

STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET DECISIONS

TUESDAY, 6 OCTOBER 2020

PRESENT: Councillor S E Ralphs MBE (Chair)
Councillors M Bowen, M A Deaville, T Hall, J Porter, S Scalise and E Wain

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillors E Fallows, M Gledhill, K Hoptroff, K Jackson, L Page, L Swindlehurst and N Yates

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

DECISION:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 4 August 2020 be approved as a correct record.

71 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST, IF ANY**

The following declarations were made:

Agenda Item	Member Declaring Interest	Nature of Interest
Agenda Item 12.1 – Disposal of Plots 12 – 15 Victoria Business Park	Cllr. T Hall	Other Interest – Son-in-Law is Director of MF Tyler
	Cllr. S Scalise	Lobbied
Any reference to government grants administered by the District Council to small businesses	Cllr. M Deaville Cllr. E Wain	Proprietor of a small business in the Staffordshire Moorlands

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

Service Delivery Overview and Scrutiny Panel – 16 September 2020

An exempt Cabinet decision made on 4 August 2020 (Disposal of Plot 12-15 Victoria Business Park) was called-in and considered by the above Panel. It was recommended that the Cabinet reconsider this decision (included in the exempt part of the agenda).

Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel - 23 September 2020

The Cabinet noted a recommendation from the above Panel that consideration be given to the removal of car parking charges for a further period of time, to allow for a

Cabinet - 6 October 2020

pre-planned, systematic survey to be carried out on the uptake of free parking and footfall in the town centres. The Cabinet would consider this recommendation and make a decision in due course.

73 FORWARD PLAN

DECISION:

That the Forward Plan be approved for publication.

74 FIRST QUARTER 2020/21 FINANCIAL, PERFORMANCE & PROCUREMENT REPORT

The purpose of the report was to inform members of the Council's overall performance and financial position for the period ended 30th June ("First Quarter 2020/21"). The position was summarised as follows:

Subject	Headline	Reference
Finance	<p>The Finance headlines for the First Quarter were:</p> <p>Performance against Budget</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">At the First Quarter stage the General Fund projected outturn for 2020/21 was an overspend of £345,160 (net of Government Covid funding) <p>Efficiency Programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">At Quarter One no savings had been taken against the 2020/21 general fund efficiency target of £519,000. <p>Capital Programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The revised Capital Programme budget for 2020/21 was 6.6 million including the carry forward of capital underspends from 2019/20. The projected outturn for the year was £3.1million; a variance of £3.5 million – mostly in respect of programme slippage due to Covid19. <p>Treasury Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Cash investments held at 30 June 2020 totalled £15.4 million. The Ascent loan and debenture stood at £19 million.Council borrowing at 30 June 2020 totalled £12 million (related to the Ascent loan)The Council's net interest income receipts were projected to be £55,210 surplus above budget. <p>Revenue Collection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">28.76% of Council Tax was collected by 30 June 2020 compared to 29.38% for the same period last year.22.30% of Business Rates was collected by 30 June 2020 compared with 28.62% for the same period last year.At the end of the First Quarter, sundry debt that was over 60 days old was £97,395 which compares with £82,560 at 30 June 2019	Appendix A

Cabinet - 6 October 2020

Procurement	The Procurement headlines for the First Quarter were: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 12 procurement activities were completed• The Procurement forward plan included 57 procurement activities for completion in 2020/21 (either SMDC only or joint)• At the 30 June 2020, 97% of procurement activity undertaken was on the forward plan and the Council paid 97% of its invoices within 30 days during the year	Appendix B
Performance	The Performance headlines for the First Quarter were: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 69% of the key performance indicators were on track (33% of which were better than the previous year)• The Council received 10 complaints and 22 compliments in the First Quarter.• 10 projects on track, 16 not yet commenced, 1 completed, 1 Red rated and 2 Amber.	Appendix C

The report was considered by the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 23 September 2020. The Cabinet noted a recommendation from the Panel that consideration be given to the removal of car parking charges for a further period of time, to allow for a pre-planned, systematic survey to be carried out on the uptake of free parking and footfall in the town centres. The Cabinet would consider this recommendation and make a decision in due course.

Options considered:

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

DECISION:

That the First Quarter 2020/21 financial, procurement and performance position detailed in Appendices A, B and C and summarised at 3.3 of the covering report be noted.

75 **REVISED PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK 2020/21 DUE TO COVID**

This report provided information on the proposed amendments to the current performance targets for 2020/21, which had been made necessary because of the effects of the coronavirus pandemic on the council's ability to meet its previously agreed targets. The report was considered by the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 23 September 2020.

Options considered:

This report is for information only and therefore no alternatives have been presented. However, if the target review had not taken place the 2020/21 Q4 report would show a higher than usual proportion of 'off track' measures due to lockdown and on-going coronavirus restrictions, which were outside the council's control.

DECISION:

That the proposed amendments be noted.

76 **MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2020/21 - 2023/24 UPDATE**

The purpose of the report was to present an updated summary version of the Medium-Term Financial Plan 2020/21 – 2023/24. This forecasted the longer term impact the Coronavirus pandemic had had on the financial position of the Authority. The report was considered by the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 23 September 2020.

Options considered:

There were no options to consider at this stage.

DECISION:

That the forecast updated Medium Term Financial Plan position be noted.

77 **CHEADLE TOWN CENTRE PROJECTS**

The report outlined proposals for the establishment of a Cheadle Town Centre Delivery Board, supported by a Stakeholder Panel, to oversee development and delivery of town centre projects. This included an options appraisal for the emerging Cheadle town centre Masterplan and the High Streets Task Force programme of activity. The report also provided an update on progress with regards to the Cheadle Town Centre Options Appraisal Report and the High Streets Task Force and sought to agree next steps.

Options considered:

Option 1 (recommended) – that the Council approved the proposals for establishment of a Cheadle Town Centre Delivery Board and Stakeholder Panel and noted the progress on Cheadle town centre projects.

Option 2 (not recommended) – that the Council did not approve the proposals for establishment of a Cheadle Town Centre Board, to be supported by a Panel of Stakeholders. This was not recommended. There was potential for significant change in Cheadle arising from the implementation of proposals in the emerging Masterplan and recommendations from the High Street Task Force. Effective partnership working would be required to deliver this change. Without a Board of partners to help direct and coordinate activities, there was a risk that the views and resources of some stakeholders may be lost to the process and the Council would not be in a position to capitalise on opportunities for added value from the work of a range of partners.

DECISION:

1. That the proposals for the establishment of a Cheadle Town Centre Delivery Board and Stakeholder Panel, as set out in the report be approved.
2. That the progress on current Cheadle town centre projects be noted.

78 **APPOINTMENT TO STAFFORDSHIRE DESTINATION MANAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIP BOARD**

The purpose of the report was to re-appoint a representative of the Council to the Staffordshire Destination Management and Partnership Board.

Options considered:

The Cabinet may consider other councillors to be the Council's representative for this appointment.

DECISION:

That the appointment of Councillor Mike Bowen to the Staffordshire Destination Management and Partnership Board be approved.

79 **RECENT AND PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE PLANNING SYSTEM INCLUDING THE PLANNING WHITE PAPER 2020**

The report appraised Members of recent changes to the planning system enacted in the Business and Planning Act 2020, proposed changes to the current Planning System as set out in the Government Consultation Document Published 6 August 2020 and proposed changes as set out in the White Paper "Planning for the Future" which was published for consultation by Government on 6th August 2020. The report also sought to consider the Council's response to the consultations. The report was considered by the Service Delivery Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 16 September 2020.

Options considered:

As detailed in the report.

DECISION:

That Members note the report be noted and authority be delegated to the Executive Director (Place) to prepare a final response to both consultations based on the attached summary tables, incorporating any comments of the Service Delivery Overview and Scrutiny Panel and Cabinet and to submit them to Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government before the end of the consultation periods.

80 **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.

Cabinet - 6 October 2020

81 **DISPOSAL OF PLOT 12-15 VICTORIA BUSINESS PARK - REFERRAL
FROM SERVICE DELIVERY AND OVERVIEW COMMITTEE**

The Cabinet re-considered a decision made on 4 August 2020 following referral from Service Delivery Overview and Scrutiny Panel of the previous disposal report regarding the plots at Victoria Business Park. The report recommendation was approved.

The meeting closed at 3.38 pm

Chairman