

CABINET
28/09/2020 at 6.00 pm



Present: Councillor Fielding (Chair)
Councillors Brownridge, Chadderton, Chauhan, Jabbar, Moores,
Mushtaq, Roberts and Shah

1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence received.

2 **URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of urgent business received.

3 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest received.

4 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no public questions received.

5 **MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETING HELD ON 24TH
AUGUST 2020**

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on
24th August 2020 be approved.

6 **REVENUE MONITOR AND CAPITAL INVESTMENT
PROGRAMME 2020/21 MONTH 4 – JULY 2020**

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Finance
which provided an the Cabinet with an update on the Council's
2020/21 forecast revenue budget position as at Annex 1 to the
report and the financial position of the capital programme as at
31 July 2020 (Month 4) together with the revised capital
programme 2020/25, as outlined in section two of the report at
Annex 2 of the report.

Revenue Position

It was reported that the current forecast outturn position for
2020/21 was a projected deficit variance of £17.979m after
allowing for approved and pending transfers to and from
reserves.

The position also included additional costs and pressures that
had been identified by the Authority in this financial year as a
direct result of the Governments lockdown arrangements to
mitigate the spread of COVID-19 commencing on 23 March
2020. The additional pressures included forecasts of both
income shortfalls and additional expenditure that had impacted
on the Authority's budgets as a result of the pandemic
The pandemic had affected nearly all aspects of Council service
delivery; however, the most significant areas of concern were
the People and Place, Children's Services and Community
Health & Adult Social Care Portfolios. Action was being taken
and would continue for the remainder of the financial year to
address variances and take mitigating action as detailed in the
report.

The overall corporate position was partly being offset by the application of the £16.638m unringfenced Government COVID related grant funding received to date. The full Government grant was presented at Annex 1 to the report as a single sum so that it highlighted the level of variation across all Council budgets, given that there was insufficient resource to offset the adverse variance.

However, this summary report presented the position after applying the Government grant across Portfolio areas. As further General Fund grant was expected in respect of lost income for sales, fees and charges, both the overall financial position and the application of Government grant would therefore change during the course of the financial year. An update on the major issues driving the projections was detailed within Annex 1, Section 2 of the report.

As this financial monitoring report reflected the financial position at Month 4, it could be regarded as an indicator of the potential year end position if action was not taken to reduce net expenditure where possible. However, management action had been initiated across all service areas to review and challenge planned expenditure and to maximise income. Although, the effect of this action has yet to take full effect, it is anticipated that by the year end, the outturn position deficit should be reduced and this should start to be demonstrated in the monthly update reports to be presented to Cabinet.

Information on the latest position of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and Collection Fund was also outlined in the report.

Capital position

The report outlined the most up to date capital spending position for 2020/25 for approved schemes. The revised capital programme budget for 2020/21 was £142.617m at the close of Month 4, a net decrease of £5.015m from the original budget of £147.632m. Actual expenditure to 31 July 2020 was £29.373m (20.60% of the forecast outturn).

It is probable that the forecast position would continue to change before the year end with additional re-profiling into future years.

Options/alternatives considered

Option 1 - To approve the forecast revenue and capital positions presented in the report including proposed changes

Option 2 - To approve some of the forecasts and changes included in the report

Option 3 - Not to approve any of the forecasts and changes included in the r

RESOLVED – That:

1. The Forecast revenue outturn for 2020/21 at Month 4 being a £17.979m adverse variance having regard to the action being taken to manage expenditure be approved.
2. The forecast positions for the Dedicated Schools Grant, Housing Revenue Account and Collection Fund be approved.
3. The use of reserves as detailed in Appendix 1 to Annex 1 to the report be approved.

4. The revised capital programme for 2020/2024 as at Month 4 be approved.

7

SHORT-TERM SUPPORTED HOUSING PROVISION (YOUNG PEOPLE, WOMEN, GENERIC/COMPLEX ADULTS): COMMISSION



Consideration was given to a report of the Managing Director, Community Health and Social Care – DASS, which sought approval to recommission the provision of short-term supported housing in the Borough.

The report provided details of the current arrangements for the provision of short-term supported housing funded by the council and the budget for the provision (£1.195m p.a.) which was held within Community Services and Adult Social Care, however the service provision was cross-cutting, impacting the strategic intentions of several council directorates and of partner agencies: as such, Cabinet was requested to consider and approve the commissioning intentions outlined in the report and the associated budget, and to delegate a subsequent future contract award to the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care in consultation with Managing Director Health & Adult Social Care Community Services.

Options/alternatives considered

Option 1 - Allow service provision to continue as is. This is not the recommended option, as:

- The provision was out of contract and there are greater legal risks with this option.
- The local landscape and the legislative context for supported housing was now more stable and it was considered that a procurement exercise could now take place, subject to the need to respond to Covid - 19, at the earliest appropriate/safe date to do so.
- There were desired changes to the service specification that cannot reasonably be undertaken unless part of a new procurement exercise
- Continued uncertainty placed strains on service providers, such as the impact on staff retention, and on landlords, who were less likely to invest in the stock where future use is uncertain.

Option 2 - Not to commission replacement provision. This was not the recommended option, as:

- The provision of supported housing made a significant contribution to the council's duty of prevention and relief of homelessness for households with additional support needs, who struggle in unsupported Temporary Accommodation (TA) provision and cannot access general needs accommodation until their support needs are addressed. The provision reduced from 146 units to 104 in 2016/17 to meet savings targets from these contracts: to cease provision further/altogether would severely compromise the council's ability to meet its duties. It would also create risks where a household may not be owed a duty to

accommodate, but where they have complex support needs: there is likely to be negative impacts for these households - and potentially on the wider community - if their housing and support needs are not met.

- The provision was less costly to the council than TA, or provision in the private landlord sector claiming high rents/Intensive Housing Management: the commissioned provision meets exempt accommodation regulations and the council can therefore claim full HB subsidy. It is also generally of a better standard and quality.
- The provision underpinned several council priorities which would be impacted if the service ceases, making it more difficult for instance, to support care leavers to move on to independence, to support victims of domestic abuse - which was likely to become a new statutory duty - to prevent homelessness, and to improve the mental health of vulnerable residents. It was likely that many households would experience further crises and require higher cost, more intensive services.

Option 3 -To retender the provision, and that Cabinet approve:

- the commissioning intentions outlined for re-tendering of the provision
- that the overall contract value remains £1.195m per annum with provision made for inflationary uplifts
- that a subsequent future contract award, of 3 years plus options to extend by up to two further years, be delegated to the Managing Director Community Health and Social Care Service in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care

Consultation

Consultation with service users, and with a range of key partners/stakeholders informed the options and recommended future service design in this report. Consultation methods included holding stakeholder events; specific ones were held for each service with representation from a range of referring agencies and public sector organizations, plus an aggregated version was taken to the Homelessness Forum – which included representatives from many voluntary sector organization – for comment. Service users within each service were consulted about their views of service.

RESOLVED – That the Cabinet would consider the commercially sensitive information contained at Item 10 of the agenda before making a decision.

COUNCIL PERFORMANCE REPORT JUNE 2020

The Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Head of Strategy and Performance which provided a review of Council performance to June 2020

The report provided the Cabinet with an overview of the Council's performance against priorities outlined within the Corporate Plan, which had been monitored in the period.

Options/Alternatives considered:-
To note the Council performance April- June 2020.



RESOLVED – That the Council Performance Report June 2020 be noted.

9 **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RESOLVED that, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they contain exempt information under paragraphs 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, and it would not, on balance, be in the public interest to disclose the reports.

10 **SHORT-TERM SUPPORTED HOUSING PROVISION (YOUNG PEOPLE, WOMEN, GENERIC/COMPLEX ADULTS): COMMISSION**

The Cabinet gave consideration to the commercially sensitive information in relation to Item 7 – Short-term supported housing provision (young people, women, generic/complex adults): Commission.

RESOLVED – That:

1. The commissioning intentions outlined in the report for re-tendering of the provision be approved.
2. The overall contract value remained at £1.195m per annum with provision made for inflationary uplifts.
3. A subsequent contract award, of 3 years plus an option to extend the contract by up to two further years, be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care in consultation with the Managing Director Community Health and Social Care Service.

The meeting started at 6.00pm and finished at 18.25pm