

Contact Officer: Andrea Woodside

## KIRKLEES COUNCIL

### CABINET

**Tuesday 15th August 2023**

Present: Councillor Graham Turner (Chair)  
Councillor Masood Ahmed  
Councillor Naheed Mather  
Councillor Musarrat Khan  
Councillor Paul Davies  
Councillor Eric Firth

Observers: Councillor Bill Armer  
Councillor Charles Graves  
Councillor John Lawson  
Councillor Mohan Sokhal

Apologies: Councillor Cathy Scott  
Councillor Carole Pattison  
Councillor Viv Kendrick

**27 Membership of Cabinet**

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

In the absence of Councillor Scott, the meeting was chaired by Councillor Turner.

**28 Minutes of Previous Meeting**

**RESOLVED** – That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 27 June 2023 be approved.

**29 Declarations of Interest**

No interests were declared.

**30 Admission of the Public**

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

**31 Deputations/Petitions**

Cabinet received a deputation from Susie Pavey, on behalf of Unison, which raised concerns regarding changes in the provision of adult social care, and the consequential impact upon communities, service users and potential job losses, and requested more collaboration and joint working regarding the shape of future service provision.

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Adults and Health (Councillor Khan).

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### 32 Questions by Members of the Public

No questions were asked.

### 33 Questions by Elected Members (Oral Questions)

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

#### Question from Councillor J Lawson;

“Will the Folk Festival take place in the Town Hall next year?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Regeneration (Councillor Turner).

#### Question from Councillor Greaves;

“Has Jason McCartney MP paid a single penny in business rates on his current office since he moved in in January 2023?”

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

#### Question from Councillor Armer;

“In regards to Councillor Khan’s response to the deputation; she referred to a configuration of services. A reconfiguration is something that the Scrutiny Panel would take interest in. Has the Cabinet Member contacted the Panel to explain the configuration?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Adults and Health (Councillor Khan).

### 34 Damp, Mould and Condensation

Cabinet gave consideration to a report which provided an overview of the current situation with damp, mould and condensation in Council homes, actions taken to date in response and the next steps to deliver an improved approach.

The report advised that in 2022 a review had been undertaken with regards to the approach to damp, mould and condensation, and that a report and action plan had subsequently been produced identifying communication, data/intelligence and process as three main areas for improvement. Cabinet were presented with an update on the delivery of the action plan and case volume statistics at present, which reflected that a total of 1717 jobs were awaiting resolution as at 2 August 2023.

#### RESOLVED –

- 1) That damp, mould and condensation e-learning be compulsory for Council employees who speak to and visit residents, where appropriate to their role.
- 2) That the content of the report, and status of the action plan be noted.

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- 3) That it be noted that further updates on progress against the action plan will be provided.

### **35 End of Year Corporate Performance and Impact Report, 2022-2023**

Cabinet received the 2022/2023 End of Year Corporate Performance and Impact report which set out an overview of the Council's progress in relation to the 2021/2023 Council Plan deliverables and highlighted the most significant issues and challenges facing the Council and its partners in improving outcomes. The report provided information on activities undertaken and data, where available, on the quality and impacts of these activities.

It was noted that performance and impact reporting against priorities and deliverables within the Council Plan would continue to be reported twice yearly through Performance and Impact reports and that the next report would feature information relating to the priorities introduced in the Council Plan dated July 2023.

**RESOLVED** – That the report be noted.

### **36 Review of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2024/25**

Cabinet gave consideration to a report which set out options to explore and consult upon prior to a decision on a redesign of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme, for 2024/2025 and subsequent years. It was noted that the scheme currently in operation took effect on 1 April 2018. The report advised that, if a decision was taken to revise the scheme it must be done no later than 11 March 2024, to have effect from 1 April 2024. The report set out options of (i) no significant change (ii) reduce protection for all (a 25% scheme) and (iii) remove protection and apply a standard 15% council tax reduction working age scheme.

Examples of the impact of the proposals upon households was set out at appendix one and the proposed consultation plan was set out at appendix two.

**RESOLVED** – That the proposals, as set out within the considered report, form the basis of public consultation and that the consultation process commences as soon as is possible in accordance with the strategy as set out at Appendix 2.

### **37 Corporate Financial Monitoring Report; Quarter 1 for 2023-24**

(Under the provision of Council Procedure Rule 36(1), Cabinet received a representation from Councillor J Lawson).

Cabinet received the Corporate Quarter Financial Monitoring Report Quarter 1 2023/2024. The report advised that the Council's revised General Fund controllable (net) revenue budget for 2023/2024 was £379.4m, which was partly funded by a contribution from unallocated reserves of £24.6m and that the revised budget included planned (net) revenue savings in-year of £19.8m. It indicated that the revised budget was net of a number of transfers from reserves during the year, totalling £6.4m, with the most significant being £4.0m from revenue grants reserve and £1.1m from the stronger families reserve.

Cabinet were advised of a forecast overspend of £20.3m against the revised revenue budget at Quarter 1, equivalent to 5.3% of the revised budget, which if

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sustained until the end of the year would increase the drawdown from unallocated reserves to £44.9m reducing the balance to significantly below adequate. The report advised that the actions set out within the report were considered necessary to avoid the need to issue a report under S114 of the Local Government Act 1998, though this would remain under review.

The report provided a breakdown of (i) spending by directorate (ii) central budgets (iii) collection fund (iv) general fund reserves (v) housing revenue account (vi) capital and (vii) treasury management.

### **RESOLVED –**

- 1) That in regards to the General Fund (i) the forecast revenue outturn position at Quarter 1 2023/2024 and the forecast year end position on the Council's reserves and balances, as set out in the report, be noted (ii) approval be given to endorsing the continuation and strengthening of management actions implemented in the last financial year to contain actual income and expenditure with agreed budgets for 2023/2024, which include but are not limited to the actions as set out at paragraph 7.2 of the report (iii) the actions taken to maintain a Minimum Working Balance of c£15m, as set out in the report, be endorsed and that the requirement to update the Medium Term Financial Plan for the savings necessary to reimburse the Demand Reserve to enable the funding required for the Safety Valve Programme Agreement to be available when required be noted and (iv) it be noted that the use of reserves here onwards would be subject to the approval of the Service Director (Finance), and that the adequacy of the Council's reserves will remain under review.
- 2) That in regards to the Collection Fund (i) the forecast position on the Collection Fund as at Quarter 1, and the assumptions upon which it is based, be noted and (ii) the intention to undertake a review of eligibility of the Single Person Discount for Council Tax at the earliest possible opportunity be endorsed.
- 3) That the Quarter 1 forecast Housing Revenue Position and forecast year-end reserves position be noted.
- 4) That in regards to Capital (i) the Quarter 1 capital monitoring position for 2023/2024 be noted (ii) it be noted that a review of the Council's Capital Programme is currently being undertaken with a view to reducing debt charges as a contribution to the Council's savings target both in 2023/2024 and in subsequent years (iii) that approval be given to the reprofiling of the 2023/2024 capital plan as set out at Appendix 5 and (iv) that approval be given to the addition of the £0.09m UKSPF grant to the Capital Plan (profiled as £0.047m in 2023/2024 and £0.047m in 2024/2025) and its distribution to the voluntary, community, faith and education sectors as a capital grant for capital amenities and facilities to support the safety of Women and Girls.
- 5) That in regards to Treasury Management, the Quarter 1 treasury management prudential indicators, as set out at Appendix 6, be noted.

**38 Adults Capital Programme - North Kirklees Day Opportunities for Adults with Learning Disabilities scheme**

Cabinet gave consideration to a report which provided an update on the outcomes of a consultation with families and users of current residential respite services and sought approval to allocate monies from the existing capital programme to enable the development of new day buildings in North Kirklees in order to complement the revised residential respite offer.

The report advised that the development of the new educational capacity in Kirklees was designed to enable children and young people to remain living in the local area, rather than attending costly out of area placements, and enable them to live within their local community as they become adults. The report advised that the current day service provision was not fit for purpose and that the buildings could not meet the needs of service users. It set out opportunities to reconfigure and re-provide existing estate to improve outcomes for people with complex learning disabilities. Paragraph 1 (1.3.1) of the report set out the proposals for the redesign of the service provision and building use.

Cabinet were advised that the proposals would provide significant service delivery benefits and would create economies of scale, providing high quality facilities that are both modern and sizeable to accommodate a day unit for users with profound and multiple disabilities, and for users with complex challenging behaviour and autism.

It was noted that (i) a tender exercise for sites at Mill Dale and Crescent Dale would commence in Autumn 2023, enabling works to be carried out from January 2024, with an anticipated completion of June 2024 and (ii) investigative surveys would commence in Autumn 2023 at the site which would replace Red Laithes Court to determine feasibility of use.

**RESOLVED –**

- 1) That the feedback from the consultation exercise regarding the proposal to change the use of Milldale respite service and introduce a new respite offer that continues to support family carers, as set out at Appendix B, be noted.
- 2) That approval be given to the proposed changes to respite arrangements, as set out at paragraphs 2.19 to 2.20 of the considered report, and that they be enacted over coming months.
- 3) That approval be given to (i) capital expenditure of up to £3.0m for the redevelopment of Crescent Dale and Milldale and (ii) the tendering of the scheme.
- 4) That it be noted that, under the provision of Financial Procedure Rule 3.12, authority is delegated to Service Directors to (i) transfer resources within a programme area without restrictions (ii) transfer resources between any project or programme are up to a maximum of £2,000,000 in any financial year (iii) transfer resources within programme areas between any year within the approved capital plan, subject to compliance with Financial Procedure Rules 3.12 to 3.16 (and notification to the relevant Cabinet Member and appropriate ward members) which will be used to manage the project(s) as appropriate.

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- 5) That approval be given to progress detailed feasibility works as soon as is possible regarding a proposed alternative site for the existing Red Laithes Court setting, including the initial allocation of £500k for detailed feasibility as well as the remaining £9.8m to fund necessary works and that the matter be submitted to Cabinet for consideration of the feasibility and next steps.