

MINUTE
of
CABINET

Minute of Meeting held at 10.00am in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock on 27 October 2016.

Present:

Councillor Jim Fletcher (Leader)	Councillor Alan Lafferty
Councillor Tony Buchanan (Deputy Leader)	Councillor Ian McAlpine
Councillor Danny Devlin	Councillor Mary Montague
Councillor Elaine Green	Councillor Vincent Waters

Councillor Fletcher, Leader, in the Chair

Attending:

Lorraine McMillan, Chief Executive; Caroline Innes, Deputy Chief Executive; Andy Cahill, Director of Environment; Margaret McCrossan, Head of Accountancy (Chief Financial Officer); Louise Pringle, Head of Business Change and Revenues; Andy Corry, Head of Environment (Operations); Scott Gibson, Senior Transportation Officer; Brian Dunigan, Welfare Rights Officer; and Paul O'Neil, Committee Services Officer.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2243. There were no declarations of interest intimated.

DRAFT CONSULTATION RESPONSE – ‘A NEW FUTURE FOR SOCIAL SECURITY’

2244. The Cabinet considered a report by the Deputy Chief Executive, seeking approval of the Council's response to the Scottish Government's consultation entitled 'A New Future for Social Security'. A copy of the response was appended to the report.

The report explained that in July 2016, the Scottish Government launched a consultation entitled 'A New Future for Social Security' in Scotland and sought responses by 28 October 2016. The consultation followed the introduction of the Scotland Act 2016 which devolved a range of social security powers to the Scottish Parliament. It was noted that the consultation document was broken down into three main areas which included a Principled Approach; Devolved Benefits; and Operational Policy. The Scottish Government intended to introduce its first devolved social security bill in 2017 with secondary legislative instruments being put in place for each of the 11 benefits referred to in the report between February and summer 2018.

Whilst noting that the consultation paper was detailed and had implications for local people and service delivery, the report explained that as a result, the Council's response had been prepared by a cross section of officers giving cognisance to the needs of the Council's local community and real-life examples of how current social security arrangements impacted local people.

The report highlighted that whilst the principles of the new proposals were commended, there remained concern about the affordability of the proposals and how they would be funded albeit the Scottish Government had intimated that it would set out further detail on this matter in 2017. In the meantime, it was noted that the Council would continue being involved in further stages of consultation and would be involved in practitioner groups looking at more detailed issues as more detailed proposals emerged.

The Cabinet approved the Council's response to the Scottish Government's consultation entitled 'A New Future for Social Security'.

DELIVERY OF THE LOCAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY AND THE ACTIVE TRAVEL ACTION PLAN

2245. The Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Environment, providing an update on the progress in the delivery of the Council's Local Transport Strategy (LTS) and the Active Travel Action Plan (ATAP). Summary details of the 2015/16 projects contributing to the LTS together with details of the ATAP was appended to the report.

The report explained that the LTS remained the statutory document in reflecting the Council's interest in regional and national policy development as well as providing strategic direction for transport at a local level. Whilst noting that to date the LTS had been significant in supporting successful applications for the external funding of projects of importance to the Council, the report highlighted that supporting the existing LTS emphasised the continued relevance of the strategy with a focus on delivery of projects.

Furthermore, the ATAP provided the Council's strategic direction for the provision and promotion of active travel and it was within this framework that the Council's future projects would be prioritised to provide a local contribution to national policy in relation to walking and cycling.

The Cabinet:-

- (a) welcomed the external funding secured for transport related schemes; and
- (b) noted the progress update in achieving the outcomes of the LTS and ATAP.

ESTIMATED REVENUE BUDGET OUT-TURN 2016/17

2246. The Cabinet considered a report by the Chief Financial Officer, detailing the estimated projected revenue out-turn for 2016/17 and providing details of the expected variances, together with summary cost information for each of the undernoted services as at 19 August 2016:-

- (i) Objective and Subjective Summaries;
- (ii) Education Department;
- (iii) Health and Social Care Partnership;
- (iv) Contribution to Integration Joint Board;
- (v) Environment Department;
- (vi) Environment Department – Support;
- (vii) Corporate and Community Services Department – Community Resources;
- (viii) Corporate and Community Services Department – Support;
- (ix) Chief Executive's Office;
- (x) Other Expenditure and Income and Other Housing; and
- (xi) Housing Revenue Account.

Whilst noting that the estimated projected revenue out-turn position was reported as an operational underspend of £775,400 (i.e. 0.3% of the annual budget) and that for General Fund services an underspend of £792,100 was projected, the report highlighted that a number of operational variances required management action to ensure that expenditure would be in line with budget at the end of the financial year.

The report explained that it was expected that management action would lead to all overspends being recovered, that all underspends would be consolidated wherever possible and that spending up to budget levels did not take place. Changes to the reporting format to reflect the formation of the Integration Joint Board (IJB) of the Health and Social Care Partnership were also outlined in the report.

The report also explained that the provisions of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 placed a statutory requirement on Significant Trading Operations to achieve a break even position over a rolling three year period. However, it was noted that none of the Council's services fell within the definition of a Significant Trading Operation.

The Cabinet, having noted the reported probable out-turn position of the Revenue Budget 2016/17, agreed that:-

- (a) all departments presently on target to remain within budget be required to monitor and maintain this position to the year-end;
- (b) those departments presently forecasting a year-end overspend position be required to take action to bring net expenditure back within budget;
- (c) all service departments ensured that effective control and measurement of agreed operational efficiencies was undertaken on a continuous basis; and
- (d) the changes to the reporting format to reflect the formation of the Integration Joint Board (IJB) be noted.

SALE OF BONNYTON HOUSE

2247. The Cabinet agreed that consideration of the matter be continued to a future meeting.

CHAIR

