

Cabinet

Tuesday 8 March 2022

PRESENT:

Councillor Kelly, in the Chair.

Councillor Nicholson, Vice Chair.

Councillors Mrs Pengelly, Drean, Riley, Mrs Bridgeman, Deacon and Downie.

Note: The full discussion can be viewed on the webcast of the City Council meeting at www.plymouth.gov.uk. At a future meeting, the Council will consider the accuracy of these draft minutes, so they may be subject to change. Please check the minutes of that meeting to confirm whether these minutes have been amended.

245. **Declarations of Interest**

Name	Minute Number	Reason	Interest
Councillor Jonathan Drean	252	Family member works for the Continental Ferry	Personal

246. **Minutes**

The minutes were **agreed** as a true and accurate record.

247. **Questions from the Public**

There were no questions from the public.

248. **Chair's Urgent Business**

Councillor Nick Kelly, Leader of the Council provided an update for cabinet members in relation to the Budget 2022-23 and highlighted the following key points:

- (a) The decision made by Council at the Full Council, Council Tax setting meeting in February reduced the amount of funding available by £2.124 million each year moving forward compared to the administration's budget proposal;
- (b) The budget had shown a £3.65 million shortfall which could've been closed by adopting the maximum precept for adult social care and Council Tax increase of 1.99%. The administration had proposed an adult social care precept of 1% and a Council Tax increase of 1.74%. The resultant £305,000 would have been covered by unallocated general contingency of the same amount;
- (c) The amendment proposed a 1% increase in the adult social care precept and a nil increase Council Tax. Additional savings of £2.142 million would be required every year. Over the next 5 years the Council would have forfeited £10.5 million in Council tax income;
- (d) The Council had needed to find £19.5 million for 2023/24 but this had now increased to £21.7 million;
- (e) The removal of £10.5 million for the budget over the next 5 years, would provide a risk of service reduction and staffing levels;
- (f) An establishment of a cross party working group had also been agreed which would review the capital programme to establish a community improvement fund.

Cabinet noted the report.

249. **COVID 19 Update**

Dr Ruth Harrell, Director of Public Health provided an update to Cabinet and highlighted the following key points:

- (a) Prior to the implementation of the Living with COVID plan cases of COVID in Plymouth were high although had been declining;
- (b) Testing at Plymouth's Seaton Barracks site had ceased due to the implementation of the plan. Residents would still be tested in cases which had been more severe in hospital and also for routine sampling of the population;
- (c) The rates had become more difficult to interpret due to the changes due to fewer people testing;
- (d) There had been an increase in positive test results in Plymouth, the South West and nationally. Admissions to hospital had increased in Plymouth and the South West;
- (e) Tests continued to be provided for free and could be supplied by accessing those online.

250. **Leader's Announcements**

Councillor Nick Kelly, Leader of the Council made the following announcements:

- (a) Plymouth as a city stood in solidarity with the people of Ukraine and sent sympathies to them. It was horrifying to see what was happening and the invasion of Ukraine had been a clear violation of international laws and threatened human rights and democracy;
- (b) 70% of the administrations commitments outlined in their manifesto had been delivered in 9 months;
- (c) Plymouth hosted SailGP which had showcased Plymouth's beautiful waterfront to a global audience of millions. Plymouth had won a bid to host the event again in 2022;
- (d) Plymouth had won the heritage lotteries national funding twice with £10 million funding for the National Marine Park. The Council had appointed an interim CEO for the National Marine Park who would take the project forward. The Council had also launched a public engagement programme which would take place at the National Marine Aquarium in April 2022;
- (e) Plymouth had secured a Freeport status for the region and had been working to submit a full business case for April 2022. From June 2022, the Freeport would unlock £10 million investment in the first two years, working with Babcock and Princess Yachts;
- (f) The Council handed out over £100 million in grants supporting 8,000 businesses;
- (g) The Council had completed an industrial development at Beliver and would be starting another at the Plymouth International Medical Park and Technology Park which would see another ten commercial units created. A residential scheme had been worked on with the purchaser of the Debenhams building. Work had been started on the third phase at Hearder Court on Langage Business Park. Substantial investments had been secured in the city with the supply of a new home for the Valuation Office Agency which opened in September 2021. Marks and Spencer and Aldi had been secured as tenants at Plymouth's new district shopping centre on the site of the former Seaton Barracks at Derriford;
- (h) Plymouth had secured the opportunity for a County Deal which would provide councils across Devon, Plymouth and Torbay with extra powers and influence to improve economic and social conditions in communities.

- (i) The Leader of the Council had opened a new multi-million pound additive manufacturing facility at the Science park which would manufacture 3D printed titanium and steel.
- (j) The Council would be beginning works on the Civic Centre and Guildhall development working with Urban Splash. Work has also started on Old Town Street and New George Street as part of the multi-million pound investment in the City Centre.
- (k) Work had started on Mutley Plan with an extensive cleaning programme which would include a full power wash of the pavements, new bins complete with recycling facilities, new seating and a refurbishment of the historic benches outside the Swarthmore Adult Education Centre. Street lighting would be improved and lamp mounted flags hung to give more colour;
- (l) The Council had been expanding plans for the regeneration of the West End and turned attention to Colin Campbell House for renovation in order to bring in new tenants.

251. **Cabinet Member Updates**

Councillor Mark Deacon, Cabinet member for Customer Services, Culture, Leisure and Sport gave the following announcements:

- (a) The Library service had made a successful bid the Reading Agency as part of the national quick read programme and to celebrate World Book Night on 23rd April. The Council would be donating 500 copies of The Black Mountain by Kate Mosse;
- (b) Libraries across the city had been reintroducing more activities that had been suspended for two years during the pandemic. The Library service had hosted a craft activity at Central Library and restarted Lego play in all libraries;
- (c) Armed Forces day would return to Plymouth Hoe again on 25th June 2022 and would include a dedicated parade of veterans to recognise the 40th anniversary of the Falklands War.
- (d) The Rehabilitation Triathlon hosted by the Royal Marines would take place in the city for this first time with outstanding athletes, Paralympian's and Invictus Games competitors among them. Plymouth's military history would be celebrated with a freedom of the city parade and include serving regiments and veterans to mark the 60th anniversary of 29 Commando Regiment Royal Artillery in Plymouth;
- (e) In August 2022, the British Fireworks Championship would return;
- (f) The Jubilee bank holiday weekend would see the one big summer music festival take to Plymouth Hoe and include a line up of Years and Years, Basement Jaxx, The Libertines and Supergrass;
- (g) Sunset Live in Central Park would host most global music superstars and include Paloma Faith, Simply Red, Michael Ball and Alfie Boe;
- (h) There had been a new exhibition at The Box which launched on 3rd March 2022. 'Another Crossing – Artists Revisit the Mayflower Voyage' had been developed in partnership with the Fuller Craft Museum and Plymouth College of Art and had brought together artists from the United States of America, UK and Holland to create a cross-cultural examination of that moment in history;
- (i) There had been a continued focus on the growth and development of core projects such as the Detached Youth Work team who had focused on developing their wider offer within the city to combat increased anti-social behaviour reports;
- (j) The Young Carers Project had been offering increased levels of support for young people as requests for the service increased. The project had been working with the Time 4 U partnership and continued to run five sessions a week, working with 75 young carers and one-to-one sessions supporting young carers that had been struggling with their mental health/caring role/relationships at home;

Councillor Jonathan Drean, Cabinet member for Transport provided the following updates:

- (k) The Plymouth Highways teams in 2021 had completed a full renovation of seven complex subways, repainted six footway bridges, laid 50,000 m² of carriageway re-surfacing, 9,000 meters of pre-patching, 3,200 pothole repairs and 2,000 street lighting column replacements;
- (l) The Council had been on track to deliver the Safer Streets programme and had installed six CCTV, 54 lighting and 12 help point upgrades; The Keyham improvement works had completed 72 lighting positions and eight CCTV deployments;
- (m) Flooding hotspots continued to be a focus of attention and major realignment works had been completed along the Ridgeway which had suffered some flooding;
- (n) Cabinet were shown a video in relation to EV's in the City.

Councillor Dave Downie, Cabinet member for Education, Skills and Children and Young People provided the following updates for Cabinet:

- (o) Plymouth's early years settings had achieved 97% good or outstanding outcomes, this had now reflected the national average following a period of five years of being below the national average standards;
- (p) Secondary schools attainment levels had increased to levels above the national average;
- (q) OFSTED praised improvement to adult education and Plymouth's provision had been good with a solid foundation found to be outstanding;

Councillor Mrs Maddi Bridgeman, Cabinet member for Environment and Street Scene provided the following updates to Cabinet:

- (a) Grass cutting season had commenced with a new digitised system taking into account the agreed operational policy and optimisation of cuts. Digital scheduling would enable improved compliance to ensure areas were not missed;
- (b) Plymouth City Council teams from Strategic Planning and Infrastructure and Street Services along with community members and partners Plymouth Tree Partnership Plymouth Open Space Network, Woodland Trust, National Trust and South Hams and West Devon Councils had planted 2978 trees in 2021;
- (a) Following Storm Eunice and the preceding weather events, Plymouth City Council received over 220 reports of trees and branches down which had caused disruption around the City blocking roads, footpaths and driveways and in one case trapping a disabled resident in their property. The Tree Team with the aid of private contractors, Plymouth City Council Highways and South West Highways coordinated an immediate response to keep the City moving and to help Residents;
- (b) The Council had been working closely with National Highways to identify planned lane and road closures to enable cleansing teams to collect litter and fly tipped items. The cost of commission for the Council's own closures could run into tens of thousands of pounds. Over the past couple of weeks the Council had carried out the following:
 - March 2nd & 3rd Manadon to Leigham, East Bound, collected 820kg (team of 6)
 - March 7th Camels Head up to the A38, West Bound, collected 130kg (team of 6)
 - March 7th St Budeaux to Camels Head bypass, East Bound, collected 260kg (team of 6)
 - There had been planned works scheduled for March 25th at Deep Lane to Marsh Mills.
- (c) The playground improvement at Lancaster Gardens in Whiteleigh had been completed and was awaiting sign off. Contractors would be starting Staples Close in Beliver and this would be part of 2021/22 improvements on 10 parks.

Councillor John Riley, Cabinet Member for Governance, HR, IT and Community Safety provided the following announcement to Cabinet:

- (d) Safer Plymouth had commenced with 1,759 people signing up to the week long learning event and networking organised by the Community Connections service. This has been the first event run in that manner and had attracted national interest and attendance. The focus had been to prevent hate, violence against women and girls, drugs, Child Exploitation and anti-social behaviour;
- (e) Operation Medussa took place between the 2nd and 3rd March 2022, Devon and Cornwall Police undertook a two day proactive operation linked to Operation Tarak which had been the National Crime Agency's response to County Lines. Operation Medussa had seen two days of action which targeted County Lines and dangerous drugs networks in Plymouth which had been aided by 30 officers from Merseyside Police concentrating on five specific county lines. Over two days 46 arrests had been made with a firearms seized alongside large quantities of drugs and cash;
- (f) On 9 March 2022, Plymouth City Council would be signing up to the Anti-Social Behaviour pledge alongside Devon and Cornwall Police, Plymouth Community Homes, Livewest and Guinness Housing Association. The Anti-Social Behaviour pledge had been a commitment by organisations to victims of anti-social behaviour and included terms to actively promote and use the community trigger.

252. **Commitments**

Councillor Nick Kelly, Leader of the Council introduced this item and Cabinet updated commitments which had been achieved.

Cabinet agreed to:

1. Endorse the completion of twelve commitments in February; 36, 38, 55, 66, 67, 32, 20, 65, 58, 43, 73, 71, 18
2. Note the progress made on the 25 remaining commitments

253. **Corporate Plan Performance Report, Quarter Three 2021/22**

Councillor Nick Kelly, Leader of the Council presented this item to Cabinet and made the following key points:

- (a) Quarter three covered the period October to December 2021, this had been a highly accessible document and enabled the public and the Council's own system of scrutiny to review performance against the Corporate Plan;
- (b) The percentage of pupils achieving the basics at KS4/5 including English and Maths was 51.9% and sat above the validated and published national and statistical neighbour averages. This showed an improvement from 2020 where pupils achieved 47.1%;
- (c) Streets graded at an acceptable standard had seen consistent improvement in 2021/22 and there had been another improvement in the last quarter of 88.7% in quarter three compared to 86.8% in quarter two and 82.4% at the end of 2020/21;
- (d) Children's Social Care had seen further reductions in the number of repeat referrals;
- (e) 98% of those people subject to an adult safeguarding enquiry had seen their making safeguarding person outcomes fully or partially achieved;
- (f) Children subject to multiple Child Protection plans continued to miss its target, although showed signs of improvement;
- (g) Sickness rates for the Council had increased in quarter three which was inclusive of COVID sickness;

Cabinet noted the report.

254. **Finance Monitoring Report January 2022**

Councillor Nick Kelly, Leader of the Council presented this item to Cabinet and made the following key points in relation to month 10 which covered the period to the end of January 2022:

- (a) The Council had been able to report a near balanced position and an underspend of £3,000;
- (b) Customer and Corporate services continued to show improvement and reported a nil variant. In September 2021 the directorate had shown an overspend of £765,000 and in December had reduced to £24,000;
- (c) The Place directorate had shown an underspend of £123,000;
- (d) The Children's Directorate had an overspend of £1,091,000, this had increased to £1.123 million. The net movement continued to show adverse in planned savings from the Adolescent support team, Fostering and placement review which together had totalled £409,000 but had been offset by the savings from management actions which totalled £377,000;

Cabinet agreed to:

- 1) Note the current revenue monitoring position
- 2) Note the setting aside of resources to the value of £2.845 million

255. **Commissioned Placement Sufficiency Plan 2022/23**

Councillor Dave Downie, Cabinet member for Education, Skills and Children and Young People and Emma Crowther, Strategic Commissioning manager presented this item to Cabinet.

Plymouth City Council had a legal duty under Section 22G of the Children's Act 1989 to secure, so far as is reasonably practicable, sufficient local accommodation which met the needs of children in the care of the Council. The Council commissioned and provided a range of different types of placements in order to meet the sufficiency duty and the paper described proposed activity for 2022/23 to increase the quantity and quality of local placements which were commissioned.

Cabinet agreed to:

- 1) Approve the business case
- 2) Delegate the award of contracts to the Director of Children's Services

256. **Our Commitment to Equality and Diversity**

Councillor Mrs Vivien Pengelly, Cabinet Member for Homes and Communities presented this item to Cabinet.

Cabinet members discussed:

In line with climate emergency action plan the documents would be made available for the Plymouth City Council website for residents to access the diversity action plan.

Cabinet agreed to:

1. Note the progress made by the Council towards mainstreaming equality and diversity within the Council.
2. Endorse the updated Equality and Diversity Action Plan for 2022/23.

257. **City Centre Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan**

Councillor Patrick Nicholson, Deputy Leader of the Council presented this item to Cabinet and made the following key points:

- (a) The Plymouth City Centre Conservation Area had been designated in 2019 was the first nationally to designate a post-war heritage city centre area;
- (b) The City Centre conservation area appraisal management plan had been the City Council's material document that would consider planning applications that would come forward in assessing planning applications;

Cabinet agreed to -

Approve the adoption of the City Centre Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan.

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