

MINUTE
of
CABINET

Minute of meeting held at 10.00am in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock on 24 August 2023.

Present:

Councillor Owen O'Donnell (Leader)	Councillor Danny Devlin
Councillor Andrew Anderson (Vice Chair)	Councillor Katie Pragnell

Councillor O'Donnell, Leader, in the Chair

Attending:

Steven Quinn, Chief Executive; Caitriona McAuley, Director of Environment; Mark Ratter, Director of Education; Margaret McCrossan, Head of Accountancy (Chief Financial Officer); Barbara Clark, Chief Accountant; Andrew Corry, Head of Environment (Operations); David Hunter, Prevention Services Manager – Environmental Health; John Marley, Principal Traffic Officer; Gillian McCarney, Head of Place; Siobhan McColgan, Head of Education Services (Equality and Equity); Michael McKernan, Economic Development and Inclusive Growth Manager; Paul Parsons, Principal Accountant; Ian Pye, Head of Sports and Physical Activity; Lorna Wallace, Assistant Economic Development Manager(*); John Burke, Committee Services Officer; and Lorna Allison, Assistant Committee Services Officer.

(*) indicates remote attendance

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

544. There were no declarations of interest intimated.

LEADER'S REMARKS – NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE

545. The Leader, on behalf of Cabinet, welcomed the new Chief Executive of the Council, Steven Quinn, to his first meeting in appropriate terms.

ESTIMATED REVENUE BUDGET OUT-TURN 2023/24

546. The Cabinet considered a report by the Head of Accountancy (Chief Financial Officer) on the estimated projected revenue out-turn for 2023-24, providing details of year end variances for each department at period 3 and based on the financial position as at 30 June 2023, and subsequent assessment of pressures.

The report was accompanied by budget monitoring statements which provided further information in respect of: the detailed variance analysis between budgeted and out-turn expenditure; and service virements and operational budget adjustments.

It was advised that, as at 30 June 2023, the position against the phased budget showed a total net overspend of £3.437 million, largely due to timing variances and an increased demand

for HSCP/Integration Joint Board services. Despite this, the forecasted outturn position was a £1.843 million underspend for General Fund services and for the Housing Revenue Account was projected to outturn in line with budget.

The Cabinet:

- (a) noted the forecast underlying General Fund operational underspend of £1.843 million and the HRA operational outturn in line with budget;
- (b) 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; and
- (c) approved service virements and operational adjustments as set out in the report and noted the probable out-turn position.

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

547. The Cabinet considered a report by the Head of Accountancy (Chief Financial Officer) on the financial results for 2022/23 and comparing the out-turn with the final budgetary control statement for the year. The report also provided details of Devolved School Management funds held by each school/centre as at 31 March 2023.

Overall, subject to audit, it was reported that the financial results contained in the Accounts for 2022/23 were satisfactory. The Council's affairs had been managed within its operational budget, resulting in an overall improved position of £5.622 million, most of which was of a one-off nature. The main variances were detailed in the report.

The report also provided further information on the use of the non-earmarked general reserve, allocations made to earmarked reserve funds to address specific pressures and COVID-19 spending.

The Council's non-earmarked reserve balance was £6.541 million, 2.3% of annual budgeted net revenue expenditure. This was within the Council's Reserves Policy to hold a minimum level of 2% and upper target of 4%.

The total General Fund reserve balance was £51.997 million, an increase of £5.808 million from the previous year, mainly reflecting the establishment of the new Service Concession Reserve. Over £45.456 million of the balance was earmarked for specific purposes.

Capital expenditure of £46.189 million had taken place during the 2022/23, despite progress being impacted by increased costs and resource shortages. An operational deficit of £0.069 million on the Housing Revenue Account was also reported.

The Budget Monitoring Report for Period 10 had been submitted to Cabinet on 13 April 2023 (Page 469, Item 404 refers) and a detailed comparison with the year-end figure was provided in the report.

Cabinet was also asked to note the Devolved School Management Position, with £4.298 million held in the Devolved School Management Earmarked Reserve. A full breakdown of the allocation of this reserve by school/centre was provided as Annex A to the report.

There followed a brief discussion, where it was indicated that the intention was to bring the report to Council on 26 September 2023, subject to further discussions to take place in the near future.

Thereafter, the Cabinet:

- (a) noted the outturn position compared to the previous Budgetary Control Report;
- (b) noted that once the audit had been completed, the final accounts would be submitted to a future meeting of the Council along with the External Auditor's report; and
- (c) noted the amounts held in the Devolved School Management earmarked reserve as at 31 March 2023, detailed in Annex A to the report.

GREATER GLASGOW AND CLYDE JOINT HEALTH PROTECTION PLAN 2023-2025

548. The Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Environment on the Greater Glasgow and Clyde Joint Health Protection Plan (JHPP) for the period 2023-2025 and to seek support for the content of the revised plan.

The Public Health etc. (Scotland) Act 2008 required NHS Boards, in consultation with Local Authorities, to produce a JHPP which provided an overview of health protection priorities, provision and preparedness for their area. The JHPP for Greater Glasgow and Clyde had been approved by their Board in April 2023 and was now presented to Cabinet for endorsement.

The report summarised the content of the JHPP, which was attached as appendix 1 to the report, and, in particular, highlighted the areas where the Council's Environmental Health Officers and other service departments would take the lead.

It was confirmed in answer to members' questions that Bird Flu was covered within the document, and that the impact of new COVID-19 variants had not yet been felt within the area, but may become more prevalent in winter.

Thereafter, the Cabinet:-

- (a) noted and endorsed the content of the plan;
- (b) noted the participation of the Environmental Health Service in the Joint Health Protection Plan's development; and
- (c) approved the Joint Health Protection Plan for signing by the Director of Environment.

NEIGHBOURHOOD TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ZONES

549. The Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Environment on the rationale and methodology for the delivery of Neighbourhood Traffic Management Zones (NTMZs) and the proposed community engagement process, 'East Ren Decides'.

The Scottish Government had published several policy items outlining its commitment to enhance the transport network. This included reduction of transport emissions, the delivery of inclusive connectivity options and the development of places and communities well integrated with sustainable travel options. The reduction of kilometres travelled by car of 20% by 2030 was a key element of this vision.

To encourage this, local authorities were expected to provide safe and attractive spaces away from heavily trafficked routes, encouraging people to walk and cycle for short journeys.

Transport Scotland had asked local authorities to carry out an assessment of the road network to understand potential ways to introduce 20mph speed limits in suitable urban areas. This analysis had allowed the Roads and Transportation Service to identify sensitive locations that would require additional interventions to mitigate speed and traffic flows.

A zonal approach had been identified, with 75 NTMZs proposed within East Renfrewshire to allow for a phased delivery throughout several financial years and precise management of each area. Those zones had a variety of profiles and needs and would be implemented over a period of five financial years, subject to funding and availability. This would allow 15 zones to be addressed each year.

A breakdown of the methodology was provided in Appendix A to the report, with the zones included in the 2023/24 exercise being mapped out in Appendix B.

Stakeholder engagement was key to the approach and consultation with the community was planned using a two-stage process, branded 'East Ren Decides', which would utilise a Participatory Budgeting approach, empowering residents to vote on options presented by officers following an assessment of the suggestions received through the consultation exercise. The full details of 'East Ren Decides' were provided in the report.

Members welcomed the initiative and its ambition, in particular welcoming the focus on areas around schools. They asked that a progress report come back to Cabinet to track the status of the project.

The Cabinet:-

- (a) noted the context for the project and rationale as outlined in the report;
- (b) approved the zonal approach and the proposals for the phased delivery of interventions;
- (c) approved the approach to the two-staged public engagement process ('East Ren Decides'), including the Participatory Budgeting voting;
- (d) noted the proposed zones to be engaged for year 1; and
- (e) agreed that an update be brought back to Cabinet on progress of the project in 6 months time.

PLACE BASED INVESTMENT PROGRAMME 2023/24

550. The Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Environment on the Place Based Investment programme (PBIP) award from the Scottish Government and the proposed projects to receive grant award in 2023/24.

The Scottish Government had announced in February 2021 that a new PBIP would be introduced over the 5 year period of the next parliament to ensure that all place based investments were shaped by the needs and aspirations of local communities. East Renfrewshire Council had received £635,000 of capital grant funding for 2021/22 and, based on the annual pro-rata calculation, for subsequent years, the council received capital grant funding of £551,100 for 2022/23, £385,000 in 2023/24 and the same amount for the further 2 years of the programme. This was a total of £2.34 million over the period.

Appendix 1 listed the 8 projects being recommended for Cabinet approval with reserve projects also listed should further funds become available.

The report outlined the objectives of the PBIP as well as the place principle and place based approach to local regeneration which informed the decisions made on these projects.

There followed discussion on a number of projects on the list and those held on the reserve list where members felt that the Department could look again at some of the projects and suggested various means of funding those projects. It was explained that some of those projects could receive funding in future years where appropriate, however, the Director would look again at the list and ensure that all projects were given due consideration.

Thereafter, the Cabinet:-

- (a) approved the projects outlined in appendix 1 to the report for 2023/24;
- (b) delegated to the Director of Environment to make adjustments to the proposals depending upon the detailed costs of projects becoming available;
- (c) noted the previously awarded projects approved in 2021/22 and 2022/23 in appendix 2 to the report;
- (d) noted that further reports would be submitted to Cabinet in due course seeking approval for projects in future years.
- (e) that further detail be provided to Councillor Devlin on the Community Hub at Crookfur House, Newton Mearns;
- (f) that the bid by Busby Community Council to improve accessibility at Easterton Avenue Playpark be looked at again;
- (g) that the project to install wrought iron fencing at Broadlie Court, Neilston be looked at again;
- (h) that the town centre litter bin modernisation project in Clarkston, Busby and Eaglesham be looked at again in terms of possibly finding capital funding to assist; and
- (i) That the Maxton Gardens Growing Space project be looked at again, in particular, regarding the suggestion that the erection of structures on the grounds is prohibited.

PROPOSED ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING MINIMUM FEES, TARIFFS AND OVERSTAY CHARGES

551. The Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Environment on the minimum fees, tariffs, overstay charges and grace period for overstay charges for East Renfrewshire Council's publicly available Electric Vehicle (EV) chargers and the proposed concessionary rate for East Renfrewshire residents without access to off-street parking.

Cabinet had approved, in principle, the introduction of an Electric Vehicle Charging Tariff at its meeting on 1 December 2022 (Page 313, Item 245 refers).

The report outlined the proposals for implementing the tariff, with a rate per kilowatt-hour of 40 pence and minimum fee of £1.00 on a Standard Charging Unit (SCUs), as well as the introduction of a rate per kilowatt-hour of 70 pence and minimum fee of £1.00 on Rapid

Charging Units (RCUs), with overstay charges for of £1.00 per minute after 60 minutes, with a 10 minute grace period on the RCUs.

The report also outlined the proposals for a concessionary rate for East Renfrewshire residents without access to off-street parking to be introduced at least 2 calendar months after the introduction of the base tariffs. The process for applying for the concession was detailed.

There followed a discussion on the practicalities of the introduction of the charges and the concessionary rates for residents. Members received assurance that the scheme would be operational by the proposed introduction date of October 2023.

Thereafter, the Cabinet:-

- (a) approved the initial minimum fees, tariffs and overstay charges to be applied to East Renfrewshire Council's publicly available EV chargers, as set out in paragraph 5 of the report;
- (b) approved a 10 minute grace period for overstay chargers at Rapid Charging Units;
- (c) approved a 10% concession rate for East Renfrewshire residents without access to off-street parking; and
- (d) delegated authority to the Director of Environment to revise or remove minimum fees, revise or remove the grace period applied to overstay chargers, and to set, revise and remove the concessionary rate for East Renfrewshire residents without access to off-street parking.

EAST RENFREWSHIRE CULTURE AND LEISURE SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY STRATEGY 2023-2028

552. The Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Education on the draft Sport and Physical Activity Strategy 2023-2028

With the expiry of the previous strategy for sport and physical activity, a draft for a new Strategy had been prepared which recognised the significant strategic landscape changes, with the publication of key documents such as the Active Scotland Outcomes Framework and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The report outlined the 6 Active Scotland Outcomes, and how they would be applied at a local level, which informed the vision in the strategy for, *"An East Renfrewshire where more people are active in sport and physical activity from all communities"* and its mission to *"develop and support an inclusive sport and physical activity system in East Renfrewshire that reaches all households"*.

The draft strategy was attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

There followed a discussion of the document, where members requested baseline information to provide a starting point to track the progress of the strategy. Members also recognised the significant amount of preparation and work that had gone into it, and particularly welcomed the inclusion of sport and physical activity for disabled people.

Thereafter, the Cabinet:-

- (a) approved the draft Sport and Physical Activity Strategy 2023-2028; and

- (b) requested that baseline information be provided for the data being monitored as part of the Strategy and that a progress report be provided to Cabinet on the Strategy on an annual basis.

CHAIR

