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CABINET
22/08/2016 at 6.00 pm



Present: Councillor Stretton (Chair)
Councillors Akhtar, Brownridge, Chadderton, Jabbar

1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Harrison, Hussain and Moores.

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 PREVIOUS MEETING**

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting held on 25th July 2016 be approved as a correct record.

6 **EDUCATION PROVISION STRATEGY 2016-20**

The Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Executive Director, Economy Skills and Neighbourhoods which sought approval and adoption of the Education Provision Strategy 2016-2020 as detailed within the report.

The strategy provided the context and policy for the provision of education places for children and young people aged 2-19.

It was reported that the Council had a statutory duty to ensure there were enough school places available to local children and young people. Additional primary schools places had been created through a number of school expansion projects and the creation of a new three form entry primary school in the town centre.

Options/alternatives considered

Option 1 - Adopt the Education Provision Strategy as appended to this report. The strategy had been subject to relevant scrutiny and due diligence and shared with stakeholders. It therefore reflected the views of those groups and individuals with whom the LA sought to work with in securing the Local Authority duty to provide sufficient school places and the council's ambition to provide high quality provision.

Option 2 - Suggest amendments to the strategy as presented.

This was not a recommended option as the strategy had been developed in partnership with key stakeholders and fully reflects the priorities of those most affected by it.

Option 3 - Decide not to adopt the strategy, which would leave the council vulnerable in light of the national and regional policy drivers already in place and planned within the life of this parliament.

Consultation

Key partners form Council departments and Primary and Secondary Head teachers though the Education Provision Group.

RESOLVED – That the Education Provision Strategy 2016-2020 be approved and adopted.

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HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT CONSULTATION AND REVIEW

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Education and Early Years which sought approval and agreement to proposed changes to the existing Home to school/college Transport Policy and the details of a new policy for travel assistance scheduled to be implemented in September 2016. It was reported that the provision of Home to School transport was provided to approximately 500 pupils with special educational needs who were eligible for transport between home and school.

The report provided details of the extensive consultation undertaken with service users and stakeholders and the outcome of the consultation.

The Council had developed a draft policy framework with Rochdale and Bury Local Authorities offering families the option to utilise provision including:

- The offer of personal budgets as an alternative
- Independent travel training
- Designated pick-up and drop-off points

Overall the consultation feedback was positive and the policy would ensure compliance with changes in legislation and SEND reform and ensure compliance with a recent Local Government Ombudsman ruling regarding appeals.

Options/Alternatives considered

Option 1 - The draft policies are agreed and published with effect from 1st September 2016. This would ensure that:

- Oldham Council had a compliant policy in place.
- The requirements of the SEND Reform 2014 were able to be supported.
- Children and Young People and their families have a wider range of provision on offer.
- Children and Young people could access Independent Travel Training to allow them to reach their full potential in adult life.
- The service would be able to manage demand by offering alternative means of assistance where possible.

Disadvantages would be:

- The potential impact of the inclusion of Mobility Benefits in the assessment for support.

Option 2 - Do not agree the current draft policies. This would result in:

- No impact as Mobility benefits would not be taken into account during the assessment for support
- Children and Young people could access Independent Travel Training to allow them to reach their full potential in adult life, as this was included within the existing policy.

Disadvantages would be:

- Capacity to manage demand on the service by offering alternative means of assistance where possible would be reduced.
- Oldham Council would not have a compliant policy in place.
- The requirements of the SEND Reform 2014 would not to be supported.

Option 3 - Agree the new policies with the removal of the clause relating to the inclusion of Mobility benefit in the assessment process. This would mean:

- Oldham Council had a compliant policy in place.
- The requirements of the SEND Reform 2014 would be supported.
- Children and Young People and their families had a wider range of provision on offer.
- Children and Young people could access Independent Travel Training to allow them to reach their full potential in adult life.
- The service would be able to manage demand by offering alternative means of assistance where possible.

Disadvantages would be:

- Capacity to manage demand on the service would be reduced.

Option 4 - Amend the existing policy to include the appeals process contained within the draft framework. This would result in:

- Children and Young people accessing Independent Travel Training to allow them to reach their full potential in adult life, as this was included within the existing policy.
- No impact as Mobility benefits would not be taken into account during the assessment for support

Disadvantages would be:

- Capacity to manage demand on the service by offering alternative means of assistance where possible, would be reduced.
- Oldham Council will not have a compliant policy in place.
- The requirements of the SEND Reform 2014 were not to be supported.

- We would not have separate policies for mainstream and SEND.



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RESOLVED – That the Transport Policy Framework developed in partnership with Rochdale and Bury Local Authorities be approved and effective from the 1st September 2016.

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2016/17 MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION (MRP) POLICY STATEMENT - OUTCOME OF REVIEW AND PROPOSED REVISION

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Finance which provided details of the outcome of a review of the Council's 2016/17 Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy Statement and sought approval of the adoption of the revised Minimum Revenue Provision policy 2016/17 as set out at Appendix One to the report.

It was reported that a review of the Council's MRP Policy Statement was undertaken to ensure it was clear on all material matters associated with making prudent provision for the repayment of debt whilst continuing to reflect the requirements of Department for Communities and Local Government Statutory Guidance.

The report provided the outcome of the review and set out the case for changing the method of calculating provision for 'previously supported borrowing' to one which was arguably more prudent (on a whole life basis) than the current approach. If approved, the approach set out in the revised MRP Policy Statement would generate revenue budget savings of £2.7m in 2016/17 and reduce the budget gap in future years by £2.5m in 2017/18 and £2.3m in 2018/19. Annual savings continued beyond 2018/19 but would gradually reduce and finally cease in 2032/33.

Options/Alternatives considered

Option 1 – To approve the revision to the Medium Revenue Provision policy which would enable new capital financing figures to be included in budget estimates.

Option 2 – Not to approve the revisions to the Medium Revenue Provision policy and continue to use the current methodology for calculating capital financing charges.

RESOLVED – That:

1. The approval of the revised 2016/17 Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy Statement set out at Appendix One be commended to Council, this would replace Section 2.3 of the 2016/17 Treasury Management Strategy Statement approved by Council on 24 February 2016.
2. The generation of a saving which could be used to support the 2016/17 financial position and would revise the base budget requirement for future financial years be noted.

REVENUE MONITOR AND CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROGRAMME 2016/17 QUARTER 1 - JUNE 2016

The Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Director of Finance which provided a combined update on the Council's 2016/17 forecast revenue budget position, the financial position of the capital programme as at 30th June 2016 and the revised capital programme 2016/21.

Revenue Position

It was reported that the current outturn position for 2016/17 was a projected favourable variance of £0.1m after allowing for approved and pending transfers to and from reserves.

The key issues to note were two portfolios with advance variances. The most significant area of concern was Adult Social Care, a demand led service that was under pressure to deliver within the budget allocation with a projected overspend of £2.832m. It was noted that mitigating action was being taken to address the variances.

The Housing Revenue Account and Collection Fund quarter 1 position was also outlined within the report.

Capital Position

It was reported that the current forecast outturn position for 2016/17 was £77.748m compared to the original budget of £80.544m. Actual expenditure to the 30th June 2016 was £8.209m.

It was noted that at this early stage of the financial year, the forecast position remained uncertain and it was likely to continue to change. The report provided details of the possibility of further reprofiling likely to be required as schemes progressed from development through to delivery.

Following the approval of the capital programme 2016/21 at Council 24th February 2016, the Department of Education announced a grant allocation of £22.824m for education basic need which would be available in 2018/19 to enable the Council to support the capital requirement for providing new pupil places by expanding existing maintained schools, free schools or academies and establishing new schools.

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 report.

RESOLVED – That:

1. The forecast revenue outturn for 2016/17 at Quarter 1 being a £0.1m under spend be noted.
2. The forecast positions for both the HRA and Collection Fund be noted.
3. The use of reserves as detailed in section 3 of Annexe 1 be noted.
4. The revised capital programme for 2016/2021 as at 30 June 2016 including additional grant funding of £22.824m

from the Department for Education for 2018/19 Education Basic Need be noted.

5. The capital programme virements and re-phasing detailed in Annexe 2 - Appendix F of the report be noted.



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PRINCE'S GATE, EASTERN GATEWAY PROJECT - APPROVAL OF A CONTRACTOR FOR SEWER DIVERSION WORKS.

The Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Director of Economic Development which sought approval of the commissioning of Westshield as the contractor for the sewer diversion works at Prince's Gate.

The report provided details of the procurement exercise via the Low Value Construction & Highway Services Framework and the mini completion process undertaken with five suppliers.

Options/Alternatives considered

Option 1 – To appoint Westshield in accordance with the procurement process.

Option 2 – To appoint a contractor for the works.

RESOLVED – That the Cabinet would consider the commercially sensitive information detailed at Item 12 of the report.

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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.

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PRINCE'S GATE, EASTERN GATEWAY PROJECT - APPROVAL OF A CONTRACTOR FOR SEWER DIVERSION WORKS.

The Cabinet gave consideration to the commercially sensitive information in relation to Item 10 - Prince's Gate, Eastern Gateway Project - Approval of a Contractor for sewer diversion works.

RESOLVED – That:

1. Westshield be appointed as the contractor for the sewer diversion works at Prince's Gate.
2. Delegated authority be delegated to the Director of Legal Services or his nominee to execute the agreed form of contract together with any other ancillary documentation necessary in order to make such appointment.

The meeting started at 6.00pm and ended at 6.15 pm