

STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET DECISIONS

TUESDAY, 30 JULY 2019

PRESENT: Councillor S E Ralphs MBE (Chair)
Councillors M Bowen, T Hall and S Scalise

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillors S Coleman and K Hoptroff

APOLOGIES: Councillors M A Deaville and E Wain

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

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 June 2019 were **APPROVED**.

11 **URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS, IF ANY (24 HOURS NOTICE TO BE PROVIDED TO THE CHAIRMAN)**

There were no urgent items.

12 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST, IF ANY**

There were no declarations made.

13 **MATTERS REFERRED BY AN OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL, IF ANY**

There were no matters referred by Overview and Scrutiny Panels.

14 **ITEMS REQUESTED BY CABINET AND/OR NON-CABINET MEMBERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH CABINET PROCEDURE RULES 8.5(B) AND (E), IF ANY**

There were no items requested.

15 **REPORTS OF MONITORING OFFICER AND/OR CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER, IF ANY**

There were no reports.

15.1 **FORWARD PLAN**

It was noted that the item – Biddulph Town Hall – had been put back to the next meeting.

DECISION:

That, subject to the above amendment, the Forward Plan for the period July to September 2019 be **APPROVED** for publication.

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15.2 FOURTH QUARTER FINANCIAL, PROCUREMENT AND PERFORMANCE REVIEW 2018/19

The purpose of this report was to inform members of the Council’s overall financial, procurement and performance position for the period ending 31 March 2019 (“Fourth Quarter 2018/19”). The report was considered by the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 24 July 2019. The position was summarised as follows:-

| Subject | Headline | Reference |
|----------------|---|------------------|
| Finance | <p>The headlines for the Fourth Quarter were:</p> <p><i>Performance against Budget</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the Quarter Four stage the General Fund provisional outturn for 2018/19 was an underspend of £777,487. <p><i>Efficiency Programme</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The overall efficiency target for 2018/19 was £830,000. There was a shortfall of £422,973 against target which had been offset in the year by the overall General Fund underspend without the need to use the Council’s earmarked efficiency programme reserve. The Efficiency Programme was reprofiled when setting the Budget & MTFP in February. <p><i>Capital Programme</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The revised Capital Programme budget for 2018/19 was set at £3.59 million as part of the MTFP presented in February 2019. The provisional outturn was £2.23 million which represented an underspend of £1.36 million. Of this £0.77million related to reprofiling of spend on vehicle and plant acquisitions and £0.34million to an underspend against the provision for Disabled Facility Grants. <p><i>Treasury Management</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cash investments held at 31st March 2019 totalled £7.6 million. The Ascent loan and debenture currently stood at £19 million. • Council borrowing at 31 March 2019 totalled £11 million (related to the Ascent loan) • The Council’s net interest receipts were £59,851 above budget. <p><i>Revenue Collection</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 98.66% of Council Tax was collected by 31 March 2019 (98% target exceeded), compared to 98.60% for the same period last year. • 99.13% of Business Rates was collected by 31 March 2019 (98.1% target exceeded) compared with 98.54% for the same period last year. • At the end of Quarter Four debt that was over 60 days old was £70,434 which compared with £110,423 at 31st March 2018 (5% reduction target exceeded). | Appendix A |

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| Subject | Headline | Reference |
|-------------|---|------------|
| Procurement | The headlines for the Fourth Quarter were: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 15 procurement activities were completed• The Procurement forward plan included 61 procurement activities for completion in 2019/20 (either SMDC only or joint)• At the 31st March 2019, 64% of procurement activity undertaken was on the forward plan and the Council paid 92% of its invoices within 30 days during the year | Appendix B |
| Performance | The headlines for the Fourth Quarter were: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 79% of the key performance indicators met target (performance had improved from last year in respect of 45% of the indicators)• Of the 25 Priority Actions within the Corporate Plan, six were complete, two were still to commence, three were rated amber, one rated red the remainder being classified as 'Green'; and• The Council received 98 complaints, 184 comments and 82 compliments in the Fourth Quarter. Repeat complaints and response times both on track | Appendix C |

Detailed analysis was contained in the appendices.

DECISION:

- That the Fourth Quarter 2018/19 financial, procurement and performance position detailed in Appendices A, B and C and summarised at 3.3 of the covering report be **NOTED**.
- That the allocation of the surplus on the General Fund Revenue Account be transferred to reserves as explained in Appendix A (paragraph 2.9) be **APPROVED**.
- That the proposals to carry forward unspent capital budget as set out in Appendix A (paragraph 5.6) be **APPROVED**.

16 **HOMELESSNESS UPDATE REPORT**

The report gave members an update following the first year of the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017, with information relating to implementation and homelessness applications made during 2018/19.

The Council was now in a position to step in at an early stage and was often able to resolve matters, thus avoiding people becoming homeless.

Options considered:

The report was for information only and there were no options considered.

DECISION:

That the report be **NOTED**.

16.1 DECLARATION OF AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT AREAS

In line with the requirements of the Environment Act 1995, the report made recommendations to ensure that the Council met its legal duty in relation to the declaration of Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA's).

It had been found necessary to declare two AQMA's encompassing the roads and properties in Ball Haye Street/Broad Street, Leek and Leek Road, Cellarhead.

Options considered:

AQMA 1 – Leek

1. The AQMA be restricted to the properties confirmed as exceeding AQ objectives (based only on directly collected data);
2. The proposed AQMA shown in Fig. 1 within the report;
3. The AQMA shown in Fig. 1 but the area of the contour is widened by a further 5m.

AQMA 2 – Cellarhead

1. The AQMA be restricted to the properties confirmed as exceeding AQ objectives (based only on directly collected data);
2. The proposed AQMA shown in Fig. 2 within the report.

DECISION:

1. That Cabinet **MADE AN ORDER** under Section 83 of the Environment Act 1995 declaring AQMA's in the form appended to the report;
2. That Cabinet **AGREED** to declare AQMA's on the basis of Option 2 for Leek and Option 2 for Cellarhead;
3. That the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel be requested to consider the contents of the Air Quality Action Plans for both AQMA's.

17 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.

18 ENVIRONMENT

18.1 SUPPORTING THE COUNCIL'S LEGAL DUTIES UNDER THE ENVIRONMENTAL PERMITTING REGULATIONS 2010

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Cabinet considered a report outlining the Council's approach to meeting its duties under the Environmental Permitting Regulations 2010.

19 **LEASE OF 8 MARKET PLACE, LEEK**

Cabinet considered a report regarding a new tenancy in respect of 8 Market Place, Leek.

20 **PLANNING & REGENERATION STAFFING STRUCTURE**

Cabinet considered proposals for revised staffing structures for Planning and Regeneration.

The meeting closed at 2.45 pm

_____ Chairman