

STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET DECISIONS

TUESDAY, 1 DECEMBER 2020

PRESENT: Councillor S E Ralphs MBE (Chair)

Councillors M Bowen, M A Deaville, T Hall, J Porter and E Wain

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillors J Aberley, G Bentley, B Cawley, E Fallows, M Gledhill, K Hoptroff, K Jackson, L Malyon, K Martin, I Plant, P Roberts, L Swindlehurst, P Wilkinson and N Yates.

APOLOGIES: Councillors S Scalise

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

DECISION:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 6 October 2020 be approved as a correct record.

83 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST, IF ANY**

The following declarations were made:

| Agenda Item | Member Declaring Interest | Nature of Interest |
|--|----------------------------------|---|
| Agenda Item 8.4 - Medium Term Financial Plan 2021/22 - 2024/25 Update | Cllr. M Deaville Cllr. E Wain | Recipient of Covid-19 Business Grant |

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

84.1 **RECONSIDERATION OF CABINET REPORT - CHEADLE TOWN CENTRE PROJECTS**

On 6 October Cabinet considered a report which 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 including 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.

The decision was called-in by the required number of councillors and was reviewed by the Service Delivery Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 18 November 2020. Following considerable debate the Panel voted to refer the decision back to Cabinet for reconsideration.

It was reported that there had been a great deal of speculation, misunderstanding and misinformation relating to the original report. The views of local people,

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businesses and organisations in Cheadle were extraordinarily important to ensure that the project led to improved facilities and visitor numbers for the town's long term future. The potential options provided so far could, after debate, be accepted, amended or rejected. It was important that Cheadle received long-term investment and there was inclusive consultation on all the options available.

Options considered:

As detailed in the report.

DECISION:

1. That the Cabinet Decision made on 6th October 2020 to approve the proposals for establishment of a Cheadle Town Centre Delivery Board and Stakeholder Panel be reaffirmed.
2. That a public consultation exercise and survey, overseen by the Stakeholder Panel, to seek the views of local people, businesses and organisations of Cheadle on all the regeneration issues & opportunities for the town centre, which will inform the priorities for delivering regeneration projects be commissioned.
3. That a Cabinet Report on the results of the public consultation exercise and to set out the next steps in delivering the regeneration of Cheadle Town Centre be prepared.

85 **FORWARD PLAN**

DECISION:

That the Forward Plan be approved for publication.

86 **ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20**

The purpose of the report was to present the Council's Annual Report for 2019/20, which compared Staffordshire Moorlands' performance and costs with councils in the West Midlands region and nationally; and highlighted further action where needed.

The report was considered by the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 25 November 2020.

Options considered:

This report was for information with no decision required of the Cabinet.

DECISION:

That the findings of the benchmarking exercises and the small refocus of the Corporate Plan suggested for the following 12 months be noted.

87 **SECOND QUARTER 2020/21 FINANCE, PROCUREMENT & PERFORMANCE REVIEW**

The purpose of the report was to inform members of the Council's overall performance and financial position for the period ended 30th September ("Second

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Quarter 2020/21").The report was considered by the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 25 November 2020. The position was summarised as follows:

| Subject | Headline | Reference |
|-------------|---|------------|
| Finance | <p>The Finance headlines for the Second Quarter were:</p> <p><i>Performance against Budget</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the Second Quarter stage the General Fund projected outturn for 2020/21 was an overspend of £106,130. <p><i>Efficiency Programme</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At Quarter Two £137,000 in savings had been taken against the 2020/21 general fund efficiency target of £519,000. It was anticipated that there would be a £380,000 shortfall in the year. <p><i>Capital Programme</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The revised Capital Programme budget for 2020/21 was 6.67 million including the carry forward of capital underspends from 2019/20. The projected outturn for the year was £2.91million; a variance of £3.76 million – mostly in respect of programme slippage due to Covid19. <p><i>Treasury Management</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cash investments held at 30 September 2020 totalled £16.3 million. The Ascent loan and debenture stood at £19 million. • Council borrowing at 30 September 2020 was forecast to total £16 million by the year end (£14m relates to the Ascent loan) • The Council's net interest income receipts was projected as a £43,700 surplus above budget. <p><i>Revenue Collection</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 55.60% of Council Tax was collected by 30 September 2020 compared to 56.34% for the same period last year. • 50.32% of Business Rates was collected by 30 September 2020 compared with 55.57% for the same period last year. • At the end of the Second Quarter debt that was over 60 days old was £101,700 which compares with £67,310 at 30 September 2019 | Appendix A |
| Procurement | <p>The Procurement headlines for the Second Quarter were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 procurement activities were completed • The Procurement forward plan included 53 procurement activities for completion in 2020/21 (either SMDC only or joint) • At the 30 September 2020, 76% 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 | <p>The Performance headlines for the Second Quarter were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 83% of the key performance indicators on track (40% of which were better than the previous year) • The Council received 23 complaints, 70 comments and 53 | Appendix C |

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|--|---|--|
| | compliments <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Priority Actions - 7 green, 2 completed, 1 red rated, remainder yet to commence | |
|--|---|--|

Options considered:

Detailed analysis was contained within the main body of the report.

DECISION:

That the Second 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.

88 **MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2021/22 - 2024/25 UPDATE**

This report presented the Council's updated Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) for the period 2021/22 – 2024/25. The MTFP presents the Council's priorities in the context of the likely resources available, providing a financial context to future decision-making. The report was considered by the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 25 November 2020.

Options considered:

There were no options to consider at this stage.

DECISION:

That the Cabinet approves the updated Medium Term Financial Plan.

89 **WILDFIRE PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER**

The purpose of the report was to introduce measures to reduce the risk of wildfires in high risk areas of the District. The report was considered by the Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 23 November 2020.

Options considered:

The Council could work with partners to raise awareness of the risks of wildfires and to encourage people to behave responsibly without introducing new enforcement powers.

DECISION:

1. That the necessary consultation, publication and notification in relation to the draft Order appended to this report be agreed.
2. That the approval of the draft Order be made by way of a Delegated Cabinet Decision unless the responses from the consultation necessitate material changes to the draft Order.

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90 INFORMATION GOVERNANCE UPDATE

To provide an Information Governance update which details how the Council continues to embed good information management practices through its ASSURED framework. The report was considered by the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 25 November 2020.

Options considered:

This report is for information only and no decision is required.

DECISION:

That the Cabinet notes the contents of this update.

91 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.

92 APPLICATION FOR WRITE OFF OF NON- RECOVERABLE DEBTS

The Cabinet approved the write off balances which were deemed non recoverable.

The meeting closed at 3.19 pm

Chairman