

# CABINET - 7 November 2019

## MINUTES

Present: Councillors: I Courts, K Grinsell, K Hawkins, K Meeson, T Richards OBE, A Rolf, R Sleigh OBE, J Tildesley, J Burn and G Slater

Officers: Nick Page, Paul Johnson, Andrew Kinsey, Jenny Wood, Louise Rees, Ruth Tennant, Anne Brereton, Perry Wardle, Peter Carroll and Jane Game.

### 1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Mackiewicz.

### 2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Cllr Courts reminded Members that he chaired the ESIF Committee for the GBSLEP regarding item 5. In relation to the same item Cllr Sleigh reminded Members he sat on the WMCA Investment Board.

### 3. QUESTIONS AND DEPUTATIONS

None were received.

### 4. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 October 2019 including those in private were presented for information only.

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 10 October 2019 be received for information only.

### 5. UPDATE ON APPLICATIONS TO FUNDING BODIES THAT SUPPORT THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

The Cabinet was informed of the progress of external funding applications on behalf of the Council and asked to agree the acceptance of external funding to support the delivery of the Council's priorities.

Members were reminded that the Council had an ambitious growth agenda which could not be entirely funded with the Council's own resources. Accessing external funding maximised the impact of the Council's Growth and Development Investment Plan. The report before Members was one of a series that sought approval for funding applications and/or accepting funding subsequently offered to the Council.

The report detailed the request of funding of £5.881m matched by £1.437m giving a total of £7.318m. This represented the estimated costs at this point in time for the applications but was subject to variation following a more detailed appraisals being carried out.

Members were happy to support the proposed applications. In relation to project 'D' Promoting local businesses during HS2 construction "Open for Business", one of the

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Members related his experience of working with a local Parish Council in trying to secure a grant from the HS2 Road Safety Fund, which had been extremely frustrating. Having made a number of attempts, each one had been unsuccessful.

It was suggested that this was something that HS2 IAG could review as part of their work programme, and this could be raised through the other liaison groups the Council worked with in relation to HS2.

### RESOLVED:

- (i) That the submission of Expressions of Interest to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) for extension to existing projects be noted namely:
  - (a) ERDF Greening the Grey (Wildlife Ways);
  - (b) ERDF Enterprise and Development programme.
- (ii) That the submission of an Expression of Interest to the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (GBSLEP) be noted for;
  - (a) Funding to support the ERDF Enterprise and Development Programme.
- (iii) That the submission of Strategic Outline Case to the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) be noted for:
  - (a) Local Strategic Network Resilience, Connectivity & Enhancements Programme.
- (iv) That the submission of a bid to the HS2 community and Business Funds be noted for:
  - (a) Promoting local businesses during HS2 construction.
- (v) That the submission of an Expression of Interest to the Local Highways Maintenance Challenge Fund be noted for:
  - (a) Fillongley Road Bridge
- (vi) That Full Cabinet approved delegating authority to the relevant Director to sign any contractual arrangements associated with the above funding in conjunction with the relevant Cabinet Member.

## 6. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY UPDATE (INCORPORATING THE PERIOD 6 POSITION) AS AT 30TH SEPTEMBER 2019

The purpose of the report was to:

- Outline the Medium term Financial Strategy (MTFS) latest financial position at 30th September 2019 (Period 6) and the latest Red, Amber, Green (RAG) ratings for the delivery of the (MTFS) savings 2019/20 to 2021/22. Appendix A provided more detail on the individual portfolio positions, which would be subject to separate reports to each Cabinet decision session;

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- Appendix B provided details of the budget adjustments which had taken place between Periods 4 and 6 of this financial year (and the resulting budgets after those adjustments) which Members were asked to approve in line with Financial Regulations; and
- Appendix C provided Full Cabinet with a summary of the latest position in relation to the individual Cabinet portfolio holder pressures and mitigations for the current MTFs 2019/20 to 2021/22, showing any new or amended pressures and proposed mitigations.

The Director of Resources and Deputy Chief Executive took Members through the report which included an update on the budget strategy and the work of the Budget Strategy Group.

The Director also advised Members that Central Government had announced that the intended reforms to the local government finance system planned for 2020/21 would be delayed until 2021/22. The report detailed the implications the delay would have for the Council.

The Director reported that the forecast out-turn position for the revenue budget was nil for Core Council and there was an adverse variance of £5.610m for the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). The Core Council revenue forecast included an adverse variance of £2.138m which was being addressed to a net nil position through one off mitigating actions. With regard to the Capital Budget there was a favourable variance of £5.532m on a total budget of £44.736 for 2019/20.

With regard to the MTFs 2019/20 to 2021/22 progress at the end of September 2019 showed an overall position as positive. Of the overall savings target of £16.706m, £0.608m remained red rated.

### **RESOLVED:**

- (i) That the current financial position outlined in Appendix A be noted and agreed that no further actions were required to address budget variances at this time; and
- (ii) That the budget adjustments between Period 4 and Period 6 of 2019/20 as summarised in Appendix B be approved.

## **7. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS**

### **RESOLVED:**

That, pursuant to Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be now excluded from the meeting for the remainder of the business to be transacted, on the grounds that there would be disclosure to them of exempt information in terms of paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the said Act.

## **8. MINUTES**

## **9. ACQUISITION OF INVESTMENT PROPERTY**

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The meeting concluded at 6.20 pm