

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA BOROUGH COUNCIL

Meeting of Cabinet

Date: Thursday, 16th January, 2020
Place: Committee Room 1 - Civic Suite

Present: Councillor I Gilbert (Chair)
Councillors R Woodley (Vice-Chair), T Harp, A Jones, C Mulroney,
K Robinson and M Terry

In Attendance: Councillors J Beck, K Evans, N Folkard, D Garne and S Habermel
A Griffin, J K Williams, A Lewis, J Chesterton, J Ruffle, C Gamble,
E Cooney, T Forster, P Geraghty, M Marks, B Martin, L Reed,
C Robinson and N Spencer

Start/End Time: 2.00 pm - 3.10 pm

687 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

688 Declarations of Interest

The following interests were declared at the meeting:

(a) Councillor Mulroney – Agenda Item No. 4 (Council Tax Base) and Agenda Item No. 6 (Draft Council Budget) – Non-Pecuniary interest: Member of Leigh-on-Sea Town Council.

(b) Councillor K Evans – Agenda Item No. 4 (Council Tax Base) and Agenda Item No. 6 (Draft Council Budget) – Non-Pecuniary Interest: Member of Leigh-on-Sea Town Council.

(c) Councillor Terry – Agenda Item No. 8 (Airport Business Park) – Non-Pecuniary Interest: Anchor tenant is client of employer.

689 Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 5th November 2019

Resolved:-

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 5th November 2019 be received, confirmed as a correct record and signed.

690 Council Tax Base and Non Domestic Rating Base 2020/21

The Cabinet considered a report of the Executive Director (Finance and Resources) concerning the calculation of the Council Tax Base for 2020/21 and the submission of the National Non Domestic Rates (NDR1) form to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) by 31st January 2020.

Resolved:-

In respect of the Council Tax Base:

In accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992 (as amended by the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2003) and Local Government Finance Act 2012 (Calculation of billing authority's council tax base Section 15):

1. From 1st April 2020 the premium for properties (empty for 5 years but less than 10 years) will be increased to 200%.
2. The amount calculated by Southend-on-Sea Borough Council as its Council Tax Base for the year 2020/21 shall be 58,680.94.
3. That the amount calculated by Southend-on-Sea Borough Council as the Council Tax Base in respect of Leigh-on-Sea Town Council for the year 2020/21 shall be 8,845.24.
4. That the new Care Leavers Council Tax Relief Policy set out at Appendix A to the submitted report be endorsed and the subsequent impact on the Council Tax Base, be noted.

In respect of the Non-Domestic Rates Base (NNDR1 Form):

5. The NNDR1 form attached at Appendix D to the report be approved for submission to MHCLG.

Reason for Decision

The setting of the Council Tax Base and National Domestic Rating Base enables the calculation of the core funding derived through local taxation that is used to finance the Council's proposed budget for 2020/21.

Other Options

None

Note: This is an Executive Function

Referred direct to Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee

Cabinet Member: Cllr Gilbert

691 Draft Housing Revenue Account Budget 2020/21 and Rent Setting

The Cabinet considered a joint report of Executive Director (Finance and Resources) and Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director (Housing & Growth) setting out the Housing Revenue (HRA) budget for 2020/21, together with the information necessary to set a balanced budget as required by legislation.

Resolved:-

1. That an average increase on secure tenancy rents of 2.7%, be endorsed.

2. That an average rent increase of 2.7% on shared ownership properties, be endorsed.
3. That an increase of 2.7% for garage rents to £12.02 per week for tenants and £14.42 for non-tenants (being £12.02 plus VAT), a rise consistent with the proposal for the main rent increase (all variants on a standard garage will receive a proportionate increase), be endorsed.
4. That the proposed rent charges in 1-3 above be effective from 6th April 2020.
5. That the South Essex Homes core management fee at £5,971,000 for 2020/21, be endorsed.
6. That South Essex Homes proposals for average increases of 6.36% in service charges and 16.69% in heating charges to reflect the actual costs incurred, be endorsed.
7. That the following appropriations be endorsed
 - £60,000 to the Repairs Contract Pensions Reserve;
 - £5,319,000 to the Capital Investment Reserve; and
 - £8,708,000 from the Capital Investment Reserve.
8. That subject to 1-7 above, the HRA budget for 2020/21 as set out in Appendix 1 to the submitted report, be endorsed.
9. That the value of the Council's capital allowance for 2020/21 be declared as £57,261,000, as determined in accordance with regulation 16 of the Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England) Regulations.

Reasons for Decision

Part of the process of maintaining a balanced budget for the HRA is to undertake an annual rent review and assessment of other service and facilities charges. Full Council will need to approve the HRA budget and any changes to rent and other services prior to the start of the financial year.

Other Options

There are other options available to councillors in relation to the proposed rent and other services and facilities increases.

Note: This is an Executive Function save that approval of the final budget following Cabinet on 11th February 2020 is a Council Function
Referred direct to Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee
Cabinet Member: Cllr Gilbert

692 Draft Prioritising Resources to Deliver Better Outcomes – 2020/21 to 2024/25

The Cabinet considered a report of the Executive Director (Finance and Resources) presenting the draft General Fund Revenue Budget for 2020/21.

Resolved:-

1. That the draft Financial Sustainability Strategy (Appendix 1 to the submitted report) be endorsed.
2. That the draft Medium Term Financial Strategy (Appendix 2 to the report) and the resulting Medium Term Financial Forecast and Earmarked Reserves Balances up to 2024/25 (Annexes 1 and 2 to Appendix 2 to the report), be endorsed.
3. That the Section 151 Officer's report on the robustness of the proposed budget, the adequacy of the Council's reserves and the Reserves Strategy (Appendix 3 to the report), be noted.
4. That the appropriation of the sums to earmarked reserves totalling £3.37 million (Appendix 4 to the report), be endorsed.
5. That the appropriation of the sums from earmarked reserves totalling £8.972 million (Appendix 4 to the report), be endorsed;
6. That General Fund net revenue budget for 2020/21 of £130.428M (Appendix 5a to the report) and any required commencement of consultation, statutory or otherwise, be endorsed.
7. That a Council Tax increase of 3.99% for the Southend-on-Sea element of the Council Tax for 2020/21, being 1.99% for general use and 2% for Adult Social care (Paragraph 10.10 of the report), be endorsed.
8. That it be noted that the 2020/21 revenue budget has been prepared on the basis of using £2 million from the Collection Fund for the core budget to allow for a smoothing of the budget gap across the next three financial years (Paragraph 10.9 of the report).
9. That it be noted that the position of the Council's preceptors is to be determined:
 - Essex Police – no indication of Council Tax position;
 - Essex Fire & Rescue Services – no indication of Council Tax position; and
 - Leigh-on-Sea Town Council – proposed precept increase ranging from 4.72% to 8.30%.
10. That no Special Expenses be charged other than the Leigh-on-Sea Town Council precept for 2020/21.
11. That the proposed General Fund on-going budget investment and reprioritisation of £5.355M (Appendix 6 to the report), be endorsed.
12. That the one-off investment items, as set out in paragraph 10.8 of the report and included within the appropriations (Appendix 7 to the report), be endorsed.
13. That the schools budget and its relevant distribution as recommended by the Education Board (Appendix 8 to the report), be endorsed.

14. That the Capital Investment Strategy for 2020/21 to 2024/25 (Appendix 9 to the submitted report) and the Capital Investment Policy (Annex 1 to Appendix 9 to the report), be endorsed.

15. That the new schemes and additions to the Capital Investment Programme for the period 2020/21 to 2024/25 totalling £28.4M for the General Fund and £18.7M for the Housing Revenue Account (Appendix 10, to the report), be endorsed.

16. That the schemes subject to viable business cases for the period 2020/21 to 22/23 (Appendix 10 to the report), be endorsed.

17. That the proposed changes to the current Capital Investment Programme (Appendix 11, to the report), be endorsed.

18. That the proposed Capital Investment Programme for 2020/21 to 2024/25 (Appendix 12 to the report) be approved and it be noted that the changes to the approved programme will result in a proposed Capital Investment Programme of £204.8M for 2020/21 to 2024/25 (Appendix 12 to the report) of which £51.3M is supported by external funding.

19. That the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy for 2020/21 (Appendix 13 to the report) and the prudential indicators (Appendix 14 to the report), be endorsed.

20. That the operational boundary and authorised limits for borrowing for 2020/21 are set at £375M and £385M respectively (Appendix 14 to the report).

Reason for Decision

To comply with statutory requirements and the relevant Local Authority codes of practice. Also, to ensure the budgets align to and enable the delivery of the Council's ambition and desired outcomes or to enhance the Council's infrastructure.

Other Options

Billing authorities are required by law to complete and approve their budget and set a council tax before 11 March immediately prior to the start of the financial year on 1 April.

Note: This is an Executive Function save that approval of the final budget following Cabinet on 11th February 2020 is a Council Function
Referred direct to all three scrutiny committees
Cabinet Member: Cllr Gilbert

693 Housing and Regeneration Pipeline, Including Acquisitions Programme - Update

The Cabinet considered a report of the Executive Director (Finance and Resources) and the Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director (Housing and Growth) providing an update on the work underway on the pipeline of housing and development opportunities across the Borough.

Resolved:-

1. That the progress on the Acquisitions Programme for Council Housing as set out in sections 3.5 – 3.8 to the submitted report, be noted.
2. That the progress of the first phase of housing and development pipeline sites currently in delivery as set out in section 3.12 to the report and the progress with PSP Southend LLP in section 3.14 – 3.16 to the report, be noted.
3. That the progress of the Allocations Policy as set out in sections 3.18 – 3.21 to the report, be noted.

Reasons for Decision

To update Cabinet on the progress of the HRA infill sites, acquisition programme and PSP Southend LLP developments. Also, to provide an update on the pipeline and regeneration framework.

Other Options

Alternative arrangements for the Right to Buy spend such as grants to Registered Providers were considered for the Acquisitions Programme, however, this would not have resulted in the long term benefit to the Council in the way of HRA property.

Note: This is an Executive Function
Referred direct to Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee
Cabinet Member: Cllrs Gilbert and Woodley

694 Update on Airport Business Park

The Cabinet considered a report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director of Growth and Housing providing an update on the development of the Airport Business Park which is being progressed with the Council's development partner Henry Boot Developments Ltd.

Resolved:-

That the progress of the Airport Business Park development, be noted.

Reasons for Decision

The Airport Business Park Southend is a 2050 roadmap project and its ongoing development contributes towards a number of Southend 2050 outcomes. It is also significant for South Essex as SELEP's largest LGF allocation and a key location in the context of the South Essex 2050 work.

Other Options

While not continuing with the project could be an option in theory this could not be achieved without disproportionate cost, legal challenge and disruption as the

development is underway with funding, consents and a development partner in place. It would also undermine the 2050 roadmap and ambition.

Note: This is an Executive Function
Referred direct to Place Scrutiny Committee
Cabinet Members: Cllrs Robinson and Woodley

695 Update on Town Centre Strategy

The Cabinet considered a report of Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director (Growth and Housing) providing an update on activity supporting the evolution of the town centre.

Resolved:-

That the progress made towards delivery of the agreed actions of the joint scrutiny project (2018/19) set out in Appendix 1 to the submitted report, be noted.

Reason for Decision

To update the Cabinet on the progress made on the actions from the scrutiny project

Other Options

None

Note: This is an Executive Function
Referred direct to Place Scrutiny Committee
Cabinet Member: Cllr Robinson

696 Unmet Demand Survey for Hackney Carriage & Private Hire

The Cabinet considered a report of the Executive Director (Neighbourhoods and Environment) outlining the conclusions of the Hackney Carriage Unmet Demand Study 2019 undertaken by LVSA (Licenced Vehicles Surveys and Assessments) on behalf of this Authority.

Recommended:-

That the current entry control policy and a limit of 276 hackney carriage licenced vehicles is maintained and approved. ||

Reasons for Decision

That the Unmet Demand Survey 2019 has identified that there is NO evidence of significant unmet demand for hackney carriages in Southend.

Other Options

The Unmet Demand Survey 2019 report provides for this Authority to consider other options including agreeing to issue any number of additional plates as it

sees fit, either in one allocation or a series of allocations OR to remove the numerical restriction currently in place.

Note: This is a Council Function
Referred direct to Place Scrutiny Committee
Cabinet Member: Cllr Woodley

697 Consideration of Hamlet Court Road for Conservation Area Designation

The Cabinet considered a report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director (Growth and Housing) setting out details of the initial work (and subsequent recommendations) undertaken by independent heritage consultants, Purcell, on behalf of the Council, to review the potential of Hamlet Court Road for Conservation Area status. The report also sought approval on the proposed approach to consulting on Purcell's initial report, and boundary considerations, for this area.

Resolved:-

That the initial report and accompanying plan (Appendices A and B, to the submitted report) from Purcell, which sets out a potential area to consider for Conservation Area designation at Hamlet Court Road, be approved for an initial stage of public consultation.

Reasons for Decision

To facilitate public consultation on the initial report from independent heritage experts Purcell, and to seek the views of local residents and businesses on the proposal to consider Hamlet Court Road for designation as a Conservation Area.

Other Options

That the initial report from independent heritage experts Purcell is not publically consulted on, and further work into the potential for a Conservation Area designation at Hamlet Court Road is not further progressed. This would, however, be contrary to the recommendations of Purcell based on the initial work undertaken to date.

Note: This is an Executive Function
Referred direct to Place Scrutiny Committee
Cabinet Member: Cllr Mulronev

698 Southend Local Plan Update

The Cabinet considered a report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director (Growth and Housing) proposing a new approach for preparing the Southend new Local Plan (SNLP)

Recommended:-

1. That, in order to take forward the Southend New Local Plan in a timely, coordinated and efficient manner, the following be approved:

- (i) the preparation of a common Joint Part 1 section with Rochford District Council covering cross-boundary strategic issues;
 - (ii) the preparation of a Part 2 section covering detailed planning policy matters for Southend.
2. That, as part of the preparation of a common Joint Part 1 Local Plan, the following be approved:
- (i) the Memorandum of Understanding (Appendix 1 to the submitted report);
 - (ii) the Rochford and Southend Statement of Common Ground (Appendix 2 to the report);
 - (iii) the revised Local Development Scheme (Appendix 3 to the report).
3. That it be noted that the joint South Essex Plan (SEP) will continue to be prepared in partnership with the Association of South Essex Local Authorities (ASELA).
4. That delegated authority be given to the Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director Growth and Housing, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment and Planning, to liaise and agree with Rochford District Council on the most efficient use of staff and related resources to prepare the Joint Part 1 Local Plan in an efficient and cost-effective manner.
5. That delegated authority be given to the Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director Growth and Housing, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment and Planning, in conjunction with the Environment and Planning Working Party, to agree and consult on preparatory drafts of the New Local Plan, including the common Joint Part 1 and associated documentation.
6. That delegated authority be given to the Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director Growth and Housing, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment and Planning, to agree updates to the Statement of Common Ground (Appendix 2 to the report) and Local Development Scheme (Appendix 3 to the report).

Reason for Decision

To ensure the expeditious production a new local plan for Southend and associated evidence base to manage and guide future growth and development in Southend and its hinterland in a positive and timely manner, where the Council has control of decision making in the public interest as representatives of the local community

Other Options

As set out in the submitted report

Note: This is a Council Function
Referred direct to Place Scrutiny Committee
Cabinet Member: Cllr Mulronev

699 Notice of Motion - Fireworks

The Cabinet considered a report of the Executive Director (Neighbourhoods and Environment) responding to the Notice of Motion, submitted to Council on 17th December 2019, concerning the use of fireworks.

Resolved:-

1. That the Notice of Motion submitted to Council on 17th December 2019, be noted.
2. That, where possible, that organisers of all public firework displays within the Borough be encouraged to advertise them in advance of the event, allowing residents to take precautions for their animals and vulnerable people.
3. That public awareness about the impact of fireworks on animal welfare and vulnerable people – including the precautions that can be taken to mitigate risks, be supported.
4. That officers be requested to write to the UK Government urging them to introduce legislation to limit the maximum noise level of fireworks to 90 decibels for those sold to the public for private displays.
5. That local suppliers of fireworks be encouraged to stock 'quieter' fireworks for public display.

Reasons for Decision

To respond to the Notice of Motion.

Other Options

None

Note: This is an Executive Function
Referred direct to Place Scrutiny Committee
Cabinet Member: Cllr Mulroney

700 Notice of Motion - National Community Energy Campaign

The Cabinet considered a report of the Executive Director (Neighbourhoods and Environment) which had been prepared in response to the Notice of Motion, presented to the last meeting of Council, concerning the Local Electricity Bill.

Resolved:-

1. That the Local Electricity Bill be supported.
2. That the local press be informed of the decision and that officers be requested to write a letter to the local MPs and the organisers of the Bill as proposed.

3. That it be noted that maximising the financial and infrastructure benefits that may arise from this initiative will require investment in local renewable generation in future years.

Reasons for Decision

To respond to the Notice of Motion

Other Options

None

Note: This is an Executive Function
Referred direct to Place Scrutiny Committee
Cabinet Member: Cllr Mulroney

701 Notice of Motion - Safer Passage Signage

The Cabinet considered a report of the Executive Director (Neighbourhoods and Environment) responding to the Notice of Motion, presented at the last meeting of Council, concerning the safety of cyclists on the roads within the Borough.

Resolved:-

1. That support for the SEAT project and any successor DfT funded project is continued and to encourage and champion sustainable transport within all appropriate engineering project designs, following the principles set out in the Highway Code:

a. Rule 163 states, *“give motorcyclists, cyclists and horse riders at least as much room as you would when overtaking a car”*.

b. Rules 59 and 60 place an onus on cyclists to wear appropriate light and reflective clothing and to use lights at night. Both these messages are conveyed by the Forward Motion and Road Safety teams as well as advising cyclists how to position themselves on the road.

2. That the use of variable message signs to regularly remind all road users of the Highway Code obligation to be aware of each other’s presence and share the road responsibly, be approved.

Reasons for Decisions

To respond to the Notice of Motion

Other Options

The decision in 2 above covers the use of the electronic signage system to encourage safe driving by all vehicles. The installation of additional signage is not recommended as this can often be distracting or confusing for drivers, putting cyclists at additional risk.

Note: This is an Executive Function
Referred direct to Place Scrutiny Committee
Cabinet Member: Cllr Woodley

702 Notice of Motion - Transparent and Accessible Council

The Cabinet considered a report of the Executive Director (Legal and Democratic Services) responding to the Notice of Motion, presented at the last meeting of the Council, requesting that consideration be given to extending webcasting to the Council's Scrutiny Committees and enhancing the use of social media in conjunction with live recorded meetings.

Resolved:-

1. That webcasting of meetings of the Cabinet and the three scrutiny committees (to be held in the Council chamber) be trialled during the June/July 2020 cycle of meetings, subject to the Chairs of the scrutiny committees being content for the trial to be applied to meetings of those committees.
2. That officers be requested to consider ways of enhancing the use of social media in conjunction with the webcasting arrangements.

Reasons for Decision

To further improve the transparency and accessibility of meetings of the Cabinet and scrutiny committees.

Other Options

Not to extend webcasting to Cabinet and the three Council scrutiny committees.

Note: This is an Executive Function
Referred direct to Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee
Cabinet Member: Cllr Gilbert

703 Notice of Motion - Tree Cover

The Cabinet considered a report of the Executive Director (Neighbourhoods and Environment) responding to the Notice of Motion, presented at the last meeting of Council, concerning tree cover in the Borough.

Resolved:-

- 1, That the motion to double tree cover of the Borough, be noted.
2. That the management of the towns tree cover as an urban forest, be approved.
3. That it be acknowledged that tree canopy cover and an approach to planting will form part of the upcoming Tree and Woodland Policy.
4. That the benefit that a mosaic of habitats and variety of green infrastructure can have on the environment and the health and wellbeing of residents and visitors, be acknowledged.

5. That the future of tree planting and the canopy cover within the Borough will be based on an approach to be outlined in the upcoming Tree and Woodland Policy.

6. That the ongoing work to help educate and inform residents about tree management in the Borough, be acknowledged.

Reasons for Decision

To respond to the Notice of Motion

Other Options

To double the tree canopy as outlined in the motion. This is not recommended as this approach is not based on a tree canopy assessment or other Borough specific study. A tree canopy cover of this level is likely to be unachievable and result in the loss of other important habitats and recreational opportunities.

Note: This is an Executive Function
Referred direct to Place Scrutiny Committee
Cabinet Member: Cllr Mulroney

704 SELEP - Revised Governance Arrangements

The Cabinet considered a report of the Executive Director (Legal and Democratic Services) proposing revisions to the governance arrangements of the SELEP in the light of the central government requirement for Local Enterprise Partnerships to set up a company.

Recommended:-

1. That the Council will become a member of South East LEP Limited with Articles of Association as set out at Appendix 1 to the submitted report.
2. That the framework agreement be signed in the form at Appendix 2 to the report.
3. That the Leader will be the Council's initial member of the Board with the Deputy Leader as alternate director.
4. That the Leader will be the Council's initial member of the Accountability Board with the Deputy Leader as principal substitute.

Reasons for Decision

All Local Enterprise Partnerships are now required by central government to set up a company.

Other Options

To have the new company employing the secretariat and receiving and distributing the funding – but this would involve a lot of legal and financial structures and the

consensus is that the costs and bureaucracy involved in this outweighs the benefits.

Note: This is a Council Function

Referred direct to Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee

Cabinet Member: Cllr Gilbert

705 Admission Arrangements for Community schools and Admission Co-ordinated Scheme

Further to the meeting of Cabinet held on 17th September 2019 (Minute 329, refers), the Cabinet considered a report of the Executive Director (Children and Public Health) on the above.

Resolved:-

1. That the Cabinet determines (i.e. formally agrees) the oversubscription criteria (including explanatory notes) and Published Admission Number (PAN) within Admission Arrangements for Community Schools as set out in Appendix 1 to the submitted report.

2. That it be noted that the Determined Coordinated Admission Scheme for the academic year 2021/22 was published on 31st December 2019 (Appendix 2 to the report).

Reasons for Decision

The determination of admission arrangements for community schools and the provision of a coordinated scheme is a statutory requirement.

Other Options

None

Note: This is an Executive Function

Referred direct to People Scrutiny Committee

Cabinet Member: Cllr Jones

706 School Term Dates 2021/22

The Cabinet considered a report of the Executive Director (Children and Public Health) proposing the guideline school term and holiday dates for the academic year 2021/22.

Resolved:-

That the school term and holiday dates for 2021/22 as set out in Appendix 1 to the submitted report be approved for community schools and as a guide to all schools in the Borough.

Reasons for Decision

To approve the term dates.

Other Options

None

Note: This is an Executive Function
Referred direct to People Scrutiny Committee
Cabinet Member: Cllr Jones

707 Transport Strategy

The Cabinet considered a report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director (Growth and Housing) setting out an approach and timeline to develop a transport strategy using service design principles which, once completed, will set the context for the review of the Local Transport Plan (LTP).

Resolved:-

1. That the progress with developing a transport strategy, be noted.
2. That the timetable for engaging stakeholders about a transport strategy for the Borough, be endorsed.

Reason for Decision

In line with the Council's Vision and Values, the proposed approach ensures that the views and needs of the Council's customers, residents and businesses are at the heart of the new service design and transport strategy.

Other Options

Doing nothing would mean that the current LTP would be out of date and would be inconsistent with the 2050 outcomes.

This is an Executive Function
Referred direct to Place Scrutiny Committee
Cabinet Member: Cllr Woodley

708 Additional Outcome Success Measures Reporting

The Cabinet considered a report of the Chief Executive presenting the Outcome Success Measures report that provides an update on the Council's progression on the 23 Southend 2050 outcomes.

Resolved:-

That the Outcome Success Measures report, be noted.

Reason for Decision

To drive the delivery of Southend 2050 ambition through robust and strategic performance management arrangements.

Other Options

None

Note: This is an Executive Function
Referred direct to all Scrutiny Committees
Cabinet Member: Cllr Gilbert

709 Corporate Budget Performance - Period 8

The Cabinet considered a report of the Executive Director (Finance and Resources) on the corporate budget performance (Period 8).

Recommended:-

That, in respect of the 2019/20 Revenue Budget Performance as set out in Appendix 1 to the submitted report:

1. That the forecast outturn and mitigating actions for the General Fund and the Housing Revenue Account as at November 2019, be noted.
2. That the planned budget transfers (virements) of £5,651,325 between portfolio services, as set out in section 3.12 to the report, be approved.

That, in respect of the 2019/20 Capital Budget Performance as set out in Appendix 2 to the report:

1. That the expenditure to date and the forecast outturn as at November 2019 and its financing, be noted.
2. That the requested changes to the 2019/20 Capital Investment Programme as set out in Section 3 of Appendix 2 to the report, be approved.
3. That, in respect of the transfer of an asset as set out in Section 4 of the report: 12A Ceylon Road be appropriated from the General Fund to the Housing Revenue Account.

Reasons for Decision

The regular reporting of Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring information provides detailed financial information to Councillors, senior officers and other interested parties on the financial performance of the Council. It also informs decision making to ensure that the Council's priorities are delivered within the approved budget provision.

Other Options

The Council could choose to monitor its budgetary performance against an alternative timeframe but it is considered that the current reporting schedule provides the appropriate balance to allow strategic oversight of the budget by councillors and to also formally manage the Council's exposure to financial risk.

Note: This is Council Function
Referred direct to Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee
Cabinet Members: Cllrs Gilbert and Woodley

710 2019/20 Corporate Risk Register

The Cabinet considered a report of the Chief Executive outlining the 2019/20 Corporate Risk Register mid-year update.

Resolved:-

That the 2019/20 Corporate Risk Register and the mid-year updates outlined in Appendix 2 to the submitted report, be noted.

Reason for Decision

To ensure compliance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

Other Options

None

Note: This is an Executive Function
Referred direct to all three Scrutiny Committees
Cabinet Member: Cllr Woodley

711 Council Debt Position to 30 November 2019

The Cabinet considered a report of the Executive Director (Finance and Resources) on the above.

Resolved:-

1. That the current outstanding debt position as at 30th November 2019 and the position of debts written off to 30th November 2019 as set out in Appendices A & B to the submitted report, be noted.

2. That the write offs greater than £25,000, as detailed in Appendix B to the report, be approved.

Reason for Decision:

All reasonable steps to recover the debt have been taken, and therefore where write off is recommended it is the only course of action that is left available.

Other Options:

None

Note: This is an Executive Function
Referred direct to Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee
Cabinet Member: Cllr Gilbert

712 Council Procedure Rule 46

Resolved:-

That the submitted report be noted.

Note: This is an Executive Function
Referred direct to the relevant scrutiny committee
Cabinet member: As appropriate to the item

713 Exclusion of the Public

Resolved:-

That, under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the item of business set out below, on the grounds that it would involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act and that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

714 Council Procedure Rule 46 - Confidential Sheet

Resolved:

That the SO46 confidential sheet, be noted.

Note: This is an Executive Function
Referred direct to People Scrutiny and Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committees
Cabinet Member: Cllr Woodley

Chair: _____