

STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET DECISIONS

TUESDAY, 9 FEBRUARY 2021

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 J Aberley, G Bentley, E Fallows, N Hawkins, K Hoptroff, L Malyon, I Plant, P Roberts, J Salt, L Swindlehurst and N Yates.

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

DECISION:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 1 December 2020 be approved as a correct record.

94 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST, IF ANY**

The following declarations were made:

Agenda Item	Member Declaring Interest	Nature of Interest
Agenda Item 8.2 - Third Quarter Financial, Procurement and Performance Review 2020/21	Cllr. M Deaville Cllr. E Wain	Recipient of Covid-19 Business Grant

95 **FORWARD PLAN**

DECISION:

That the Forward Plan be approved for publication.

96 **THIRD QUARTER FINANCIAL, PROCUREMENT AND PERFORMANCE REVIEW 2020/21**

The purpose of the report was to inform members of the Council's overall performance and financial position for the period ended 31st December ("Third Quarter 2020/21"). The report was considered by the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 3 February 2021. The position can be summarised as follows:

Subject	Headline	Reference
Finance	The Finance headlines for the Third Quarter were: <i>Performance against Budget</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">At the Third Quarter stage the General Fund projected outturn for 2020/21	Appendix A

Cabinet - 9 February 2021

	<p>was an underspend of £335,180 (included £106,000 draw from Covid earmarked reserve).</p> <p><i>Efficiency Programme</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At Quarter Three £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 £3.08million; a variance of £3.59 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 31 December 2020 totalled £24 million. The Ascent loan and debenture stood at £19 million. Council borrowing at 31 December 2020 was forecast to total £15 million by the year end (£14m relates to the Ascent loan) The Council's net interest income receipts was projected as a £48,380 surplus above budget. <p><i>Revenue Collection</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 83.03% of Council Tax was collected by 31 December 2020 compared to 83.92% for the same period last year. 80.61% of Business Rates was collected by 31 December 2020 compared with 80.45% for the same period last year. At the end of the Third Quarter debt that was over 60 days old was £71,620 which compares with £70,430 at 31 December 2019 	
Procurement	<p>The Procurement headlines for the Third Quarter were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 procurement activities were completed The Procurement forward plan included 49 procurement activities for completion in 2020/21 (either SMDC only or joint) At the 31 December 2020, 68% of procurement activity undertaken was on the forward plan and the Council paid 93% of its invoices within 30 days during the year 	Appendix B
Performance	<p>The Performance headlines for the Third Quarter were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 83% of the key performance indicators on track (47% of which are better than the previous year) The Council received 34 complaints, 113 comments and 72 compliments Priority Actions - 13 green, 3 completed, 1 red rated, remainder yet to commence 	Appendix C

Options considered:

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

DECISION:

Cabinet - 9 February 2021

That the Third 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.

97 **2021/22 BUDGET & MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2021/22 TO 2024/25**

The purpose of the report is to present the proposed Budget for 2021/22, updated Medium-Term Financial Plan 2021/22 – 2024/25, Capital Strategy 2021/22, proposed Fees and Charges for 2021/22 and Procurement Forward Plan 2021/22. The report was considered by the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 3 February 2021.

The Leader of the Council confirmed that an earmarked reserve had been established to support climate change related activities. Climate Change considerations were indirectly included in many aspects of the MTFP – including capital programme projects focused on Council buildings and vehicle purchases.

Options considered:

There were no options to consider at this stage.

RECOMMENDED:

Cabinet supported the following **recommendations** to Council:

1. Approves the General Fund Budget for 2021/22 as detailed in **Appendix A (section 9)**
2. Approves the revised Medium-Term Financial Plan (2021/22 to 2024/25) as detailed in **Appendix A**, including the revised Capital Programme (attached at Annex A)
3. Approves the Capital Strategy 2021/22 as set out in **Appendix B**
4. Approves the proposed Fees and Charges for 2021/22 as detailed in **Appendix C**
5. Approves the proposed Procurement Forward Plan for 2021/22, providing the authority to procure based on procurement activity detailed in **Appendix D**
6. Approves a Band D Council Tax of £158.40 for 2021/22 (an increase of £5 or 3.26% from 2021/22)
7. Approves a Band D Council Tax of £52.92 for Leek and £10.64 for Biddulph for 2020/21 (no increase from 2020/21) in respect of Special District Expenses
8. Notes the Chief Finance Officer's view that the level of reserves are adequate for the Council based on this budget and the circumstances in place at the time of preparing it (**Appendix A Annex D**)

Cabinet - 9 February 2021

98 DISABLED FACILITIES GRANT UPDATE - INCLUDING PROPOSALS FOR THE EXPANSION OF THE GRANT OFFER

The report outlined proposals for the expansion of the Council's current Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) offer as part of the wider review of the Council's Housing Renewal Assistance Policy. The report was considered by the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 3 February 2021.

Options considered:

Cabinet may determine whether to approve some, all or none of the proposals to go forward to inform the Housing Renewal Assistance Policy review.

DECISION:

That the revised Grant criteria as attached at appendices 1 to 4 for inclusion in the Council's Housing Renewal Assistance Policy be approved.

99 PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER

The report sought to introduce measures to improve community safety by restricting on-street drinking in Biddulph, Cheadle and Leek. The report was considered by the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 1 February 2021.

Options considered:

To decide not to introduce a Public Spaces Protection Order in the designated areas (not recommended).

DECISION:

1. That the necessary consultation, publication and notification in relation to the draft Order appended to the report be carried out.
2. That the draft Order be subsequently approved by delegated decision unless the responses from the consultation necessitate material changes to the draft Order.

The meeting closed at 3.10 pm

_____Chairman