

Cabinet

22nd November 2021

PRESENT:-

Councillors D. R. Hale (Chair), H, Bridges (Deputy Chair) (from minute 63, except minute 64), A. Akbar, J. Black, D. Kirk, G. Lunn, S. McMurray, R Nicola (from minute 63) and R. Pantelakis.

IN ATTENDANCE:-

I. Anderson (Director of Legal Services and Partnerships) D. Bell (Director of Finance and Transformation), M. Jones (Director of Regeneration), P. Turner (Director of Children, Young People and Family Services), J. Weldon (Director of Public Health), and L. Scholes (Senior Democratic Services Officer).

A. Burton (Head of Streetscene) – minute 61
H. Dye (Head of Revenues and Benefits) – minute 63
T. Fielding (Assistant Director, Health and Wellbeing) – minute 65
D. White (Air Quality Officer)– minute 65
N. Howbridge (Assistant Director Property and Assets) – minute 68

APOLOGIES:-

Councillor P. Webster

| Minute No. | Description/Decision | Action By/Deadline |
|-------------------------|--|---------------------------|
| PROCEDURAL ITEMS | | |
| 58 | DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST Councillor Hale declared a personal interest in minute 62 insofar as he is a member of Unison. Councillor Hale declared a personal interest in minute 68 insofar as he is a Council appointed Director of Kingstown Works Limited. | |
| 59 | MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 25th OCTOBER 2021 Agreed – that the minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 25 th October, 2021, be taken as read and correctly recorded and be signed by the Chair. | |
| 60 | PUBLIC QUESTIONS No public questions were received. | |
| NON-EXEMPT ITEMS | | |

61

BUILDING RESILIENCE INTO ARBORICULTURE, GROUNDS AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES

The Director of Regeneration submitted a report which identified the short-term measures proposed to respond to the pressures so as to improve resilience, service provision and outcomes in the arboriculture, grounds and street cleansing services across the city to deal with the growth in demand and ensure the Streetscene can undertake its work in line with statutory requirements, specifications and/or the service standards expected.

Members welcomed the report and discussed the unseasonably warm weather causing grass to continue to grow which had meant an additional impact on grounds maintenance and whether there were any schedules to deal with the catch up works. The officer confirmed that the schedules would be available shortly.

Members also commented on the hundreds of litter pickers around the City and the dealing with litter after big events in the City.

Agreed –

- (a) That Cabinet commit £417,445, to be funded 40% (£167,445) from the General Fund and 60% (£250,000) from the Housing Revenue Account based on expected delivery across the City, through available in-year resources to provide the initial funding required to establish eight teams in Street Scene to undertake works to ensure that pedestrian footways and cycle ways are cleared through the 2021/22 winter and shop fronts maintained tidy:

(a-b) Director of Regeneration

| | Team Type | Number of Teams Required | Total for 4 Months |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Grounds & Open Spaces | Tree | 1 | £107,226 |
| Grounds & Open Spaces | Shrub | 3 | £122,403 |
| Street Cleansing | Leaf Clearance | 1 | £54,401 |
| Street Cleansing | Internal Footpaths | 2 | £100,368 |
| Street Cleansing | Litter Bin Emptying & Shop Fronts | 1 | £33,047 |

Total

£417,445

- (b) That the permanent funding arrangements be considered in the

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| | <p>development of Street Scene budget for 2022/23 to ensure that the Council is able to sustain the required standards thereafter.</p> <p><u>Reasons for recommendation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To allow Streetscene to ensure it has the capacity to manage the additional works generated by the natural growth of the city and to take account of the impacts on the natural environment due to climate change | |
| 62 | <p>MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN – UPDATE REPORT</p> <p>(Councillor Hale declared a personal interest in this matter insofar as he is a member of Unison)</p> <p>The Director of Finance and Transformation (Section 151 Officer) submitted a report which provided an update on the latest expectations informing the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP), in the light of the Chancellor’s Spending Review announced on 27th October and sought approval to consult on the specific factors that will feature in the full budget proposals for 2022/23 to be considered and approved by Cabinet in January 2022 and Council in February 2022.</p> <p>The comments of Finance and Value for Money Overview and Scrutiny Commission when this matter was considered, were submitted for consideration, and were detailed at minute #.</p> <p>Members discussed the ongoing pay award discussions and what had been allocated in the budget. Discussion also took place around the alleged increase in value of the East Riding Pension Fund and whether this would impact on employer payments. The officer confirmed that any impact would be from 2023/24, the triennial review would take place in the next financial year which would impact from 2023/24. If there had been a significant increase in asset valuations which was not offset by potential liabilities the fund’s position could feed into contributions. Discussions were expected to take place but would bear in mind the long term nature of pensions and the Actuary would be keen to protect the long term benefits to the fund.</p> <p>Agreed –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) That Cabinet note the updated MTFP projections at section 6 and the significant financial uncertainty faced by the Council. (b) That Cabinet approve, for consultation, the strategy set out in the report. (c) That Cabinet note the forecast reserves position and the significant financial risks faced by the Council. (d) That Cabinet note that reports regarding the detail of the 2022/23 General Fund Revenue Budget, Capital Programme and Housing Revenue Account, will be presented to Cabinet in January 2022 for | (a-d) Director of Finance and Transformation |

consideration and approval.

Reasons for recommendation

- The Council needs to ensure that it has an up to date and realistic plan for how it is going to manage its finances in the medium term. That plan includes within it the resources that are available to provide or commission services, and also outlines the ongoing or new actions that are needed to ensure that financial viability is maintained.

63

HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUND – PROPOSAL FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS

The Director of Finance and Transformation (Section 151 Officer) submitted a report which set out the details of the Household Support Fund provided by the Government in response to the impact of the pandemic on the cost of living and sought agreement on how the fund will be distributed to make best and most efficient use of the money available for the benefit of residents.

The comments of Finance and Value for Money Overview and Scrutiny Commission when this matter was considered, were submitted for consideration, and were detailed at minute #.

Members welcomed the report and commented that the method of apportioning the fund by the Council was good and would support those most financially vulnerable, it was not COVID specific. It could benefit the maximum number of people if amounts were comparable to funding for a couple of weeks' worth of fuel or food. If funding was needed beyond that a different support may be needed. The pathway needed to be clear and shared with all Councillors.

Members also discussed the need to ensure overheads and administration of the fund were kept to a minimum with a clear set of criteria for approval needed to be in place.

Agreed –

(a) That Members agree to the Household Support Fund being distributed as outlined in the table below:

| Commitment | Category | Estimated Number of households impacted | Estimated Value |
|---|--|--|---|
| 1. Food vouchers to Free School Meal recipients during holiday periods, £15/week. | Food | 13,000 | £1,260,000 |
| 2. UC claimants under 25, both in Hostels and not in Hostels. | Food Energy and Water Energy and Water | 900 | Fund Hostel Service charges for food and fuel directly to Hostels. Estimated |

(a-b) Director of Finance and Transformation

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| | Essentials Wider Essentials | | £180,000 at £200 per household |
| 3. Warm Homes team funding | Energy and Water Energy and Water Essentials | 400 | £80,000 |
| 4. Local Assistance Scheme top up. Current £350k budget. | Food Energy and Water Energy and Water Essentials Wider Essentials | Households approaching the Council directly for help, estimated 2000 | £400,000 |
| 5. Housing Tenancy Sustainment Team and Homelessness prevention | Housing costs Energy and Water Essentials Wider Essentials | 200 | £75,000 |
| 6. Fund Volunteer / Charitable organisations to help residents with household costs. Counts as spend once left HCC accounts | Energy and Water Essentials Wider Essentials | To be determined. | £150,000 |
| 7. Support with essential bills including utilities and Council Tax. | Energy and Water Energy and Water Essentials | 21,000 | £840,000 (at £40 per household) |

(b) That the Director of Finance and Transformation (S151 Officer) is delegated to distribute the funds in consultation with Director of Legal Services and Partnerships, and the Portfolio Holder for Finance, and that Cabinet Members received regular updates.

Reasons for recommendation

- To ensure the Household Support Fund is directed to support financially vulnerable households in need over the Winter period.

INVESTMENT STRATEGY - MID YEAR REVIEW REPORT 2021/22

The Director of Finance and Transformation (Section 151 Officer) submitted a report which provided an update on Treasury Management activity and performance in the first half of the financial year 2021/22, as required by the Council's Treasury Management Policy Statement.

The comments of Finance and Value for Money Overview and Scrutiny Commission when this matter was considered, were submitted for consideration, and were detailed at minute #.

Agreed –

- (a) That Cabinet note the report; the investment returns achieved during 2021/22 and performance against the revised prudential indicators as shown at Appendix 1.
- (b) That Cabinet confirm that they remain content with the approved investment strategy as shown at Appendices 2 to 4.
- (c) That Cabinet note the revised Prudential Indicators as shown in Appendix 1 to reflect the latest capital expenditure and financing forecasts.

Reasons for recommendation

- As required by the Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2021/22 approved by Council in February 2021, delegation for considering the Mid-Year Review Report is to the Cabinet Executive Committee.

(a-c) Director of Finance and Transformation

65

UPDATE ON THE LOCAL AIR QUALITY STRATEGY: 2021

The Director of Public Health and Adult Social Care submitted a report which provided the latest annual update on the progress of the Local Air Quality Strategy as requested at the November 2017 Cabinet where it was first approved.

Members welcomed the report in particular that the air quality in Hull was deemed to be 'good' and commented on the discussion that had taken place at Council last week in relation to this. An article in Love Hull would be useful to set out the Council's priorities and the highlights of the report.

Members were pleased to see the results and keen to use this as a building block and ensure the City did not become complacent. Discussion also took place around the monitoring of air quality around schools and difficulties experienced engaging with some schools in the City.

Agreed –

- (a) That Cabinet notes that the Annual Status Plan which indicates that air

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| | <p>quality in the City is continuing to improve, and while there is one area of exceedance, namely the A63, this is anticipated to be resolved through the current road improvements.</p> <p>(b) That the Cabinet supports efforts to publicize the contents of the Annual Status Report incorporated within the Appendices to the report in order to promote the awareness of air quality issues in the City to our residents.</p> <p><u>Reasons for recommendation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Local Air Quality Strategy is a long term plan that sets out the ambition of the Council to lead by example on improving air quality and protecting the health of people in Hull. It contributes to our obligations to the UK Air Quality Strategy, and the statutory requirements for local air quality management. It is a key element in ensuring that people can live healthier, longer and happier lives. It contains a series of commitments and targets set out in such a way that progress can be tracked easily. It has been produced in a way that ensures there is a Council wide contribution and commitment to achieving the necessary improvements that can be assessed. There is also the flexibility to add additional measures as required, each being subject to the necessary consultations and considerations. • The Council's Local Plan was submitted for examination in December 2016 and approved in 2017 – Policy 47 within the Plan deals with atmospheric pollution and identifies the need for development proposals to be submitted with air quality assessments. • There are other examples of policies within the Council which seek to improve air quality. Within the City Plan, the Active Travel Strategy aims to discourage commuting by car and promote less polluting modes of transport. Also policy 45, which requires the planting of three trees for every dwelling that is newly constructed helps to maximise to the absorption of CO2 emissions within the City. The Local Air Quality Strategy supports the inclusion of such initiatives within other Council frameworks. | (a-b) Director of Public Health and Adult Social Care |
| 66 | <p>COMMENTS OF COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS</p> <p>The Senior Democratic Services Officer submitted comments in relation to minutes 62-64 and 68 from the Council's committees and scrutiny commissions that had considered the reports following the circulation of the agenda for this meeting.</p> <p>Agreed – That the comments be noted.</p> | |
| 67 | <p>EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC</p> <p>Agreed – that, in accordance with the provisions of Section 100(A)(4) of the</p> | |

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| | <p>Local Government Act, 1972, the public (including the Press) be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business, minute 68, on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act information relating to the financial and business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information an individual and the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.</p> | |
| 68 | <p>PROGRESS REPORT ON PROPERTY DISPOSALS</p> <p>(Councillor Hale declared a personal interest in this matter insofar as he is a Council appointed Director of Kingstown Works Limited.)</p> <p>The Assistant Director of Property and Assets submitted a report which set out assets which had been declared surplus to operational requirement and those which have been selected for disposal in support of the implementation of policy to reshape the commercial property portfolio. The report summarised the progress made to date and planned activity going forward.</p> <p>The comments of Riverside Area Committee, Foredyke Area Committee, Wyke Area Committee and Finance and Value for Money Overview and Scrutiny Commission when this matter was considered, were submitted for consideration, and were detailed at minute #.</p> <p>Members discussed the comments raised by other committees and commissions in particular the potential disposal of Festival House, the agreement to sell was only that, it did not have to be sold, Cabinet would want reassurance any sale was appropriately value for money and there would be a full process prior to any sale. Concerns were also raised that this report had not been submitted to all area committees for comment prior to Cabinet consideration and the need to ensure the comments were taken account of.</p> <p>Members also discussed individual properties contained in the report as well as the Council's work in buying and selling properties in the City and the role of area committees in querying properties not in their area.</p> <p>Agreed –</p> <p>(a) That the progress made be noted, and</p> <p>(b) That the Assistant Director, Property & Assets be authorised to approve terms for the disposal of surplus assets namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Former Registry Office, Trippett Street (ii) Former Catherine Ellis Centre, Ashton Close (iii) Former Gleneagles Centre, East Carr Lane (iv) Netherhall, North Carr (v) Former East Hull Baths, 90 Holderness Road (vi) 5 Durban Street Ground lease (vii) 62 Gillet Street Ground lease (viii) 30 Strickland Street Ground lease (ix) 273 Wincomlee Ground lease | (a-b) Assistant Director of Property and Assets |

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| <p>(x) 55 Charles Street Ground lease (xi) 291 Anlaby Road, vacant land</p> | | |
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Reasons for recommendation

- The programme of disposals of surplus and commercial property assets is an important part of the Council's financial strategy and directly impacts on local economic development. The Cabinet wishes to monitor progress through the presentation of annual reports, and to consider the financial strategy for the investment of associated capital receipts. A number of future disposals are planned and when taken together these will exceed the £250,000 threshold for key decisions

Start: 9.30 a.m.
Finish: 10.30 a.m.

The above Executive Decisions will come into force and may be implemented on expiry of five working days after the publication of the decisions i.e. 2nd December, 2021, unless called in by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee.

Published – 24th November, 2021.