated to the Service Director (Economy, Regeneration and Culture) to be exercised by the Service Director, in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Portfolio Holder.

312 Dewsbury Rail Station Gateway

Cabinet gave consideration to a report which requested the allocation of £450,000 from the Strategic Priorities Capital Plan to support the delivery of the Dewsbury Rail Station Gateway Scheme. The report advised that the scheme would deliver enhancements to the station forecourt which would enable pedestrian connectivity and improve conditions for the efficient movement of transport. The total cost of the scheme was £950k, of which £500 had already been secured, and it was therefore proposed that £450k be allocated from the Regeneration Capital Plan.

Appendix A to the considered report set out the proposed scheme design which included amendments to the current station parking facilities, the part pedestrianisation of the area outside of the railway station building to improve surface connectivity, the creation of greater public realm space, the retention of a drop off zone and the re-design of crossing arrangements to Wellington Road to create a straight crossing.

The report advised that the transformation was considered as integral to attracting inward investment to Dewsbury, improving the impression of the town centre and providing a catalyst for transformation change.

RESOLVED

That approval be given to capital expenditure of £950k to fund the proposed improvements to Dewsbury Railway Station.

313 Air Quality Management Area Declaration and Update

(Under the provision of Council Procedure Rule 36 (1), Cabinet received representations from Councillors Cooper and Wilson).

Cabinet received a report which provided an update on air quality management, and sought approval for delegated authority to make changes and additional to Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA). The report advised that there were currently two AQMAs within Kirklees and that authority was sought to (i) remove the AQMA in Scout Hill as pollution levels are now below national standards (ii) reduce the size of the AQMA at Bradley as the size of the area affected by pollution above national standards has reduced and (iii) declare seven new AQMAs in the areas of Birchencliffe, Birkenshaw, Eastborough, Edgerton, Heckmondwike, Huddersfield Town Centre and Outlane as pollution levels within these areas are currently being breached.

Cabinet noted that the declaration of AQMAs was a legal requirement where pollution levels had been shown to exceed National Air Quality Objectives and that a process of action planning would now commence in the seven areas to reduce the pollution to an acceptable level.

The 2016 Air Quality Annual Status Report was attached as an appendix to the considered report and provided an overview of air quality in the Kirklees area during 2016.

RESOLVED

- 1) That the Air Quality update report be noted.
- 2) That approval be delegated to the Service Director (Commercial, Regulatory and Operational) for changes and additions to Air Quality Management Areas.

314 Consultation about services for children and families, including people with disabilities

Cabinet received a report which sought approval to carry out public consultation and engagement about proposed changes to service that support children and families (i) in early years for children with special educational needs and disabilities (ii) to access short breaks for carers of disabled children (iii) for social care funded transport for disabled children, young people, working age adults and older people to access services within the community and (iv) home to school transport for compulsory school age children. The report provided a more detailed breakdown on the proposed changes to service delivery, setting out information regarding benefits, key risks, issues, mitigation and legal requirements.

The report advised that there was an opportunity for the Council to change the way it delivered services by applying the principles of the All Age Disability Framework in new ways and that feedback from the consultation would inform the proposals to be submitted for consideration at a later date. Cabinet noted that the aim of these proposals would be to deliver services as effectively and efficiently as possible for the benefit of service users and the public. The services as set out in the proposed consultation had been identified in the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan as requiring reviews of the current offer in order to meet needs more efficiently.

The report indicated that, subject to approval, the consultation exercise would commence on 4 September for a seven week period, followed by the submission of a further Cabinet report, scheduled for 19 December 2017.

RESOLVED

- 1) That approval be given to commencing the consultation process, as detailed within the report.
- 2) That authority be delegated to Service Directors for Learning and Early Support, Integration, and Commercial, Regulatory and Operational Services, in consultation with Cabinet Portfolio Holders to finalise the detail and timeline of the consultation.
- 3) That it be noted that the outcome of the consultation will be submitted to a future meeting of Cabinet to inform any further decisions relating to changes to service provision.

315 Food Safety Development Plan 2017-2019

Cabinet received a report which sought approval to carry out public consultation and engagement about proposed changes to service that support children and families (i) in early years for children with special educational needs and disabilities (ii) to access short breaks for carers of disabled children (iii) for social care funded transport for disabled children, young people, working age adults and older people to access services within the community and (iv) home to school transport for compulsory school age children. The report provided a more detailed breakdown on the proposed changes to service delivery, setting out information regarding benefits, key risks, issues, mitigation and legal requirements.

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The report indicated that, subject to approval, the consultation exercise would commence on 4 September for a seven week period, followed by the submission of a further Cabinet report, scheduled for 19 December 2017.

RESOLVED

That the Food Safety Development Plan 2017/2018 be approved.

316 Charging for Food Hygiene Rating Score Re-visits

Cabinet gave consideration to a report which sought approval for the introduction of charges for Food Hygiene Rating Score revisits. The report explained that currently a business could request a revisit after a period of three months in instances where it scores between 1 and 4 for its hygiene rating and that there is no charge on this visit. In recognition of the strain on the Council's resources, the Food Standards Agency undertook a trial whereby some local authorities were permitted to charge for revisit inspections. The trial was considered to be a success and the Food Standards Agency had now issued national guidance to enable revisits to be subject to a charge. Appendix two to the considered report set out a breakdown of costs and proposed a revisit charge of £150. Cabinet noted that during 2016/2017, the Food Safety Team had undertaken 37 revisit inspections.

RESOLVED

That approval be given to the introduction of charges for Food Hygiene Rating Score re-visits.

317 Social Work Teaching Partnership

Cabinet received a report which provided an update of the contribution of the Social Work Teaching Partnership to the Children and Adult Services transformation agenda. The report advised that the Council was part of the Yorkshire Urban and Rural Social Work Teaching Partnership which aimed to transform social work education and workforce development, and that it was awarded £700k to drive forward improvements in the education and training of social workers. The report listed the key drivers of the programme as (i) enhancing partnership arrangements between Higher Education Institutions and employers (ii) attracting more able students to the social work profession (iii) embedding knowledge and skills into academic curricula and continuing professional development for existing workers and (iv) raising the overall quality of social work practice.

Cabinet noted the key objectives as set out within the report, and that by working collaboratively the Partnership aimed to grow, develop, inspire and sustain a highly skilled and confident social work workforce.

RESOLVED

That the contribution of the Social Work Teaching Partnership to the Children and Adult Services transformation process be noted.