

Contact Officer: Andrea Woodside

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

CABINET

Monday 5th September 2022

Present: Councillor Shabir Pandor (Chair)
Councillor Paul Davies
Councillor Eric Firth
Councillor Viv Kendrick
Councillor Musarrat Khan
Councillor Naheed Mather
Councillor Carole Pattison
Councillor Will Simpson
Councillor Graham Turner

Observers: Councillor John Taylor

Apologies: Councillor Cathy Scott

50 Membership of Cabinet

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Scott.

51 Minutes of Previous Meetings

RESOLVED - That the Minutes of the Meetings held on 26 July 2022 and 9 August 2022 be approved as a correct record.

52 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

53 Admission of the Public

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

54 Deputations/Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

55 Questions by Members of the Public

No questions were asked.

56 Questions by Elected Members (Oral Questions)

Cabinet received the following oral questions, in accordance with the provision of Executive Procedure Rule 2.3;

Question from Councillor J Taylor

“We’ve recently seen the announcement from the Mayor of West Yorkshire about the £2 maximum fare for buses, which is great, its good to see the government is

Cabinet - 5 September 2022

also funding a freeze on bus prices of £2 during the winter period, but for people to benefit from that they need buses in the first place. Farnley Tyas, Stocksmoor and Thurstonland currently have no buses. My question is, is the Council aware of that and what are we doing to work with and lobby WYCA to make sure some provision is provided for people who are very isolated?"

A response was provided by the Leader of the Council.

Question from Councillor J Taylor

"One of the things that the Democracy Commission was about to look at pre covid was the relationships with Parish and Town Councils. We do have an agreement with Town and Parish Councils but it is probably long overdue a refresh. We are coming up to elections for Town and Parish Councils and I wondered what plans Councillor Scott has, as Chair of the Democracy Commission, to pick up that piece of work again? In terms of cost of living, there is potentially a role for Town and Parish Councils as well as ourselves."

A response was provided by the Leader of the Council.

57

Update of the medium term financial plan 2023-24 and following years

Cabinet gave consideration to the Council budget strategy update, prior to the submission of the report to Cabinet on 7 September 2022, which set out the framework for the subsequent budget setting process and future financial planning.

Cabinet noted that the report reflected upon financial challenges which had arisen in recent months, and forecast the impact upon the Council's future planning. The report advised that the financial settlement during the Autumn, and the potential for an emerging national spending review would have a significant impact upon any assumptions.

The report provided an overview of the national context, including the UK economic outlook, national government policy developments, financial planning framework 2023/2024, government funding changes and cost of living pressures.

It was noted that work would continue to take place to reduce the in-year forecast £18.8m general fund revenue overspend as far as possible and that the updated budget plans provided the planning framework to deliver a balanced budget for 2023/2024, indicative forward plan budget forecasts, and updated multi year capital plans and associated funding. Appendix D to the report set out the key budget timetable milestones.

The following amendments to the considered report were noted during the meeting; (i) para.1.5.2 to read '... additional pressure in 2022/2023 on energy costs' and (ii) para. 1.5.4 to read '...increase more incrementally at 10%...'

RESOLVED - That the report be referred to the meeting of Council on 7 September 2022 with a recommendation that;

Cabinet - 5 September 2022

- 1) The funding and spend assumptions informing the updated budget forecasts as set out in the report, including the minimum usable reserve requirement advised by the S151 officer, being £47m (para 2.2.7 refers), and the budget gap figures (para 1.3.9 refers), be noted.
- 2) That the current and forecast earmarked reserves and general balances as set out at Appendix A be noted.
- 3) That approval be given to the financial planning framework (section 1.3 refers) for the general fund revenue and Housing Revenue Account (section 1.9 refers).
- 4) That approval be given to the financial planning framework for general fund and HRA capital (section 1.10 refers).
- 5) That the corporate budget timetable, as set out at Appendix D to the report, refers.
- 6) That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council, in consultation with the Director of Finance and Corporate portfolio holder, to consider expression of interest to continue to participate in the Leeds City Region business rate pool for 2023/2024, by the Government deadline of 22 September 2022.
- 7) That authority be delegated to the Strategic Director (Environment and Climate Change) in consultation with the Cabinet Member (Corporate Services), the Service Director (Finance) and the Service Director (Legal, Governance and Commissioning), to conclude contract negotiations and, on behalf of the Council, enter into a new contractual arrangement in a timely manner for Council electricity supplies either directly or through a preferred broker, from 1 April 2023 onwards. (Delegated authority is requested to (i) re-procure the Council's electricity supply contract via a call off from a framework from an established central purchasing body and (ii) grant authority to award a contract for the Council's electricity supply from April 2023).
- 8) That authority be delegated to the Strategic Director (Corporate Strategy, Commissioning and Public Health) to agree the approach to budget consultation and relevant timescales in consultation with the Cabinet Member (Corporate Services).