

**Public Document Pack**  
**CABINET**  
**20/03/2017 at 6.00 pm**



**Present:** Councillor Stretton (Chair)  
Councillors Akhtar, Brownridge, Chadderton, Harrison,  
F Hussain and Jabbar

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**

Councillors Jabbar and Stretton declared a personal interest in Items 9 and 11 by virtue of their council appointment to Oldham Council and Langtree Strategic Partnering Agreement Joint Venture Board.

4           **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no public questions received.

5           **MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETING HELD ON THE  
27TH FEBRUARY 2017**

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2017 be approved as a correct record.

6           **OLDHAM PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

The Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Executive Director for Health and Wellbeing which summarised the outcome of the Playing Pitch assessment and strategy developed as part of an ongoing commitment to encourage participation in physical activity and sport within Oldham. A consultant was appointed by the Council from the Sport England Framework to develop the strategy. The Council's existing Playing Pitch Strategy dated back to 2004 and it was a Sport England recommendation that the strategy was updated to allow the Borough access to external funding. An internal cross departmental strategic steering group was set up to develop a brief and to support the development of the strategy.

The new strategy would sit within the context of the Oldham Sport and Physical activity strategy and would be incorporated into the Corporate Property Strategy to support the Council's Corporate Strategic Assets Management Programme.

Options/Alternatives considered

Option 1 – Adopt the 2015 Playing Pitch Assessment and Strategy report. Issue the strategy, assessment and action plan as final reports to stakeholders including the National Governing Bodies of Sport.

Option 2 – Do not approve the adoption of the Play Pitch Strategy. The benefits as outlined within the report would not be

realised and there would not be an evidence base for investment.

Option 3 – Adopt the assessment report and strategy and not the action plan. Prioritisation of funding and bids would be ad-hoc.

RESOLVED – That:

1. The 2015-2025 Playing Pitch Assessment and Strategy report be adopted.
2. The Strategy, Assessment and Action Plan be issued as final reports to stakeholders including National Governing Bodies of Sport and Sport England who have been part of the steering group.
3. Working would be undertaken with National Governing Bodies of Sport and other partners to comprise a priority list of actions based on local priorities, National Governing of Bodies priorities and available funding be undertaken.
4. The maintenance of regular steering group meetings, keep the playing pitch database and assessments up to date and moving forward seek to identify a resource specifically to keep the assessments up to date be agreed.
5. The Playing Pitch Strategy be used as appropriate, to target, support and evidence resources spent through the Capital programme and to support delivery of key priorities within the strategy.
6. The findings and evidence be incorporated into the emerging Medium Term Property Strategy to allow support to the Council's Corporate Strategic Asset Management Programme.

7

## **DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF POLICY 2017/18**

The Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Director of Finance which presented to the Cabinet a review of the Council's Discretionary Rate Relief policy which took into account Government announcements in the 2016 Autumn Statement in relation to business rate relief and included guidance on the consideration of Section 44a business rate relief applications.

It was reported that Government announced a new £1,500 discount for local newspapers, a 100% relief for new full fibre infrastructure and the Government also introduced the doubling of mandatory rural rate relief from 50% to 100% which would be addressed under discretionary powers until primary legislation was put in place. The changes would be effective from April 2017.

It was further reported that since the report had been written, Central Government had advised the Council it would receive £300,000 to help businesses with the 2017 business rates revaluation through the transitional relief scheme and once full details were received, any amendments to the Discretionary Rate Relief Policy would be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Finance and HR in conjunction with the Director of Finance.

Options /Alternatives considered

Option 1 –Do Nothing. If you Council chose not to adopt the revised policy, the Council would continue using the current policy in place and the Council could not apply the new developments including newspaper discount and full fibre infrastructure relief.

Option 2 – Approve the amendments to the Discretionary Rate relief policy. This would ensure that the Council had a clear, transparent procedure in place to administer new reliefs including the local newspaper discount and 100% full fibre infrastructure relief.

RESOLVED – That:

1. The proposed discretionary Rate Relief Policy for 2017/18 at appendix 1 to the report be approved.
2. Any in year revisions to the Discretionary Rate Relief Policy be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Finance and HR in conjunction with the Director of Finance.

8

## **REVENUE MONITOR AND CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROGRAMME 2016/17 QUARTER 3 - DECEMBER 2016**

The Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Director of Finance which provided Members with an update on the Council's 2016/17 revenue budget position and the financial position of the capital programme as at 31 December 2016, together with the revised capital programme 2016/21 as outlined at Section 2, Annexe 2 to the report.

### Revenue Position

The current forecast outturn position for 2016/17 was a projected favourable variance of £0.140m after allowing for approved and pending transfers to and from reserves.

There were 2 portfolios: Health and Wellbeing and Economy, Skills and Neighbourhoods with adverse variances, the most significant being that of Adult Social Care within Health and Wellbeing, a demand led service that was under pressure to deliver within the current budget allocation.

### Capital Position

The most up to date capital spending proposals for 2016/21 were provided to Members including the current forecast outturn position of £47.092m compared to the original budget of £80.544m and revised budget of £47.092m. Actual expenditure to 31 December 2016 was £31.133m (66.1% of forecast outturn).

It was reported that at this stage in the financial year, the forecast position was expected to change with additional reprofiling for 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 detailed within the report.

Option 3 – Not to approve any of the forecasts and changes detailed within the report.

RESOLVED – That:

1. The forecast revenue outturn for 2016/17 at quarter 3 being a £0.140m under spend be approved.
2. The forecast positions for both the Housing Revenue Account and Collection Fund as detailed within the report be approved.
3. The use of reserves as detailed in Appendix 1 to Annex 1 of the report be approved.
4. The revised capital programme for 2016/21 as at 31 December 2016 be approved.
5. The Capital Programme virements and re-phasing detailed in Annex 2, Appendix F be approved.

9

### **DEMOLITION AND SUBSEQUENT ACQUISITION OF THE SITE OF THE REDUNDANT GAS HOLDER AT ALBERT STREET, HOLLINWOOD, OLDHAM**

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Director, Economy, Skills and Neighbourhoods which updated Members with details of the redundant gas holder at Hollinwood Junction and sought approval to acquire the gas holder site from National Grid Property.

The Council had entered into a Strategic Partnering Agreement (SPA) in relation to land at Hollinwood Junction with Langtree Group PLC.

In attempting to progress development at Hollinwood Junction under the SPA it became clear there were a number of key issues preventing progress in line with initial targets, not least the continued presence of the redundant gas holder located within the main development area.

Options/alternatives considered

Option 1 – To acquire the gas holder from national Grid Property. This would accelerate the demolition of the gas holder to enable the development of the Council owned sites at Hollinwood Junction and promote regeneration of the area.

Option 2 – Not to acquire the gas holder from the National Grid Property. This would result in the demolition of the gas holder not being completed until at least 2023 and consequently prevent development of the Council owned sites at Hollinwood Junction until after 2023 or even later. (The timings would be out of the Council's control).

Option 3 – Not to acquire the gas holder site from National Grid Property on the terms set out in section 2 of the report and seek to terminate the existing Strategic Partnering Agreement. With Langtree and not to bring forward the development of all Council owned sites at Hollinwood Junction.

**RESOLVED** – That the Cabinet would consider the commercially sensitive information at Item 11 before making a decision.

10

### **COUNCIL PERFORMANCE REPORT DECEMBER 2016**

The Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Head of Business Intelligence which provided a review of Council performance for December 2016.

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 December 2016.

It was reported that of the rated measures detailed within the report 74% had met the target and 96% of the Corporate Plan Actions for this month were on track or had been met.

Options/Alternatives considered

To note the Council performance December 2016

RESOLVED – That the Council Performance Report December 2016 be noted.

11 **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.

12 **DEMOLITION AND SUBSEQUENT ACQUISITION OF THE SITE OF THE REDUNDANT GAS HOLDER AT ALBERT STREET, HOLLINWOOD, OLDHAM**

The Cabinet gave consideration to the commercially sensitive information in relation to Item 9 – Demolition and Subsequent Acquisition of the site of the Redundant Gas Holder at Albert Street, Hollinwood Oldham.

RESOLVED – That recommendations (i)-(vi) as detailed within the report be approved.

The meeting started at 6.00 pm and ended at 6.12 pm

This page is intentionally left blank