

**MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETING  
HELD AT 9:00AM, ON  
FRIDAY, 20 DECEMBER 2019  
BOURGES/VIERSON ROOM, TOWN HALL, PETERBOROUGH**

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

**Cabinet Advisors Present:** N/A

**46. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Seaton, Cllr Bashir and Cllr Cereste

**47. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were received.

**48. MINUTES OF CABINET MEETING HELD ON 18 NOVEMBER**

The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 18 November 2019 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

**STRATEGIC DECISIONS**

**49. 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 Acting Corporate Director Resources introduced the report and informed Cabinet that the Joint Scrutiny of the Budget had made a number of recommendations to Cabinet with regards to the Budget. Members were informed that it was vital for the Council to set a sustainable and balanced budget by 11 March annually.

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

- With regards to the saving of £59,000 by increasing the response time to non-hazardous fly-tipping, this had been a recommendation from Grant Thornton. However after reviewing the service it was agreed to remove this saving and keep the response time to non-hazardous fly-tipping at two days.

- It was agreed that the options of looking at more sustainable methods of transport for Councillors was something that could be looked into in the future it was not workable at present.
- Cabinet were already reviewing finances that were to be directed at the climate change emergency. However it was important to await the action plan when this came forward next year.
- It was considered that cancelling the IT provision for Members equipment would be unworkable. There were a number of concerns around data protection of Councillors using their own equipment for Council business. It was possible that a raft of different equipment could be used by members, potentially creating issues for IT support. This was caveated that members could still use their own equipment should they wish to. In addition the specialist support for IT for Members was already being removed as part of the cost saving measures.
- Not all Members could afford their own equipment, it was important to remember that Councillors were not employees.
- It was important to attract people within the city to become Councillors, it was therefore agreed that parking charges needed to remain at the current level of £44 per annum. It was argued that members had not had any increases in their members allowances and it was important to not put any further obstacles in the way of people wanting to become Councillors.

Cabinet considered the report and **RESOLVED** to recommend to Council:

1. The Tranche One service proposals, outlined in Appendix C with the following amendments:
  - Removal of the proposed £15,200 saving from Members allowances for IT equipment
  - A revision to the wording around the proposed saving of £59,000 a year to reduce fly-tipping, keeping the 2 day response time, with the £59,000 savings now to be identified from other sources. .
  - To maintain the current car parking charge to members of £44 a year. This puts a £4000 cost back into the budget
2. The updated budget assumptions, to be incorporated within the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2020/21 – 2022/23. These are outlined in section 5.2 and 5.3.
3. The additional resourcing required to deliver the outlined proposals, in order to achieve future financial benefits. These are outlined in section 5.4 (strategic approach) and section 6 (reserves) of the report.
4. The revised capital programme outlined in section 5.5 and referencing Appendix B.
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:
  - 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
  - Appendix F– Budget Consultation Feedback

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.
8. The feedback received on the budget proposals, received via the consultation detailed in Appendix F and in the supplementary information

## **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**

### **50. BUDGET CONTROL REPORT OCTOBER 2019**

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

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

The Acting Corporate Director introduced the report and advised that £0.7 million of capital receipts would go back into the budget therefore the overall deficit as it stood was £5.5million, of this £3.7 million was to put back into Council reserves. Work carried out so far had reduced the £5.8 overspend from May 2019 to £1.8 as of October.

Members congratulated officers across the Council in delivering savings over the past year and welcomed the ideas that had been put forward.

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

1. The Budgetary Control position for 2019/20 at October 2019 includes a forecast overspend of £6.192m against budget.
2. The key variance analysis and explanations are contained in Appendix A.
3. The estimated reserves position for 2019/20 at October 2019 outlined in Appendix B.
4. The Asset Investment and Treasury Budget Report is contained in Appendix C.

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

5. The single year budget virement outlined in Appendix D as part of delivering against the in year savings targets.

## **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  
9:00am – 9.26am  
20 December 2019