

FULL COUNCIL

5 JULY 2022

REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

1. COUNCIL UPDATE REGARDING CABINET

1.1 Purpose of Report

To advise Council of the main decisions taken at the Cabinet meetings on 19 May and 16 June 2022.

1.2 Background

1.2.1 This report highlights some of those decisions which have been made, but not all. Members wishing to view all decisions made can find these at <http://eservices.solihull.gov.uk/mgInternet/mgListCommittees.aspx?bcr=1>

1.2.2 Attached to this report are the lists of decisions made.

1.3 Decision – 19 May 2022

1.3.1 **Energy Rebate Discretionary Scheme** – Cabinet reviewed and approved the Council's Energy Bill Rebate Discretionary Scheme policy, intended to provide support to households not eligible for the main council tax rebate scheme. Eligibility criteria were discussed and agreed, with payments to be made in two phases.

1.3.2 It was agreed that the Cabinet Member for Resources in conjunction with the Director of Resources and Deputy Chief Executive be authorised to make any changes necessary to the policy to ensure all the funding for the discretionary scheme is allocated within the specified time frame.

1.4 Decisions – 16 June 2022

1.4.1 **Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021/22 Final Outturn (31 March 2022)** – Members were provided with the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) financial position as at 31 March 2022 incorporating the revenue, capital, reserves and Covid-19 final outturns.

1.4.2 Approval was given to the 2020/21 General Fund Revenue Accounts final position, including the endorsement of budget movements undertaken in the final quarter. Members approved contributions to the Children's Services Risk Reserve, the Severance Reserve, the Homelessness Reserve and to three Dedicated Schools Grant Reserves.

1.4.3 Approval was also given to the creation of a new Hospital Discharge Reserve within the Adult Social Care and Health portfolio and the creation of a new Fairer Futures Fund Reserve as well as contributions to the Budget Strategy Reserve.

1.4.4 The re-allocation of the Placemaking Fund Reserve to a Planting for the Future Reserve was approved and it was agreed for the annual budgeted contribution to the Recycling Projects Reserve to be removed.

1.4.5 The continuation of the Budget Strategy Group for the 2023/24 Budget Framework and MTFS for 2023/24 to 2025/26 was endorsed.

1.4.6 **Risk Management Information Report** – Cabinet was provided with an annual update on the Council's corporate risk register. It was noted that the total number of corporate risks had dropped to 15, this included 3 corporate net red risks. Members noted that the net risk levels for the risks relating to financial pressures on Children's services, due to unprecedented demand, and risk to MTFS delivery had increased compared to the last year.