

Contact Officer: Andrea Woodside

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

CABINET

Tuesday 20th February 2018

Present: Councillor David Sheard (Chair)
Councillor Shabir Pandor
Councillor Peter McBride
Councillor Naheed Mather
Councillor Musarrat Khan
Councillor Masood Ahmed
Councillor Graham Turner
Councillor Cathy Scott

Observers: Councillor Mohan Sokhal, Labour - Group Business
Manager
Councillor Rob Walker

Apologies: Councillor Erin Hill (Currently on Maternity Leave)
Councillor Viv Kendrick

419 Membership of the Committee

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Hill and Kendrick.

420 Minutes of previous meeting

Approved as a correct record.

421 Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

422 Admission of the Public

It was noted that all agenda items would be considered in public session.

423 Deputations/Petitions

Cabinet received a deputation from Mr Ken Shaw with regards to highway safety matters at Waingate, Newsome.

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Councillor Khan.

424 Public Question Time

No questions were asked.

425 Member Question Time

No questions were asked.

426 Corporate Financial Monitoring Report - Quarter 3 for 2017-18

Cabinet received a report which set out financial monitoring information for the quarter 3 period, 2017/2018.

The report provided key information in relation to the general revenue fund, housing revenue account and capital plan. With regards to the general revenue fund, it was noted that there was a forecast underspend of £3.3m against the £307.8m revised budget at quarter 3, which equated to a minus 1.1% variance against budget and included a number of overspends and offsetting underspends.

With regards to general revenue fund reserves, it was reported that reserves were forecast to reduce through 2017/2018 by £24.3m, from £90.1m to £65.8m and that this reduction included a £13.1m earmarked reserves drawdown, plus £11.2m set aside to help achieve a balanced budget in 2017/18. It was noted that the general balances was forecast at £7.3m and that, within this figure, there was an assumed £5m minimum balances requirement.

The report advised that council tax was projecting an in-year surplus of £2.5m, mainly due to improved performance of income collection and that the housing revenue account forecast revenue outturn was a surplus of £411k, equivalent to 0.4%.

The revised capital budget for 2017/2018 was £111.7m and at quarter 3 the forecast capital outturn was £68.2m, resulting in an underspend equivalent to 39%.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That the use of additional Better Care Funding monies in 2017-2018, as set out in the considered, be noted.
- 2) That the Quarter 3 forecast £3.3m revenue monitoring underspend.
- 3) That the forecast reduction in general fund reserves in-year at £24.3m and year end position at £65.8m.
- 4) That the overall favourable in-year financial performance on the Collection Fund be noted.
- 5) That the Quarter 3 forecast HRA surplus at £411k and forecast reserves position at year end at £55.4m be noted.
- 6) That approval be given to the transfer of Revenue contributions to Capital (RCCOs) totalling £125k, in accordance with Financial Procedure Rules 3.10 – 3.12.
- 7) That the additional Homelessness Reduction Act: New Burdens Funding of £92k in 2017/18, £85k in 2018/19 and £105k in 2019/20 be noted.

427 Corporate Performance Monitoring - Quarter 3 2017-18

Cabinet received a report which provided an overview of the Council's corporate performance at the end of quarter 3, 2017/2018. The report focussed upon key strategic issues in relation to the delivery themes of (i) Ambitious Kirklees (ii) Inclusive Kirklees and (iii) Resilient Kirklees, and advised that 57% of all actions had been assessed as being on track.

Cabinet noted the key issues which included regeneration progress in Dewsbury, the development of the citizen account, housing of vulnerable people and casework management of children's safeguarding operations.

The Quarter 3 performance monitoring report was appended to the considered report.

RESOLVED - That the Quarter 3 Corporate Performance Report be noted.

428 Determination of Admission Arrangements for 2019/20

Cabinet gave consideration to a report which set out the results of the annual consultation regarding school admission arrangements for 2019/2020. The report advised that no major changes had been made to the proposed schemes, which were attached as an appendix to the considered report. It was noted that 12 responses to the consultation had been received, which were set out at paragraph 4.

The report sought approval from Cabinet to approve the co-ordinated admissions schemes, admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools, and the proposed published admission numbers.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That approval be given to the Kirklees Co-Ordinated Admission Schemes for 2019/20, including in-year admissions as set out at Appendix 2 to the considered report.
- 2) That the admission arrangements for Kirklees Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools, as detailed at Appendix 1 of the considered report, including the schedule of Published Admission Number, be approved.

429 Freehold Asset Transfer of Slaithwaite Civic Hall, New Street, Slaithwaite, Huddersfield, HD7 5AB

Cabinet gave consideration to a report which set out a proposal for the freehold transfer of land and buildings which comprise Slaithwaite Civic Hall to Slaithwaite Civic Trust.

The report advised that the building was in an acceptable state of repair, but that a condition survey had identified works totalling £133,466, and that, in transferring the asset, the Council would avoid financing costs of £7,396 associated with the capital works, and achieve a revenue saving of £15,691.

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Cabinet noted that, in accordance with the 2017 Community Asset Transfer Policy, the Trust had requested payment equivalent to 15% of the average of the previous two years running costs for this facility which would have a one off revenue implication for the Council of £2,626. It was noted that the Trust had requested a match funding loan of £100,000 to part fund a programme of refurbishment and improvements.

RESOLVED -

- 1) That approval be given to the freehold transfer of Slaithwaite Civic Hall to the Trustees of Slaithwaite Civic Hall Trust under the 2017 Community Asset Transfer Policy for nil consideration, and to include covenants for community use with the exception of up to 30% commercial use, as detailed at paragraph 2.9.3 of the considered report.
- 2) That authorisation be given to a payment of £2,626 to Slaithwaite Civic Hall Trust on completion of the transfer, being 15% of the average of the previous two years running costs in line with the 2017 Community Asset Transfer Policy.
- 3) That approval be given to a match funding secured loan of £100,000, in accordance with the 2017 Community Asset Transfer Policy, to be repaid over a term of 20 years, and that the loan only be released when the Trust has demonstrated that match funding has been secured.
- 4) That approval be given to the Service Director (Economy, Regeneration and Culture) negotiating and agreeing the terms of the transfer for Slaithwaite Civic Hall (including the extent of the land transferred) and the match funding loan agreement to Slaithwaite Civic Hall Trust and the Service Director (Legal, Governance and Commissioning) entering into and executing all documents necessary to effect the transfer and loan agreement.

430 Disposal of development site in Quarmby, Huddersfield

RESOLVED - That the report be withdrawn, in accordance with paragraph 1.2 of the report, due to no objections having been received following the statutory notice under S123 of the Local Government Act 1972, and that the disposal of the site be dealt with under Delegated Powers for asset disposals, as approved by Council on 23 March 2011.

431 Disposal of Public Open Space at North Rd/Nevins Rd, Ravensthorpe

Cabinet received a report which requested that consideration be given to the disposal of public open space at North Road and Nevins Road, Ravensthorpe. The report advised that an objection to the proposed disposal of the land had been received, which was attached at appendix two of the considered report.

As the objection had not been withdrawn, it was necessary for the matter to be determined by Cabinet.

RESOLVED - That approval be given to the disposal of public open space at North Road/Nevins Road, Ravensthorpe.

432 Summary of Findings from the Special Educational Needs and/or Disability (SEND) High Needs Strategic Review

Cabinet received a report which set out a summary of findings arising from the Special Educational Needs and/or Disability (SEND) High Needs Strategic Review. The report set out the findings of the data collection and analysis, and non-statutory consultation, to inform strategic planning for provision for children and young people with special educational needs and disability. It advised that the review focussed on the main areas of (i) the range of SEND data, including recent trends and likely changes in the future and (ii) the effectiveness of the current pattern of provision in meeting needs using feedback from parents and young people, providers and partners, with a view to identifying any gaps in provision and future opportunities.

The report explained that the overall purpose of the review was to consider the effectiveness of local provision with a view to ensuring sufficient quality of local provision, which is at the right place, at the right time, and effectively meets the needs of children and young people with SEND, enabling access to learning in the local area and reducing the need to travel out of the area in order to have needs met.

The report set out details of the current context in Kirklees, an analysis of the responses received to the consultation, conclusions from the high needs review, and emerging priorities for improvement. Cabinet were advised that the DfE had instructed local authorities to publish how they will utilise their specialist provision capital fund and that the Council's allocation of £1m will then be allocated in three tranches between 2018 and 2021.

RESOLVED -

- 1) That the findings of the data collection and analysis, and non-statutory consultation, to inform the strategic planning of provision for children and young people with special educational need and disability be noted.
- 2) That a further report be submitted to the meeting of Cabinet on 20 March 2018 setting out details of proposals to utilise the £1m capital funding allocation from the DfE.