



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD ON 1st DECEMBER 2022

PRESENT: Councillors R Pritchard (Vice-Chair), M Bailey, S Doyle, A Farrell and M Summers

The following officers were present: Andrew Barratt (Chief Executive), Stefan Garner (Executive Director Finance), Joanne Goodfellow (Assistant Director Finance), Paul Weston (Assistant Director Assets), Bernadette Flanagan (Senior Elections Officer), Gareth Youlden (Head of Technology and Information Services) and Tracey Pointon (Legal Admin & Democratic Services Manager)

76 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors T Clements and Councillor J Oates

Councillor M Summers arrived at 18:11 hrs.

77 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

The Deputy Leader made the following statement regarding the Council meeting on Monday 28th November – ‘there appears to be some confusion in the public that this meeting was a vote of confidence in the Member of Parliament, there was no confidence motion tabled and no motion calling for him to resign tabled. The authority has no say over who is or is not the Member of Parliament’.

78 QUESTION TIME:

There were no questions

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

None

80 QUARTER TWO 2022/23 PERFORMANCE REPORT

Report of the Leader of the Council to provide Cabinet with an overview of Council performance, risk and financial health-check towards achieving the strategic projects detailed within the Corporate Plan and Medium-Term Financial Strategy. The information contained within the report covers performance for the second quarter of the financial year (July to September 2022). Corporate Scrutiny considered the report on 17th November 2022.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet

endorsed the contents of the report.

(Moved by Councillor R Pritchard and seconded by Councillor A Farrell)

81 DRAFT BASE BUDGET FORECASTS 2023/24 TO 2027/28

Report of the Leader of the Council to inform Members of the re-priced base budget for 2023/24, base budget forecasts for the period 2023/24 to 2027/28 (the 5 Year Medium Term Planning Period) and the underlying assumptions and to consider the future strategy to address the financial trends.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet

1. Approved the technical adjustments and re-priced base budget figures for 2023/24 and indicative budgets to 2027/28 (as attached at Appendix B, C, D, E, F, G and H);
2. consideration be given to the proposed Policy Changes and Capital Programmes, as detailed within the report;
3. consideration be given to the planned changes to Council Tax and Housing Rent for 2023/24, as detailed within the report;
4. Endorsed the decision to freeze pension contributions for 3 years from 2023/24, with an advance payment in April 2023, and
5. Noted that in compliance with the Constitution of the Council, note that the Leader's Budget Workshop considered the budget proposals contained within this report on 30th November 2022.

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

82 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT AND ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY MID-YEAR REVIEW REPORT 2022/23

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Risk and Customer Services to present to Members the Mid-year Review of the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet

Agreed that Council be requested to approve the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy Mid-year Review Report 2022/23.

(Moved by Councillor M Bailey and seconded by Councillor R Pritchard)

83 LOCAL COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME 2023/24

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Risk and Customer Services to advise members that the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme for working age customers for 2023/24 should include continued alignment to Applicable Amounts with those of Housing Benefit.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet

1. endorsed the proposed recommended changes as detailed; and
2. Agreed that the planned review for the introduction of a banding scheme for Council Tax Reduction be deferred until 2024 and that the current scheme for working age customers continues to be aligned to Applicable Amounts with those of Housing Benefit for 2023/24.

(Moved by Councillor M Bailey and seconded by Councillor R Pritchard)

84 iTRENT HR AND PAYROLL SYSTEM

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Risk and Customer Services to request that members approve the following for the move of the Council's HR and Payroll system (iTrent), to cloud hosted Software as a Service (SaaS) provided by MHR (the application vendor) –

- The re-purposing of existing capital scheme for Time Recording System of £15,000 no longer required, to part fund the move of iTrent to MHR hosted SaaS.
- Allocation of £20,000 from the DLUHC cyber grant to part fund the move of iTrent to MHR hosted SaaS.

- The addition of a new scheme to the capital programme – iTrent HR and Payroll SaaS with a total capital budget of £46,000, funded by the two elements above and an £11,000 contribution from existing ICT capital budget.
- Procurement waiver for a 5-year contract with MHR for provision of iTrent HR and Payroll system on a hosted Software as a Service basis.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet

approved the financial aspects detailed above as well as the waiver to the procurement requirement of Financial Guidance for the direct award of a new 5-year contract with MHR for provision of iTrent HR and Payroll system on an MHR Cloud hosted Software as a Service basis.

(Moved by Councillor M Bailey and seconded by Councillor S Doyle)

85 PURCHASE OF A DIGITAL SOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ELECTIONS ACT

Report of the Returning Officer to seek approval from Cabinet to purchase, in December 2022, the Modern Polling system supplied by Modern Democracy which will facilitate the implementation of the Elections Act 2022 legislation.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet

1. Approved the immediate purchase of the Modern Polling system and to enter a 4-year contract for the system with Modern Democracy; and
2. endorsed that the Returning Officer sign the necessary contractual agreements to facilitate the changes in legislation and ensure effective governance of the associated processes.

(Moved by Councillor R Pritchard and seconded by Councillor M Bailey)

86 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 A Farrell)

87 DELIVERY OF HOUSING REPAIRS USING A PRICE PER PROPERTY MODEL

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Homelessness Prevention and Social Housing to set out the proposals for implementing changes within the pricing mechanism for housing repairs from the use of a Schedule of Rates [SOR] to a Price Per Property [PPP].

RESOLVED: That Cabinet

1. Agreed that the existing Schedule of Rates used for pricing housing repairs is replaced by a Price Per Property mechanism.
2. Approved the Price Per Property of £381.63 as set out in the report and agreed the implementation with effect from 1st April 2023. The annual cost will vary based on the actual number of properties in management; and
3. Agreed that the existing contract is amended by formal variation to reflect the move from Schedule Of Rates to a Price Per Property.

(Moved by Councillor A Farrell and seconded by Councillor S Doyle)

Leader

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