

**MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETING
HELD AT 10:00AM, ON
MONDAY, 4 NOVEMBER 2019
BOURGES/VIERSON ROOM, TOWN HALL, PETERBOROUGH**

Cabinet Members Present: Councillor Holdich (Chair), Councillor Allen, Councillor Ayres, Councillor Cereste, Councillor Farooq, Councillor Fitzgerald, Councillor Hiller, Councillor Seaton, Councillor Walsh

Cabinet Advisors Present: Councillor Bashir

32. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

33. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

34. MINUTES OF CABINET MEETING HELD ON 23 SEPTEMBER

The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 23 September 2019 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

STRATEGIC DECISIONS

35. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2020/21 TO 2022/23 – TRANCHE ONE

The Cabinet received a report as part of the Council's formal budget process as set out within the constitution and as per legislative requirements to set a balanced and sustainable budget for 2020/21-2022/23.

The purpose of this report was to, recommend that Cabinet approve the Tranche One service proposals, recommend that Cabinet approve the budget assumptions to update the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) to ensure estimates reflect the most up to date information available, outline the financial challenges facing the council in setting a sustainable and balanced budget for MTFS 2020/21-2022/23, and outline the strategic approach the Council was taking to close the budget gap over the three year budget planning horizon to deliver a sustainable budget.

The Cabinet Director for Finance introduced the report and expressed disappointment that no members of the Labour Group were in attendance at the meeting, and had not attended the Budget Cross Party Working Group Meetings. It was advised that the MTFS set out the ongoing savings to be made by the Council, which did not include any one off savings. The savings themselves amounted to £14 million, which, combined with the provision local government finance settlement, and changes to council tax, the deficit position to be delivered in the next financial year was £5.5 million.

The areas in which savings were to be made included a £1.7 million reduction in spending on care packages by reviewing the needs of users on a more frequent

basis, a change to the Serco business support contract for £4.5 million, and a £2.5 million Council department restructure. All 43 separate saving proposals were included in the consultation document, including Equality Impact Assessments and Carbon Impact Assessments.

It was further advised that the capital programme was now at a more management level, with further details to be included in the final budget report.

Cabinet debated the report and in summary, key points raised and responses to questions included:

- Members expressed disappointment in the misrepresentations of the budget situation by local news.
- It was clarified that officers were confident that the Information Advice and Guidance point would still be available to those with a disability in Peterborough and that this service would not be negatively impacted by the proposals.
- The Council would continue to fund Shopmobility in the short term and was keep to engage with Disability Peterborough and Queensgate to seek alternative sources of revenue.
- In relation to accessibility issues in around Queensgate shopping centre following a Disability Forum audit process, any changes or improvements were the responsibility of Queensgate as a private business.
- It was further noted that 'Dial' services had not been cut, but that the organisation did not tender for the contract.
- Comment was made that there would be no reduction in fly-tipping, but collections would be undertaken in a more efficient manner by area.
- Members were conscious of the projected redundancy figures set out in the proposals and stressed that staff were a valued asset. The Council would do all it could to help that employees affected to be retrained and upskilled.
- It was noted that there was competition within the 3rd Sector and if one group did not receive work, this did not mean that it was not being undertaken.
- It was suggest that vulnerable members of society should not be made the subject of political debates in the period prior to the election.

Cabinet considered the report and **RESOLVED** to approve:

1. The Tranche One service proposals, outlined in Appendix C to the report as the basis for public consultation.
2. The updated budget assumptions, to be incorporated within the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2020/21 – 2022/23. These were outlined in section 5.2 and 5.3 of the report.
3. The additional resourcing required to deliver the outlined proposals, in order to achieve future financial benefits. These were outlined in section 5.4 (strategic approach) and section 6 (reserves) of the report.
4. The revised capital programme outlined in section 5.5 of the report and referencing Appendix B to the report.
5. The Medium Term Financial Strategy 2020/21 – 2022/23-Tranche One, as set out in the body of the report and the following appendices to the report:
 - Appendix A – 2020/21 – 2022/23 MTFS Detailed Budget Position – Tranche One
 - Appendix B – Capital Programme Schemes 2020/21- 2024/25

- Appendix C – Budget Consultation Document, including Tranche One Budget Proposal detail
- Appendix D – Equality Impact Assessments
- Appendix E – Carbon Impact Assessments- draft

Cabinet **RESOLVED** to note:

6. The future strategic direction for the Council outlined in section 5.4 of the report.
7. The forecast reserves position, outlined within section 6 of the report.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The Council must set a lawful and balanced budget. The approach outlined in this report worked towards this requirement.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

No alternative option had been considered as the Cabinet was responsible under the constitution for initiating budget proposals and the Council was statutorily obliged to set a lawful and balanced budget by 11 March annually.

MONITORING ITEMS

36. BUDGET CONTROL REPORT SEPTEMBER 2019

The Cabinet received a report in relation to the Budget Control Report for September 2019.

The purpose of this report was to provide Cabinet with an early indication of the forecast for 2019/20 at the September 2019 budgetary control position.

The Cabinet Director for Finance introduced the report and advised that this was the first budget control report following the reprofiling of the budget in the June report, which resolved structural budget issues. If the full £20 million of savings were delivered, then £3 million would be moved back into the Council's reserves. It was also advised that just under half of the savings targets for the year had been validated. Following examination, capital receipts would not be used to repay minimum revenue position from next year. In comparison to the June Budget Control Report, the deficit gap had been closed and the council was not projected to overspend.

Cabinet considered the report and **RESOLVED** to note:

1. The Budgetary Control position for 2019/20 at September 2019 included a forecast overspend of £5.811m against budget.
2. The key variance analysis and explanations were contained in Appendix A to the report.
3. The estimated reserves position for 2019/20 at September 2019 outlined in Appendix B to the report.
4. In year budget risks for 2019/20 at September 2019 were highlighted in Appendix C to the report.
5. The Asset Investment and Treasury Budget Report was contained in Appendix D to the report.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The report updated Cabinet on the September 2019 budgetary control position.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

There had been no alternative options considered.

Chairman
10:00am – 10:31am
4 November 2019