



## **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD ON 19th JANUARY 2023**

**PRESENT:** Councillor J Oates (Chair), Councillors R Pritchard (Vice-Chair), M Bailey, T Clements, S Doyle, A Farrell and M Summers

The following officers were present: Andrew Barratt (Chief Executive), Anica Goodwin (Executive Director Organisation), Stefan Garner (Executive Director Finance), Joanne Goodfellow (Assistant Director Finance), Karen Moss (Community Sports Officer) and Tracey Pointon (Legal Admin & Democratic Services Manager)

Guest: Councillor T Jay Chair of Corporate Scrutiny

### **100 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence

### **101 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2022 were approved as a correct record.

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

### **102 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

### **103 QUESTION TIME:**

None

### **104 MATTERS REFERRED TO THE CABINET IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PROCEDURE RULES**

Councillor T Jay, Chair of Corporate Scrutiny Committee attended the meeting to update Cabinet and to make recommendations to it, following consideration of the Asset Management Strategy and related documentation by the Corporate Scrutiny Committee on 8 December 2022.

At its meeting on 8 December 2022, the Corporate Scrutiny Committee received the draft Asset Management Strategy relating to Council owned operational, investment, heritage and housing built assets, and documents covering acquisitions, disposals and the framework for the development of Asset Management Plans.

Following its consideration of the above item, the Committee agreed to make the recommendations to Cabinet as set out below.

Recommendations:

In respect of the Asset Management Strategy and accompanying documentation, the Committee recommends that Cabinet consider the following recommendations:

1. Including within the policy a link to the Asset Register
2. Adding explicitly within the Strategy how depreciation would be managed.
3. Adding a section regarding maintenance
4. Delaying the implementation of the Asset Management Strategy until the Vision had been revisited
5. Adding reference to zero carbon investment into the Asset Management Strategy
6. Adding in a glossary of terms within the Strategy and developing "How to" Guides, where relevant, to be included as website resources to support understanding of the Strategy (but not form part of it)
7. Including within the strategy that a case-by-case approach be taken for the sale of small purchases of land (with purchasers bearing the legal and administrative costs of the Council in progressing any sale)
8. Expanding the stakeholder list to include highway authorities, county council(s), relevant partnerships, voluntary sector, emergency services.

*(Moved by Councillor C Cooke and seconded by Councillor M Cook)*

RESOLVED: That Cabinet

Look at the 8 recommendations and report back direct to the

Scrutiny committee on each individual recommendations

*(Moved by Councillor J Oates and seconded by R Pritchard)*

## **105 DRAFT BUDGET & MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2023/24**

Report of the Leader of the Council of the draft package of budget proposals (attached at Appendix A) to consult with the Joint Scrutiny Committee (Budget) on 25th January 2023 and receive their feedback on the:

- General Fund Revenue (GF) Budget and Council Tax for 2023/24;
- Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget for 2023/24;
- Capital Programme – General Fund & HRA;
- Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) • Annual Survey.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet

1. Approved the draft package of budget proposals including the proposed policy changes (as detailed at Appendix B)
2. As required by the Constitution of the Council, the Joint Scrutiny Committee (Budget) on 25th January 2023 be requested to consider the budget proposals contained within this report.

*(Moved by Councillor J Oates seconded by Councillor R Pritchard)*

## **106 REVIEW OF TEMPORARY RESERVES, RETAINED FUNDS AND PROVISIONS**

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Risk and Customer Services to advise Members on the levels of reserves and to seek approval to re-purpose unspent reserves, following the recent review by the Executive Director Finance.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet

1. Approved the transfer of the reserves, as detailed in Appendix A, including £83,895.86 to General Fund Balances and £47,000 to Housing Revenue Account Balances (HRA) and transfer £50,000 to create a new reserve to fund defences to assist in deterring illegal encampments.
2. Acknowledged the current levels of reserves remaining.

*(Moved by Councillor M Bailey seconded by Councillor T Clements)*

#### **107 BUSINESS RATES INCOME FORECAST 2023/24**

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Risk and Customer Services to report to and seek endorsement from Members on the Business Rates income forecast for 2023/24.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet

1. approved the Business Rates income forecast for 2023/24 and subsequent NNDR1 form for submission to MHCLG by 31 January 2023, in line with the scheme of delegation.
2. Agreed that should material amendments be required to the forecast NNDR1, the Executive Director Finance, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, make such required amendments as necessary; and
3. noted discretionary relief granted to qualifying bodies in line with the existing policy

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

#### **108 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 J Oates and seconded by Councillor R Pritchard)*

#### **109 SWIMMING SUBSIDY EXTENSION**

RESOLVED: That Cabinet approved the three recommendations set out in the report. Cabinet also approved two further recommendations

*(Moved by Councillor R Pritchard and seconded by Councillor J Oates)*

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Leader

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