

Contact Officer: Andrea Woodside

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

CABINET

Tuesday 13th August 2019

Present: Councillor Shabir Pandor (Chair)
Councillor Viv Kendrick
Councillor Musarrat Khan
Councillor Naheed Mather
Councillor Peter McBride
Councillor Cathy Scott
Councillor Graham Turner

Observers: Councillor Paul Davies
Councillor Paola Antonia Davies
Councillor Bernard McGuin

Apologies: Councillor Carole Pattison
Councillor Rob Walker

40 Membership of the Committee

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Pattison and Walker.

41 Minutes of previous meeting

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meetings of Cabinet held on the 29 May, 18 June and 16 July 2019 be approved as a correct record.

42 Interests

No interests were declared.

43 Admission of the Public

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

44 Deputations/Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

45 Public Question Time

No questions were asked.

46 Member Question Time

Cabinet received questions from Councillor McGuin in regards to Agenda Item 9, in relation to transition arrangements and the support mechanisms that would be put in place to assist affected families.

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Children's Services (Councillor Kendrick).

47 Corporate Financial Monitoring Report; Quarter 1 2019-20

Cabinet gave consideration to a report which set out financial monitoring information for General Fund Revenue, the Housing Revenue Account and Capital Plan, as at Quarter 1, 2019-2020.

The report advised that the General Fund controllable (net) revenue budget for 2019-2020 was £287.1m, and that the budget included planned (net) revenue savings in-year of £10.9m. The revised budget included a number of planned transfers from reserves during the year, with the most significant being £2.8m from the revenue grants reserve, which included £0.8m from the Public Health reserve.

Cabinet were advised that there was a forecast overspend of £2m against the revised budget, which equated to 0.7% and represented; (i) forecast delivery of £7.8m planned savings against the target of £10.9m, equivalent to 72% (ii) proposed transfer and roll forward of unbudgeted forecast in-year high needs pressure of £4.2m through the dedicated Schools Grant funding account and (iii) forecast £1.1m net underspends elsewhere. The report advised action would be taken to manage the overspend and deliver an overall balanced position for 2019-2020. Key variances were detailed at Appendix 4 of the considered report.

The report set out further detail relating to Children and Families, Adults and Health and Economy and Infrastructure Service budgets.

In regards to the Housing Revenue Account, Cabinet were advised of a revenue outturn at Quarter 1 at a surplus of £0.9m against an annual turnover budget of £92m in 2019-2020, equivalent to 1%, and that forecast reserves at 31 March 2020 were £61.2m, net of set asides for business risks and investment needs and a minimum working balance.

RESOLVED -

- (1) That in regards to the General Fund; (i) approval be given to roll forward the £4.2m High Needs overspend through the Dedicated Schools Grant mechanism (ii) the 2019-2020 forecast revenue overspend of £2m as at Quarter 1, net of (i) above, be noted (iii) the expectation for Strategic Directors to work to identify opportunities for spending plans to be collectively brought back in line within the Council's overall budget by year end be noted (iv) the Forecast year end position on corporate reserves and balances be noted and (v) regular monitoring and review of corporate reserves in 2019-2020 be reported to Cabinet as part of the quarterly financial monitoring cycle.
- (2) That in regards to the Collection Fund; (i) the forecast position on the Collection Fund as at quarter 1 be noted and (ii) that approval be given to the allocation of the Leeds City Region Pool surplus against schemes as detailed at para 1.7 of the considered report.
- (3) That the Quarter 1 forecast Housing Revenue Account surplus at £0.9m and forecast year-end reserves position of £61.2m be noted.

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- (4) That in regards to Capital; (i) the Quarter 1 forecast capital monitoring position for 2019-2020 be noted (ii) a more detailed review of the in-year capital forecast for Quarter 2, including recommendations for scheme re-profiling across years be submitted to Cabinet and (iii) approval be given to the capital expenditure for Kirklees Stadium Development Limited, as detailed at para 1.9.7 of the considered report.

48 Outcome of Call-in review meeting into the Cabinet - Decision in relation to Future Options for Almondbury Community School

Cabinet received a verbal overview, presented by Panel Member Councillor Paul Davies, which outlined the Panel's focus and considerations, and the rationale for the decision that was reached. It was noted that, whilst the Panel determined that the decision be freed for implementation, a number of learning points were also identified, including communication and engagement with parents and the community. Councillor Davies advised that the Panel had been satisfied that there would be sufficient capacity, and that all relevant factors were taken into consideration, including the Local Plan. The Panel had also concluded that all relevant financial information had been considered and that the statutory notice had been published correctly.

Cabinet noted the decision of the Panel and that the decision be freed for implementation, giving consideration to the learning points identified. It was also noted that progress reports on the next steps of the process be submitted to the Panel so that continuity can be monitored.

RESOLVED -

- (1) That the outcome of the Call-In Review (Children's Scrutiny Panel), held on 7 August 2019, be received and noted.
- (2) That it be noted that, pursuant to (i) above, the determination of the Panel was that the decision of Cabinet on 16 July 2019 be freed for implementation, but that learning points relating to capacity, openness and lawfulness were highlighted.
- (3) That it be noted that regular updates on Almondbury Community School will be considered by Children's Scrutiny Panel.