

Cabinet

Tuesday 9 June 2015

PRESENT:

Councillor Evans, in the Chair.

Councillor Smith, Vice Chair.

Councillors Coker, Lowry, McDonald, Penberthy, Jon Taylor, Tuffin and Vincent.

Also in attendance: Lesa Annear (Strategic Director for Transformation and Change), Carole Burgoyne (Strategic Director for People), Andrew Hardingham (Assistant Director for Finance), Kelechi Nnoaham (Director of Public Health), Anthony Payne (Strategic Director for Place), Giles Perritt (Assistant Chief Executive) and Nicola Kirby (Senior Democratic Support Officer (Cabinet)).

For part of the meeting: Simon Dale (Interim Assistant Director for Street Services), David Northey (Head of Corporate Strategy, Finance) and Peter Honeywell (Transformation Programmes Manager).

Apology for absence: Tracey Lee (Chief Executive).

The meeting started at 2.00 pm and finished at 2.55 pm.

Note: At a future meeting, the Cabinet 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.

1. **ANDREW HARDINGHAM, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR FINANCE**

The Leader welcomed Andrew Hardingham, the newly appointed Assistant Director for Finance to this his first meeting of Cabinet.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made by councillors in accordance with the code of conduct in relation to items under consideration at this meeting.

3. **MINUTES**

Agreed the minutes of the meeting held on 31 March 2015.

4. **QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

There were no questions from members of the public.

5. **CHAIR'S URGENT BUSINESS**

See minute 10 below.

6. **CORPORATE PLAN PLEDGES UPDATE - 1 JUNE 2015**

Tracey Lee (Chief Executive) submitted a progress report on the 2014 pledges and identified pledges completed to date and target completion dates for all outstanding pledges.

Peter Honeywell (Transformation Programmes Manager) attended the meeting for this item and reported that he would be discussing the completion dates for outstanding pledges with Cabinet Members with a view if possible, to bringing them forward. Officers undertook to report back to Cabinet and to scrutiny in due course.

Alternative options considered and reasons for the decision –

As set out in the report.

Agreed that –

- (1) the progress towards delivery of the pledges for completion on or before March 2016 is noted;
- (2) the previous pledge covering late night alcohol licence fees (which was previously unable to be completed) is reinstated. This pledge will effectively become pledge 51 to be delivered before the end of March 2016.

7. **FINANCIAL OUTTURN 2014/15 INCLUDING CAPITAL PROGRAMME UPDATE**

Lesa Annear (Strategic Director for Transformation and Change) submitted a report on the final outturn report for 2014/15 which detailed the financial monitoring position of the Council as at 31 March 2015 as follows -

- (a) a net revenue spend of £204.799m, which resulted in a requirement for a transfer of £0.119m from the Working Balance, leaving a balance of £10.620m;
- (b) a number of adjustments to the financial accounts following the financial health review always undertaken by the Section 151 Officer at the end of the year;
- (c) the final capital outturn position of £53.791m.

Cabinet Members were also advised that decisions made as part of this report would feed into the Council's annual Statement of Accounts which was subject to external audit.

Councillor Lowry (Cabinet Member for Finance) introduced the proposals and indicated that –

- (d) he was awaiting the budget announcement by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 8 July 2015 and would assess the impact of it on the Council's finances;
- (e) further investment would be announced as part of the capital programme at the City Council meeting on 22 June 2015 and in future months.

Councillor Tuffin (Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care) and Councillor McDonald (Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Public Health) advised Cabinet of the continuing challenges facing the adult and children's social care services across the country.

Councillor McDonald thanked staff for their support during her first year as a Cabinet Member and reported that transformation would be a priority in children's services this year with the acceleration of the early help framework to try and prevent children from coming into care.

Councillor Lowry indicated that he was confident that with the transformation programmes in place, a balanced budget would be delivered for 2015/16.

David Northey (Head of Corporate Resources) also attended the meeting for this item. Andrew Hardingham (Assistant Director for Finance) paid tribute to the achievement of a near balanced budget last year and reported that he was looking forward to working with members and officers in the coming year.

Alternative options considered and reasons for the decision –

As set out in the report.

Agreed –

- (1) that the provisional outturn position as at 31 March 2015 is noted;
- (2) that the adjusted revenue deficit for the year of £0.119m is noted and will be met by a transfer from the General Fund Working Balance;
- (3) that the additional, unbudgeted, income of £1.5m included as part of the Corporate Adjustments for 2014/15 is noted. In accordance with the budget report approved in February 2014, the Council Tax collection fund will continue to be reviewed with the first call on any surplus being to top up reserves. In addition, the additional income, above the amount included in the budget from the Business Rates Pool of £0.150m is noted;
- (4) the additional transfers to and from reserves reflected within the outturn as follows –

- Transfer to Waste Reserve £0.350m
- Creation of a Rail Reserve £0.070m
- Release from Insurance Reserve £(0.400)m

(5) the following net nil transfers between reserves and provisions -

- Transfer from Collection Fund £(1.500)m
- Creation of a Contingent Liabilities Provision £0.250m
- Creation of an Integrated Health Reserve £0.500m
- Transfer to Waste Reserve £0.750m
- Reduce Equal Pay Reserve £(0.700)m
- Transfer to Redundancy Reserve £0.700m

(6) that the capital financing requirement of £53.791m is noted and approval is given to the borrowing requirement of £6.792m for 2014/15;

(7) that the re-profiling changes to the capital programme identified during the outturn process subsequent to Council approval in February 2015, are noted;

(8) that the additions to the Capital Programme which total £43.870m for the period January 2015 to April 2015 are noted;

(9) that Cabinet Members work with officers to minimise Council tax increases in coming years and that officers bring forward options for the council tax setting base for the financial year 2016/17 to achieve a possible council tax freeze subject to the outcome of the Chancellor's Budget announcements in July 2015 and his Autumn Statement;

(10) that officers are congratulated on their work which had contributed to the tremendous outcome of the 2014/15 budget particularly bearing in mind the government cuts and significant financial challenges in adult and children's social care.

8. **FLEET REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME: PURCHASE OF REFUSE COLLECTION VEHICLES**

Anthony Payne (Strategic Director for Place) submitted a report indicating that –

- (a) the Leader had approved the full business case and made an executive decision on 9 April 2015 to include the allocation of £4.2m in the capital programme for vehicle replacements, which would be phased over two years, 2015/16 and 2016/17;

- (b) approval was sought to delegate authority to the Cabinet Member for Environment to make the decision and authorise contract award, once tenders were evaluated through procurement, which would reduce the delivery timescales and offer immediate and greater savings for the Council.

Councillor Evans (Council Leader) introduced the proposals.

Simon Dale (Interim Assistant Director for Street Services) attended the meeting for this item and reported that estimated savings of just under £1m would be achieved with the replacement of aged vehicles and reduced maintenance costs. He also advised that the drivers of the vehicles had been given the opportunity to contribute towards the proposals.

Cabinet Members were advised that the new fleet would enable new technology to be installed and provide environmental benefits with lower emissions.

Councillor Evans thanked everyone involved in the proposals.

Councillor Vincent (Cabinet Member for Environment) also reported.

Alternative options considered and reasons for the decision –

As set out in the report.

Agreed delegated authority for the Cabinet Member for Environment to approve the contract award for the purchase outright of 26 tonne and 22 tonne refuse collection vehicles at a value in the region of £3.9m with phased deliveries.

9. **CABINET APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES, OUTSIDE BODIES AND ADVISORY GROUPS 2015/16**

Giles Perritt (Assistant Chief Executive) submitted a schedule of appointments to be confirmed by Cabinet, following the Council's Annual General Meeting held on 22 May 2015.

Agreed that the appointments are confirmed.

CHAIR'S URGENT BUSINESS

10. **Recent Fire at Clowance Lane, Devonport**

Councillor Evans (Council Leader) referred to the recent fire at Clowance Lane in Devonport and paid tribute to the fire, police and health services, Council staff and the people of Devonport.

He particularly commended the community for their support to the families evacuated from their homes and thanked Councillor Coker, Judith Harwood (Assistant Director for Community and Learning) and Plymouth Community Homes for their tremendous efforts.

Councillor Coker echoed the thanks to everyone involved in the tragic event and for the support from the community both inside and outside of Devonport. However he also stressed the need for ongoing support and indicated that he would be engaging with a Recovery Committee which had been set up.

Agreed that officers update Cabinet on progress in the next few months.

(In accordance with Section 100(B)(4)(b) of the Local Government Act, 1972, the Chair brought forward the above item for urgent consideration because of the need to update Members).