

Contact Officer: Yolande Myers

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

CABINET

Tuesday 9th August 2022

Present: Councillor Shabir Pandor (Chair)
Councillor Paul Davies
Councillor Eric Firth
Councillor Musarrat Khan
Councillor Cathy Scott
Councillor Graham Turner

In attendance: Councillor Andrew Cooper
Councillor John Lawson
Councillor Elizabeth Reynolds
Councillor Lesley Warner

Apologies: Councillor Viv Kendrick
Councillor Naheed Mather
Councillor Carole Pattison
Councillor Will Simpson

36 Membership of Cabinet

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors V Kendrick, N Mather, C Pattison and W Simpson.

37 Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 5 July 2022 be approved as a correct record.

38 Declarations of Interest

No interests were declared.

39 Admission of the Public

It was noted that Agenda Item 14 would be considered in exempt session (Minute No 49 refers).

40 Deputations/Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

41 Questions by Members of the Public

No questions were asked.

42 Questions by Elected Members (Oral Questions)

Cabinet received the following questions in accordance with Executive Procedure Rule 2.3 (2.3.1.6).

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Question from Councillor J Lawson

“At the last Cabinet meeting I asked you what direct actions you had taken in light of the cost-of-living crisis motion at Council the previous week. Can I ask again what actions you have taken to lobby government to improve the prospects of the residents of Kirklees?”

A response was provided by the Leader of the Council (Councillor S Pandor).

Question from Councillor A Cooper

“I have previously raised with Highways the issue of HGV’s driving through Armitage Bridge. I have been raising this for years and yet nothing has been done about it. Can I ask when action be taken?”

A response was provided by the Leader of the Council (Councillor S Pandor)

Question from Councillor J Lawson

“Recently officers visited groups to talk about the Climate Change Action Plan. It looked very dynamic and there was relief that some action was being taken. I understand that the next step is for it to be considered by Cabinet. During the Covid pandemic, we had a control board due to it being such a serious issue. Due to the scale of climate change, should climate change be treated in the same way as Covid and be an area for full member cooperation?”

A response was provided by the Leader of the Council (Councillor S Pandor)

Question from Councillor A Cooper

“With the Climate Change Action Plan coming up, I think one of the things we should be looking at is fuel poverty as an integral part of the action plan. I wonder if there will be a communication strategy as we head into winter to address issues coming up. This could give simple energy advice such as effective use of controls, sharing heat between neighbours and warm banks. We need a strategy, and do you think Members should be involved?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet member for Corporate Services (Councillor P Davies)

Question from Councillor L Warner

“I have contacted you about the disabled access in Slaithwaite Spa Park. We are going ahead with the repair with money from the ward budget. I was shocked to discover last week that the path we are going to be fixing is Highways responsibility, and so we are using money to repair something which would allow wheelchair access, that Highways should be doing. I now find that we are expected to pay for the closure of the footpath because highways say they do not have a budget or brief to do that. Please can this be investigated?”

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A response was provided by the Leader of the Council (Councillor S Pandor)

Question from Councillor A Cooper

“Does the Council have a cost-of-living crisis action plan?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet member for Corporate Services (Councillor P Davies)

Question from Councillor L Warner

“We have seen major changes in the way funding is allocated and the Place Partnerships have now become the PCN’s. In Colne Valley we had a brilliant scheme to support young people with mental health difficulties. We recruited a company who guaranteed if a school referred a young person for mental health support, they would see that young person within three days. 144 families were helped. I thought the approach was so brilliant I believe Kirklees could have rolled it out. Are these PCN’s going to have a pot of money which is equivalent to the money we had with the Place Partnerships so that we can continue to support young people with mental health difficulties?”

A response was provided by the Leader of the Council (Councillor S Pandor)

Question from Councillor J Lawson

“Do we have a clear idea how much money has been diverted from Kirklees to Tunbridge Wells?”

A response was provided by the Leader of the Council (Councillor S Pandor)

43 Financial Outturn Report for 2021-22 to include the Revenue, Capital and Housing Revenue Account Outturn Position & Annual Report on Treasury Management

Cabinet considered Council’s 2021/22 financial outturn position for General Fund Revenue, Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and Capital Plan, including proposals for revenue and capital rollover from 2021/22 to 2022/23. The report also included the annual review of Council Treasury Management activity.

The report advised that the Council’s revised general fund controllable (net) revenue budget for 2021/22 was £327.2m. The budget included planned (net) revenue savings in-year of £1.8m. The revised budget was net of a number of planned transfers to and from reserves during the year. These included a net £9.9m drawdown from COVID reserves and a net £0.7m transfer into other reserves.

Cabinet noted that Council spend was £327.2m in 2021/22, which reflected an overall ‘break-even’ financial performance against budget with a marginal overspend of £41k against the revised budget. Appendix 1 to the report considered, illustrated a summary of the revenue outturn position. The report

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provided information as to Covid-19 impacts, budget information by service area, general fund reserves, the collection fund, housing revenue account, capital budget programme and prudential indicators.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That in relation to the General Fund (i) the revenue outturn position for 2021/22 including COVID impacts be noted; (ii) the application of the Councils flexible capital receipts strategy to the value of £3.1m applied against eligible transformation in 2021/22, in line with the Councils approved budget plans in February 2022 be noted; (iii) the Government's £13.5m funding contribution on 31 March 2022 towards the Council's Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) deficit be noted; (iv) approval be given to the drawdown from the Council's earmarked demand reserve to offset the Almondbury Community School deficit school balance write-down (£1.954m) to the Council's general fund in 2021/22 in line with DSG guidance; (v) the year end position on corporate reserves and balances be noted; (vi) the proposed use of pre-existing reserves and endorse the proposed use of new reserves as set out in section 1.9 in the report be re-affirmed; (vii) the regular monitoring and review of corporate reserves in 2022/23 to be reported to Cabinet as part of the Quarterly financial monitoring cycle be noted;
- 2) That the year end position on the Collection Fund including COVID impacts be noted.
- 3) That the Housing Revenue Account revenue outturn and reserves position 2021/22 be noted;
- 4) That in relation to Capital (i) the Council capital outturn position for 2021/22 be noted; (ii) approval be given for the £33.7m capital rollover from 2021/22 to 2022/23; (iii) approval be given to the revised capital plan for the period 2022/23 after taking into account rollover, the re-phasing of schemes and changes to grant assumptions; (iv) approval be given, retrospectively, for the transfer of £1.2m to Spen Valley Leisure Centre from within the Capital Plan to meet contractually bound payments; (v) approval be given for the additional £350k borrowing for George Hotel for successful phase one completion.
- 5) That the Review of Treasury Management activity for 2020/21 be noted.

44 **2021-22 End-of-Year Corporate Performance and Impact Report**

Cabinet received the 2021-22 End-of-Year Corporate Performance and Impact Report.

Cabinet was provided with an overview of the Council's performance in relation to the 2021-23 Council Plan deliverables and highlighted the most significant issues and challenges facing the Council and partners in improving outcomes across Kirklees.

Cabinet was advised that the appendix to the report demonstrated progress in relation to the 95 deliverables in the Council Plan 2021-2023. The report provided a high-level overview of how much the Council was doing, how well, and the difference it was making, including the following areas (i) working with people; (ii) working with partners; (iii) place based working; (iv) climate change and air quality;

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(v) improving outcomes for children; (vi) financial implications for the people living or working in Kirklees and (vii) Other (e.g. Legal/Financial or Human Resources).

RESOLVED – That the End of Year Corporate Performance and Impact Report be noted.

45 **Corporate Financial Monitoring Report; Quarter 1 for 2022-23**

(Under the provision of Council Procedure Rule 36(1) Cabinet received a representation from Councillor L Warner).

Cabinet received the Corporate Financial Monitoring report for General Fund Revenue, Housing Revenue Account and Capital Plan, as at Quarter 1, 2022/2023. The Council's revised General Fund controllable (net) revenue budget for 2022/23 was £338.7m. The budget included planned (net) revenue savings in-year of £2.5m.

Cabinet was advised that the revised budget was net of a number of planned transfers from reserves during the year, with the most significant being £1.7m from the Revenue Grants reserve and £0.7m from the COVID Grants reserve.

Cabinet noted that there was a forecast overspend of £24.6m against the £338.7m revised budget at Quarter 1; equivalent to 7.3%. This was largely attributable to specific cost of living pressures above budgeted assumptions that were set out in section 1.2 of the report.

The report provided a summary of quarter 1 monitoring information in regards to service areas, general fund reserves, collection fund, housing revenue account and capital and 2022/2023 budget proposals regarding (i) cost of living pressures; (ii) pay award; (iii) energy inflation and (iv) fuel and food inflation.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That in relation to the General Fund (i) the forecast revenue outturn position at Quarter 1 be noted; (ii) the intent to bring proposals to cabinet in due course for the future procurement of the Council's energy contract from April 2023 onwards be noted; (iii) the forecast year end position on corporate reserves and balances at Quarter 1 be noted; (iv) the regular monitoring and review of corporate reserves in 2022/23 reported to Cabinet as part of the Quarterly financial monitoring cycle be noted; (v) the management actions set out at 3.7.7 to 3.7.10 of the report and the intention to bring proposals back to Cabinet for further consideration to address the in-year position be noted.
- 2) That the forecast position on the Collection Fund as at Quarter 1 be noted.
- 3) That the Quarter 1 forecast Housing Revenue Account position and forecast year-end reserves position be noted.
- 4) That in relation to Capital (i) the Quarter 1 forecast capital monitoring position for 2022/23 be noted; (ii) that approval be given to the re-profiling of the 2022/23 capital plan as set out in the report and at Appendix 5 of the report; (iii) that approval be given for the £200k capital scheme drawdown for the Huddersfield District Energy Network; (iv) that approval be given to the £1m drawdown from the existing 22/23 Cultural Heart capital allocation to cover

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the cashflow issues created for the month of September through scheduling the Outline Business Case Cabinet report for 20 September 2022.

46 **Kirklees Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy refresh**

Cabinet considered the draft refreshed Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS).

The report outlined that the Council, along with NHS partners, had a statutory duty to work together through the Health and Wellbeing Board to agree and implement a JHWS for the district.

Cabinet noted that the JHWS was a high-level strategy which sets out the vision, ways of working and priorities for health and wellbeing in Kirklees. Responsibility for delivery of the JHWS rests across a wide range of local partner organisations, partnerships with oversight by the Kirklees Health and Wellbeing Board.

Cabinet was advised that the current JHWS was being refreshed and the Board expected to approve the new JHWS at its meeting on the 22 September 2022.

Cabinet noted that the JHWS was in the Council's Policy Framework as per Article 4 of the constitution and the decision about whether the Council adopts the JHWS must be made at Full Council.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy be noted, recognising that further minor amendments may be necessary to take account of feedback from key partners, and that that a set of materials to help communicate the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy was being developed.
- 2) That the report be referred to the meeting of Council on 7 September with a recommendation that the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy be adopted, subject to final approval by the Health and Wellbeing Board.

47 **Operational Services Asset Management System - Replacement Project**

Cabinet gave consideration to a report which sought approval to progress the Operational Services Asset Management System – Replacement Project (OSAMS).

The report outlined the expenditure required of up to £1.8m over a 5-year period from the agreed Capital Plan for resourcing, procurement and onboarding of a new asset and data management system (OSAMS) project within the Capital Plan.

The report advised that there could be a requirement to drawdown some of the capital allocation to meet project resource commitments and to support the procurement and onboarding of one or more suppliers to deliver an updated asset management system.

Cabinet noted that the proposed expenditure would fund the replacement of existing outdated end of life IT systems which supported asset management, planning and maintenance within the highways, greenspace, and waste arenas.

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RESOLVED – That approval be given to (i) the expenditure of up to £1.8m from the agreed Capital Plan over five years for the resourcing, procurement and onboarding of a new asset and data management system (OSAMS); (ii) include drawdown of some of the capital allocation to meet project resource commitments and to support the procurement and onboarding of one or more suppliers to deliver an updated asset management system.

48 Exclusion of the Public

RESOLVED – That under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following item of business, on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information, as defined in Schedule 12A of the Act.

49 Operational Services Asset Management System - Replacement Project

Cabinet gave consideration to the exempt information prior to the determination of Agenda Item 12 (Minute No. 47 refers).