



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD ON 28th NOVEMBER 2019

PRESENT: Councillors R Pritchard (Vice-Chair, in the Chair), J Chesworth and S Doyle

The following officers were present: Andrew Barratt (Chief Executive), Stefan Garner (Executive Director Finance), Lynne Pugh (Assistant Director Finance) and Anna Miller (Assistant Director – Growth & Regeneration)

Apologies received from: Councillor(s) D Cook and M Cook

28 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 7th November 2019 were approved and signed as a correct record.

(Moved by Councillor R Pritchard and seconded by Councillor J Chesworth)

29 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

30 QUESTION TIME:

There were no questions from members of the public.

31 MATTERS REFERRED TO THE CABINET IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PROCEDURE RULES

No items were raised from Scrutiny at this meeting.

32 QUARTER TWO 2019/20 PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Report of the Leader of the Council provided Cabinet with a performance update and financial healthcheck. The report had been considered by Corporate Scrutiny Committee at their meeting on 14th November 2019.

RESOLVED

that:

Cabinet endorsed the contents of this report; and

the General Fund budgets be revised to reflect the projected outturn underspend as at period 6 releasing funding of £1.756m to be returned to balances.

(Moved by Councillor R Pritchard and seconded by Councillor J Chesworth)

33 DRAFT BASE BUDGET FORECASTS 2020/21 TO 2024/25

The Report of the Leader of the Council was presented which informed Members of the re-priced base budget for 2020/21, base budget forecasts for the period 2020/21 to 2024/25 (the 5 Year Medium Term Planning Period) and the underlying assumptions and which asked Members to consider the future strategy to address the financial trends.

The Executive Director, Finance provided an overview to Cabinet of the key provisions in the report.

RESOLVED that:

the technical adjustments and re-priced base budget figures for 2020/21 & indicative budgets to 2024/25 be approved (as attached at Appendix B, C, D, E, F, G & H);

consideration be given to the proposed Policy Changes and Capital Programmes, as detailed within the report;

consideration be given to the planned changes to Council Tax and Housing Rent for 2020/21, as detailed within the report;
and

in compliance with the Constitution of the Council, the Leader's Budget Workshop be asked to consider the budget proposals contained within this report.

(Moved by Councillor R Pritchard and seconded by Councillor S Doyle)

34 LOCAL COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME 2020/21 ONWARDS

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Assets and Finance to advise members that the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme for working age customers for 2020/21 should include continued alignment to Applicable Amounts with those of Housing Benefit.

RESOLVED That Council considered and endorsed the proposed recommended changes detailed below:

The base scheme goes forward with the following:

That the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme for working age customers for 2020/21 would continue to be aligned to Applicable Amounts with those of Housing Benefit.

(Moved by Councillor R Pritchard and seconded by Councillor J Chesworth)

35 REVIEW OF TEMPORARY RESERVES, RETAINED FUNDS AND PROVISIONS

The Report of the Portfolio Holder for Assets and Finance to advised Members on the levels of reserves and to sought approval to re-purpose unspent reserves, following the recent review by the Executive Director Finance.

RESOLVED That Cabinet:

Approved the transfer of the reserves, as detailed in Appendix A, of £47,873.22 to General Fund Balances and £Nil to Housing Revenue Account Balances (HRA);

Noted the reserves to be spent in 2019/20 and 2020/21 which will otherwise be returned to balances; and

Noted the current levels of reserves remaining.

(Moved by Councillor R Pritchard and seconded by Councillor J Chesworth)

36 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT AND ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY MID-YEAR REVIEW REPORT 2019/20

The Report of the Portfolio Holder for Assets and Finance on the Mid-year Review of the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy was presented to Members.

RESOLVED That Council be requested to approve the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy Mid-year Review Report 2019/20.

(Moved by Councillor R Pritchard and seconded by Councillor J Chesworth)

37 COUNCIL TAXBASE 2020/21

The Report of the Portfolio Holder for Assets and Finance on the Council Tax Base for the Borough Council for 2020/21 was presented to Cabinet.

RESOLVED That the calculation of the Council Tax Base for the year 2020/21 to be 22,367 (2019/20 – 21,761).

(Moved by Councillor R Pritchard and seconded by Councillor J Chesworth)

38 WRITE OFFS

The Report of the Portfolio Holder for Assets and Finance was presented to provide Members with details of the amount of debt written off for the period 01 April 2019 to 30 September 2019 and to seek approval to write off irrecoverable debt in line with policy regarding Sundry Income in excess of £10k.

RESOLVED That Cabinet:

Endorsed the amount of debt written off for the period of 1st April 2019 to 30 September 2019 – **Appendix A-D**; and

Approved the write off of irrecoverable debt for Sundry Income of £11,956.65 – **Appendix E**.

(Moved by Councillor R Pritchard and seconded by Councillor J Chesworth)

39 ADOPTION OF THE PROPOSED LICENSING POLICY 2020-2023

The Report of the Portfolio Holder for Regulatory and Community Safety was presented to inform Cabinet of the outcome of consultations regarding the review of Tamworth's statement of licensing policy and proposed cumulative impact assessment and to request Cabinet to consider and approve the revised policy and cumulative impact assessment.

RESOLVED That Cabinet:

Considered and endorsed the final amended version of Tamworth's Statement of Licensing Policy and the proposed Cumulative Impact Assessment

Referred the revised Statement of Licensing Policy and Cumulative Impact Assessment to Council for approval and adoption

Recommended that an initial review by Tamworth Borough Council Officers, as soon as possible, of the cumulative impact assessment within the guidelines of policy be undertaken.

(Moved by Councillor S Doyle and seconded by Councillor J Chesworth)

40 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That members of the press and public be now excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item on the

grounds that the business involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

(Moved by Councillor R Pritchard and seconded by Councillor J Chesworth)

41 GROWTH HUB ADVISOR PROJECT - 2019 TO 2022

The Report of the Portfolio Holder for Heritage and Growth sought approval from Cabinet to deliver the Southern Staffordshire Growth Hub Advisor Role on behalf of Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership from October 1st 2019 to 30th September 2022

RESOLVED That:

Cabinet acknowledged that the total cost of the project was £111,821.90, of which £73,305.53 would be met from European Regional Development fund monies, £19,258.18 from the GBSLEP Development Fund and £19,258.18 from three local authority partners.

Cabinet approved the creation of all relevant internal annual budgets under account code GS0410 (Growth Hub).

Cabinet acknowledged that this is a multi-partner funded project and any balances at each year end should be kept in a retained fund with any underspend at the end of the project being split between the three funding Local Authorities.

£6000 from the Economic Development shared service budget (GS0408) for financial year 19/20, be retained and be used towards the project to cover Tamworth BC and Lichfield DC costs for this financial year and parts of financial year 20/21.

Tamworth Borough Council provided required evidence of officer time, salaries, and operational costs on the project in order to ensure maximum income is received.

(Moved by Councillor R Pritchard and Councillor S Doyle)

Leader