

# **STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL**

## **CABINET DECISIONS**

**TUESDAY, 19 JUNE 2018**

PRESENT: Councillor S E Ralphs MBE (Chair)

Councillors M Bowen, A Forrester, T Hall, D Ogden, S Scalise and E Wain

1 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED)**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 24 April 2018 were approved.

2 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST, IF ANY**

There were no declarations of interest made.

3 **FORWARD PLAN**

**DECISION:** That the Forward Plan for June 2018 be approved for publication.

4 **FOURTH QUARTER FINANCIAL, PROCUREMENT AND PERFORMANCE REVIEW 2017/18**

The purpose of the report was to inform members of the Council's overall performance and financial position for the period ended 31st March 2018 ("Fourth Quarter 2017/18"). The report was considered by the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 6 June 2018. The position can be summarised as follows:

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Headline</b>
Finance	<p>The headlines for the Fourth Quarter were:</p> <p><i>Performance against Budget</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• At the Quarter Four stage the General Fund provisional outturn for 2017/18 was an underspend of £1,497,076</li></ul> <p><i>Efficiency Programme</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The overall efficiency target of £661,000 for 2017/18 had been achieved</li></ul> <p><i>Capital Programme</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The revised Capital Programme budget for 2017/18 was set at £1.71m</li><li>• The provisional outturn was £1.55m which represented an underspend of £0.16m relating primarily to re-profiling of the Asset Management Plan.</li></ul> <p><i>Treasury Management</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cash investments held at 31st March 2018 totalled £5.6 million.</li><li>• The Ascent loan and debenture currently stood at £19 million.</li><li>• Council borrowing at 31st March 2018 totalled £12.9 million (£12 million of which relates to the Ascent loan)</li></ul>

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Subject	Headline
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Council's net interest receipts budget had achieved a surplus of £35,713.</li></ul> <p><i>Revenue Collection</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 98.6% of Council Tax was collected by 31 March 2018 (98% target exceeded), compared to 98.7% for the same period last year.</li><li>• 98.5% of Business Rates was collected by 31 March 2018 (98.1% target exceeded) compared with 98.8% for the same period last year.</li><li>• At the end of the year the value of sundry debt that was over 60 days old was £110,423 which compared with £127,221 at 31 March 2017 (5% reduction target exceeded).</li></ul>
Procurement	<p>The headlines for the Fourth Quarter were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 30 procurement activities were completed</li><li>• At the 31 March 2018, 71% of procurement activity undertaken was on the forward plan and the Council paid 96% of its invoices within 30 days during the year</li></ul>
Performance	<p>The headlines for the Fourth Quarter were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Targets for 76% of the key performance indicators were met</li><li>• Of the 24 Priority Actions within the Corporate Plan, 2 were still to commence, 4 were complete, 1 was closed, 2 were rated amber, the remainder being classified as 'Green'; and</li><li>• The Council received 43 complaints, 55 comments and 22 compliments in the Fourth Quarter.</li><li>• Repeat complaints and response times were both on track</li></ul>

Options considered:

Detailed Analysis was contained within the main body of the Report.

### **DECISION:**

1. That the Fourth Quarter 2017/18 financial, procurement and performance position detailed in Appendices A, B and C and summarised at 3.3 of the covering report be noted.
2. That the proposed allocation of the surplus on the General Fund Revenue Account to reserves as explained in Appendix A of the report (paragraph 2.9) be noted.

## **5 PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK 2018/19 (INCORPORATING THE ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18 AND REVISED CORPORATE PLAN 2018-2019)**

The purpose of the report was to:

- Provide members with an opportunity to scrutinise the draft Performance Framework and associated targets for 2018/19

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- Present the findings from the Annual Report and how these had influenced the Framework and Corporate Plan refresh
- Outline the suggested approach and timescale for approval of the 2018/19 Performance Framework.

The report was considered by the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 6 June 2018.

Options considered:

Members were asked to consider the proposed targets and to make amendments if they considered that they were necessary.

### **DECISION:**

1. That the Performance Framework and Annual Report be approved.
2. That the revised Corporate Plan refresh be recommended to Council for approval.

## **6 STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS GROWTH STRATEGY**

The purpose of this report is to update the Cabinet on the progress of the Draft Growth Strategy for Staffordshire Moorlands, being developed jointly in partnership between SMDC and SCC. The report was considered by the Service Delivery Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 23 May 2018.

Options considered:

Option 1: Do not agree approval for consultation. Under this option, the Council would not seek public and stakeholder consultation on draft Growth Strategy. This would mean that there was less opportunity for key partners and residents to influence local strategy. Not recommended.

Option 2: Agree approval for consultation for opportunity for key partners and residents to influence local strategy. Recommended

### **DECISION:**

1. That the Draft Growth Strategy be noted.
2. That the Draft Growth Strategy for Staffordshire Moorlands be approved for publication for the purpose of public consultation.

## **7 COMMUNITY RIGHT TO BID POLICY**

The Council adopted a Community Right to Bid/Assets of Community Value Policy in December 2012, based on the Council's experience since that date and the growing body of case law amendments were proposed to the current policy.

Options considered:

- To approve the revised Community Right to Bid policy (Recommended).

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- To not approve the revised Community Right to Bid policy (Not recommended).

### **DECISION:**

That the revised Community Right to Bid Policy (contained in Appendix 1 of the report) be approved.

## **8 SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND ADULTS AT RISK OF ABUSE AND NEGLECT**

The Council last revised its Safeguarding Policy in 2016. An amended policy was presented to reflect recent legislative and other changes. The report also provided an update to Councillors on the Council's actions to meet its safeguarding duties.

Options considered:

None.

### **DECISION:**

1. That the actions taken by the Council in response to its safeguarding duties be noted.
2. That the amended Safeguarding Policy be approved.

## **9 STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS LOCAL PLAN: GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY; MAY 2018**

A Green Infrastructure Strategy has been prepared to support the Local Plan. The Strategy has been prepared in collaboration with a number of external partners and has been subject to public consultation. This report sets out the results of the consultation and recommends that the amended GI Strategy is adopted.

Options considered:

There were three options:

Option 1 – Decline to adopt the Staffordshire Moorlands Local Plan: Green Infrastructure Strategy; May 2018. A GI Strategy for the District was required by national and local planning policy. Failure to include a GI Strategy with the evidence base supporting the Local Plan risks the plan being found unsound at Examination. Not recommended

Option 2 – Approve the adoption of the Staffordshire Moorlands Local Plan: Green Infrastructure Strategy; May 2018, but subject to fundamental modification of the document. The May 2018 GI Strategy had been approved by a Steering Group of external partners who have collaborated in its preparation and who would, alongside the Council, be principal partners in its delivery. Fundamental revision of the Strategy would require further consultation and this may delay preparation of the Strategy such that it could not be submitted alongside the Local Plan. Not recommended

Option 3 – Adopt the Staffordshire Moorlands Local Plan: Green Infrastructure Strategy; May 2018. The adoption of the GI Strategy would provide a strategic

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framework for the development of a network of habitat corridors and linked green spaces in the District that would form part of the evidence base for Local Plan policies, inform the Local Plan Infrastructure Delivery Plan, assist with development management decisions and inform the contributions required from new developments. Recommended

### **DECISION:**

1. The the preparation of a Staffordshire Moorlands Green Infrastructure Strategy, the consultation feedback received and the subsequent action taken be noted and that the adoption of the Strategy be approved.
2. That the adoption of the strategy be approved to be used as background evidence to support and inform the development of the policies in the Local Plan.

### 10 **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RESOLVED - That, pursuant to Section 100A(2) and (4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings whereby it is likely that confidential information as defined in Section 100A (3) of the Act would be disclosed to the public in breach of the obligation of confidence or exempt information as defined in Section 100 I (1) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act would be disclosed to the public by virtue of the Paragraphs indicated.

### 11 **ALLIANCE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES (AES) - PHASE 2 - TRANSFER OF SERVICES**

The Cabinet approved a report that considered the service financial arrangements, specification, service delivery and performance framework for services to be transferred to Alliance Environmental Service (AES).

The meeting closed at 2.20 pm

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Chairman