

MINUTE
of
CABINET

Minute of meeting held at 10.00am in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock on 13 April 2023.

Present:

Councillor Andrew Anderson Councillor Katie Pragnell
Councillor Danny Devlin

Councillor Anderson in the Chair

Attending:

Lorraine McMillan, Chief Executive; Margaret McCrossan, Head of Accountancy (Chief Financial Officer); Jane Corrie, Roads Senior Manager; Debbie Hill, Chief Procurement Officer; Colin Sweeney, Democratic Services Manager; John Burke, Committee Services Officer; and Liona Allison, Assistant Committee Services Officer.

Apology:

Councillor Owen O'Donnell (Leader)

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

402. There were no declarations of interest intimated.

JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (FIRST TIER) – NOTE OF MEETING OF 16 FEBRUARY 2023

403. The Cabinet considered and noted the Joint Consultative Committee (First Tier) Note of Meeting of 16 February 2023.

ESTIMATED REVENUE BUDGET OUTTURN 2022/23

404. The Cabinet considered a report by the Head of Accountancy (Chief Financial Officer) detailing the projected revenue budget out-turn for 2022/23 and providing details of the expected year-end variances together with summary cost information for each of the undernoted services as at 31 January 2023 and subsequent assessment of pressures arising from COVID-19.

- (i) Education Department;
- (ii) Contribution to Integration Joint Board;
- (iii) Environment Department;
- (iv) Environment Department – Support;
- (v) Business Operations and Partnerships;
- (vi) Business Operations and Partnerships – Support;

- (vii) Chief Executive's Office;
- (viii) Chief Executive's Office – Support;
- (ix) Other Expenditure and Income;
- (x) Joint Boards;
- (xi) Corporate Contingency;
- (xii) Health and Social Care Partnership; and
- (xiii) Housing Revenue Account.

The Head of Accountancy (Chief Financial Officer) advised that, on the basis of the information, and taking into account of forecast Council Tax collection, a year end operational underspend of £2.341m, or 0.8% of the annual budget, was forecast on General Fund services. After adjusting for the HRA, the underlying position on departmental budgets was a forecast underspend of £2.474m. Further, it was expected that higher than forecast new build property completions during the year would result in an over-recovery against projected Council Tax figures. This would bring the overall forecast out-turn General Fund underspend to £2.624m.

This represented an improvement on the position reported the previous month of £1.184m and the reasons for departmental variances were set out in the report. Any such operational underspend at year-end would assist the Council in meeting future years' budget challenges.

It was noted that the above figures reflected that £6.6m of forecast COVID pressures would be covered by drawing on the Council's COVID grant resources and, as a result, did not impact on the operational budget position.

It was clarified that all pay awards relevant to the 2022/23 financial year had been included in the figures and no further adjustments would be required in respect of those.

It was further noted that the forecast out-turn position could still be subject to significant change as the year-end Council Tax recovery position was finalised and any miscellaneous expenditure was taken into consideration. The Head of Accountancy (Chief Financial Officer) confirmed she would write to all members with the draft position and also report to Audit and Scrutiny Committee prior to submitting the draft accounts to external audit, prior to the statutory deadline of 30 June 2023.

Cabinet thanked the Head of Accountancy (Chief Financial Officer) and her team for a thorough report and for delivering a strong financial performance in a difficult environment.

Thereafter, the Cabinet:-

- (a) noted the continued financial pressures on operational services arising from the COVID-19 pandemic and that it was expected to cover those from the COVID grant reserve;
- (b) noted the forecast underlying General Fund operational underspend of £2.624m together with the HRA operational overspend of £0.133m; and
- (c) approved service virements and operational adjustments as set out in the notes to the tables on pages 14 to 31 of the papers, and noted the reported probable outturn position.

PROCUREMENT STRATEGY 2023-26

405. The Cabinet considered a report by the Chief Procurement Officer on the new Procurement Strategy 2023-26.

The Chief Procurement Officer explained that the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 required the Council to develop a Procurement Strategy and review it annually. The new strategy would ensure that procurement supported Council services to deliver efficiently and effectively.

It was explained that the Strategy set out 5 procurement capabilities which would help to deliver operational and strategic procurement outcomes for the Council. These were: Legal Compliance and Governance; Economic Growth, Environmental, Social and Sustainability; Strategic Procurement to Deliver Best Value and Continuous Improvement; Performance Reporting to Drive Performance and Support Savings Delivery; and Contract and Supplier management.

A detailed action plan was in place to track and report progress against its objectives.

The Chief Procurement Officer responded to questions from cabinet on the proposed Strategy, in particular around compliance with tax payments for prospective contractors and links to the Standing Orders for Contracts.

Thereafter, the Cabinet approved the Procurement Strategy, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

ROADS RESURFACING WORKS PROGRAMME 2023/24

406. The Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Environment advising on the major additional Road Works Programme in relation to Carriageway and Footway Resurfacing for 2023/24.

The Roads Senior Manager provided detail on the Programme and responded to members' questions, particularly around the consideration of disabled access where works were being carried out. It was confirmed that access for disabled people was taken into consideration when any works were being undertaken.

Thereafter, the Cabinet approved the Roads Resurfacing Works Programme for 2023/24, as detailed in Appendix A to the report.

THE EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL (SCHOOLS STREETS)(GIFFNOCK PRIMARY SCHOOL)(PROHIBITION OF VEHICLES)(TRAFFIC REGULATION) ORDER 2023

407. The Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Environment seeking approval for the making and confirmation of the East Renfrewshire Council (Schools Streets)(Giffnock Primary School)(Prohibition of Vehicles)(Traffic Regulation) Order 2023.

The Roads Senior Manager clarified the position in terms of effective signage in place to inform road users of the restrictions put in place as a result of the order and confirmed that the signage in place was compliant with regulations.

472

Thereafter, the Cabinet noted the content of the report, approved and confirmed the making of the East Renfrewshire Council (Schools Streets)(Giffnock Primary School)(Prohibition of Vehicles)(Traffic Regulation) Order 2023 and delegated to the Director of Environment the implementation of the Order in accordance with the associated statutory procedures.

CHAIR