

CABINET MEETING

Meeting: 22 December 2020
At: 6.00 pm

PRESENT

Councillor Tom McGee (Deputy Leader and Resources, Commissioning & Governance) (Vice-Chair) in the chair; Councillors Sheila Bailey (Sustainable Stockport), Kate Butler (Citizen Focus & Engagement), Colin Foster (Children, Family Services & Education), David Meller (Economy & Regeneration), Amanda Peers (Inclusive Neighbourhoods) and Jude Wells (Adult Care & Health).

1. MINUTES

The Minutes (copies of which had been circulated) of the meeting held on 6 October and 4 December 2020 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors and officers were invited to declare any interests they had in any of the items on the agenda for the meeting.

No declarations of interest were made.

3. URGENT DECISIONS

No urgent decisions were reported.

4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Members of the public were invited to submit questions to the Cabinet on any matters within its powers and duties, subject to the exclusions set out in the Code of Practice.

Seven public questions were submitted as follows:-

- Relating to whether it would be possible to publish the locations of trees to be felled by the Council along with the rationale for doing so on the Council's website.

The Cabinet Member for Sustainable Stockport (Councillor Sheila Bailey) responded that there were approximately 1.5 million trees in the Council's care and their maintenance was a primary concern of the Council. It was stated that far more trees were planted than removed in any one year, and the Council's policy was that for every tree removed, two were planted in its place. The Council's Climate Change Strategy aimed to plant new woodlands amounting to tens of thousands of trees. Councillor Bailey stated that in normal circumstances, trees were only felled when they were dead, dying, diseased or proven to be causing damage.

It was confirmed that there was currently no notification provided on the website of trees that were proposed to be felled, and in the current circumstances it was not considered

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practicable to do so as IT resources were currently being targeted at responding the demands imposed by the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. However, the suggestion had been noted and would be reconsidered when resources permitted.

- Relating to the creation of an unofficial lorry park by the A555 airport relief road, wherein HGVs were stopping for prolonged periods on the old A6 Buxton Road, and the impact that this was having on local resident's privacy, safety and property values.
- Relating to the street lighting on the old A6 Buxton Road and whether it could be modified to reflect that the area was now residential and not a major A-road as the LED lights were creating a light-spill issue into the surrounding properties.

The Cabinet Member for Sustainable Stockport (Councillor Sheila Bailey) responded that both of these questions had been asked at the meeting of the Stepping Hill Area Committee on 15 December 2020 at which officers had been asked to provide a written response to the questioner.

- Relating to an apparent difference between the language used in the motion passed by the Council on 22 October 2020 where it stated that a decision "...to permanently close or remove services from Stockport Central Library [would not be taken] unless and until there has been a proper public consultation..." and that of a letter from the Deputy Leader of the Council on 8 December 2020 where it was stated that "Any decision to permanently move library services, would be subject to a detailed consultation and engagement exercise, that would take into account the view of a range of stakeholders..." and whether this variance could be explained.

The Cabinet Member for Citizen Focus & Engagement (Councillor Kate Butler) responded that there was no variance in the intention behind both statements and that 'a 'detailed consultation' and a 'public consultation' would always include a range of stakeholders. It was stressed that any future proposals to move services away from Central Library would always be subject to a detailed public consultation.

- Relating to what alterations were needed to Central Library to make it Covid-safe so that it could be reopened to the public.

The Cabinet Member for Citizen Focus & Engagement (Councillor Kate Butler) responded that the Council had responded to a Freedom of Information request providing an early estimate of the cost involved in making Central Library Covid-safe and the alterations that would be required. It was stated that One Stockport Hub would provide a much needed temporary library service in the town centre, and that once social distancing requirements had been sufficiently relaxed, library services would move back to Central Library.

The Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Resources, Commissioning & Governance (Councillor Tom McGee) further stated that the Council had a duty of care to its residents and staff and the Council would ensure that it complied with government guidance and legislation to ensure the safe reopening of its facilities.

- Relating to losses on investments made by Greater Manchester Pension Fund in oil companies, and whether the Cabinet would try and influence decarbonisation of the Fund.

The Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Resources, Commissioning & Governance (Councillor Tom McGee) responded that the Council did want to see decarbonisation, however the first duty of the pension fund was to its beneficiaries as a fully funded scheme. It was stated that the Council would continue to make representations through its nominated representative on the Greater Manchester Pension Fund Management Panel to balance its duty to beneficiaries along with the climate change agenda.

- Relating to the Parking Policy report on the agenda for the meeting (Agenda Item 12), and how the special circumstances that exist in the Stepping Hill area were recognised within it.

The Cabinet Member for Sustainable Stockport (Councillor Sheila Bailey) responded that the report sets out a revised policy and approach to residents permit parking schemes across the borough. It was stated that the parking situation in and around Stepping Hill Hospital was well documented, and there had been extensive efforts made to address the problem. However, the scheme that was proposed by the Council to address this had not been supported by local residents. The policy document that was in front of the Cabinet at the meeting did not seek look at individual localities as this would require individual schemes to be developed in accordance with the principles set out in the policy. However, it was stated that there would always be locations where there was limited roadside parking capacity and where demand exceeded availability, and as a result every scheme would require compromise.

5. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PUBLIC INTEREST TEST

The Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Resources, Commissioning & Governance (Councillor Tom McGee) invited the Cabinet to consider whether to exclude the public and press from the meeting during consideration of agenda items 24, 25 and 26 as these items contained information that was 'not for publication'.

RESOLVED – That in order to prevent the disclosure of information which was 'not for publication', the disclosure of which would not be in the public interest, the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of following items:-

<u>Item</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Reason</u>
24	BHS - Redevelopment Proposals	Category 3 'Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority)' as set out in the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)
25	Former Ritz Cinema Car Park And Former Greenhale House Disposal	Category 3 'Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority)' as set out in the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)
26	Future Active	Category 3 'Information relating to the financial or

Communities/ Leisure Delivery Arrangements	business affairs of any particular person (including the authority)' as set out in the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)
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Key Decisions

6. RESPONDING TO OUR MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN (LDR89/ RCG25)

The Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Resources, Commissioning & Governance (Councillor Tom McGee) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) outlining the latest update on its approach to responding to the unprecedented uncertainty outlined within the medium-term financial plan (MTFP) update presented to the Cabinet meeting in October, and detailing a series of proposals outlined in Section 5 of the report to support the balancing of the Council's 2021/22 Budget.

Councillor McGee stated that the impact of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic had meant that the Council had made significant changes to the way that it operated over the past year. However, the announcements over the past week in relation to the creation of an additional fourth tier of restrictions and the extension of the furlough scheme suggested that economic recovery may take longer than originally anticipated. As a consequence, Councillor McGee stated that in addition to the schedule of recommendations contained within the report, he wished to ask the Cabinet to give approval to the inclusion of a further resolution relating to an agreement that it receives a further report at a future meeting of the Cabinet examining whether it was necessary or appropriate to move earmarked reserves into general balances.

RESOLVED – That:-

- the details of the report including the announcements made by Government since October and in the 2020 Spending Review be noted;
- the update to the MTFP savings requirement following the 2020 Spending Review be approved;
- the saving proposals set out in Appendix 1 to support the balancing of the Council's 2021/22 Budget to provide a stable financial platform for the transformation programme linked to One Stockport needed to support the Council's recovery and address the medium term financial challenge be approved;
- the financial forecasts for 2020/21 to 2022/23, and the key issues to be addressed in formulating a response to the financial challenges facing the Council be noted;;
- that the forecasts and assumptions underpinning the MTFP will continue to be reviewed to ensure they remain robust and resilient as part of the Council's 2021/22 budget setting process be noted.;
- the MTFP revised forecast cumulative savings requirement of £8.115m in 2021/22 rising to £26.802m in 2022/23 be noted;
- approval be given to take the final steps necessary to propose a balanced budget for 2021/22 to the Budget Council meeting on 25 February 2021; and
- it be agreed to receive a further report to a future meeting of the Cabinet examining whether it was necessary or appropriate to move earmarked reserves into general balances.

7. BUSINESS RATES AND COUNCIL TAX DISCOUNTS ANNUAL REVIEW (RCG18)

The Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Resources, Commissioning & Governance (Councillor Tom McGee) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) detailing proposed changes to the scheme of local discounts and exemptions against liability for Business Rates and Council Tax.

RESOLVED – That it be agreed:-

- that the Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC) Top-up scheme be continued for the year 2021/22, enabling CASCs to achieve 100% relief from Non-Domestic Rates, provided they meet the qualifying criteria at Appendix 2.
- that Charity Relief remains limited to the 80% Mandatory Relief for the year 2021/22.
- that Rural Rate Relief continues to be limited to 50% Mandatory Relief for the year 2021/22 and should any village shops be established in the future then additional discretionary relief should be awarded up to 100%.
- that the 50% discount and qualifying criteria for Not for Profit organisations be maintained for the year 2021/22. That the local scheme for large businesses which are new to the Borough or those undergoing significant expansion in the Borough be continued for 2021/22.
- that the continuation of a case by case approach for Business Rates discounts where exceptional circumstances exist be continued for 2021/22. It is unlikely that Exceptional Circumstances Relief would be awarded to an organisation which was in receipt of support from the Council, either grant funded or commissioned.
- that the Council continues to no longer offer a Council Tax discount in respect of unoccupied and unfurnished properties from 2021/22.
- that the maximum Council Tax premium charge levels in respect of unoccupied and unfurnished properties are implemented in accordance with those shown at para 4.4.3 from 2021/22.
- that any Council Tax liability for care leavers up to the age of 25 be reduced to zero for 2021/22.
- that Stockport's Council Tax Support scheme is maintained for 2021/22 as detailed at Appendix 5.
- that in the absence of a government funded grant, the existing Council Tax discretionary fund is refreshed to £25k for 2021/22, supporting customers facing financial difficulty, with no alternative means.
- that the Revenues & Benefits Discretionary Support Policy at Appendix 6 is endorsed for 2021/22.

8. ANNUAL PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2021/22 (RCG20)

The Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Resources, Commissioning & Governance (Councillor Tom McGee) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) detailing the Council's Annual Pay Policy Statement and Gender Pay Gap figures for 2020.

Councillor McGee welcomed the information contained within the report that there had been a continued narrowing of the gender pay gap, albeit that there had been a marginal

narrowing this year. It was further stated that the living wage supplement would be paid to anybody on the bottom two points of the pay spine.

RESOLVED – That the Council Meeting be recommended to adopt the Annual Pay Policy Statement and agree to publish the Council's Gender Pay Gap information.

9. ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2021/2022-2026/2027 (RCG20)

The Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Resources, Commissioning & Governance (Councillor Tom McGee) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) the proposed Asset Management Plan to carry out upgrade work and improvements to buildings within the Councils operational estate and schools estate and setting out the capital programme for 2021/22 and the indicative programmes to be delivered through to 2023/24.

The following comments were made/ issues raised:-

- There was a backlog of maintenance work required across the schools estate and a need to ensure that there was sufficient capacity for primary school places.
- There was a need to ensure buildings were upgraded operationally.
- Concern was expressed in relation to the ability to implement the school rebuilding programme from September 2021 due to delays at central government level.
- The response of the Asset Management Programme to the declared Climate Emergency and the Stockport Climate Action Now was welcomed, with particular regard to decarbonisation.

RESOLVED – (1) That approval be given to the programme for 2021/22 and the financing thereof, and the Indicative AMP programme for up to 2023/24, as set out in the report.

(2) That approval be given to the application of corporate resources to fund the AMP programme 2021/22 to 2023/24; with the application of funding types (capital receipts and borrowing) being delegated to the Deputy Chief Executive (Place) in conjunction with the Estates Capital Board (ECB).

(3) That the Deputy Chief Executive (Place) be given authorisation to award construction contracts as required to deliver the works programme.

(4) That it be noted that a mid-year review of the AMP Programme will be conducted.

10. GETTING BUILDING FUND (E&R59)

The Cabinet Member for Economy & Regeneration (Councillor David Meller) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) providing an update on the Getting Building Fund and a summary of Stockport's successful projects. It also contained a request for authority to enter into contracts and agreements to draw down the funding and to progress the design on Stockport Exchange Phase 4 in advance of the Cabinet decision in February 2021.

RESOLVED - (1) That the contents of this report be noted.

(2) That authority be delegated to the Corporate Director (Place) and Deputy Chief Executive and the Corporate Director (Corporate & Support Services) and Deputy Chief Executive, in consultation with the Cabinet Members for Economy & Regeneration and for Resources, Commissioning & Governance to:

- (a) take all necessary steps to bring forward eligible projects for the Getting Building Fund and to report back as necessary and appropriate to the Cabinet;
- (b) enter into contracts, procurement and funding agreements, as required, to support the delivery of Getting Building Fund supported projects;
- (c) authorise £0.235M to further develop proposals for Stockport Exchange Phase 4; and
- (d) to receive and administer from the grant provider Getting Building Fund monies, and enter into reciprocal agreements, as required, with the grant recipients.

11. ACQUISITION 80, 80A, 82, 82A WELLINGTON ROAD SOUTH COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER RESOLUTION (E&R60)

The Cabinet Member for Economy & Regeneration (Councillor David Meller) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) detailing a proposed scheme for the widening of Railway Road, the reconfiguration of the junction, including improved cycle crossing facilities, and tie in with parallel zebra crossing with improved public realm and cycle route at the Wellington Road South and Railway Road junction that would require the acquisition of the land edged red on the plan attached to the report at Appendix 1.

The Cabinet noted that attempts had been made by officers to acquire the land through agreement, however these have been unsuccessful to date due to a sizeable difference in values between the parties.

RESOLVED - (1) That it be agreed in principle to the use of CPO powers, if necessary, to acquire land and property and existing rights and interests in the proposed order land, where acquisition by agreement is not possible;

(2) That officers be authorised to take all necessary steps to commence the process for the making, confirmation and implementation of a CPO, including securing the appointment of suitable external advisors and preparing all necessary CPO documentation;

(3) That it be noted that a further report will be presented to the Cabinet to approve the making of a CPO and to confirm the extent of the order land to be acquired following the finalisation of the necessary preparatory work.

12. PARKING POLICY (SS6)

The Cabinet Member for Sustainable Stockport (Councillor Sheila Bailey) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) detailing a proposed approach to residents parking in Stockport town centre and the rest of borough and outlining the comments of the area committees and the Communities & Housing Scrutiny Committee on the proposal.

Councillor Bailey reported that there had been a moratorium on new residents permit parking schemes pending the development of the proposed policy. It was stated that the previous approach which sought to look at streets on an individual basis had served to displace the parking problem rather than solve it. The proposed policy sought to create parking zones which would allow areas to be looked at holistically and facilitate the development of electric vehicle charging points, cycle storage and the need to accommodate some business programme. However, it was stated that no approach would resolve every issue entirely.

In response to concerns expressed by some councillors that the concerns they had expressed at various committees had not been captured within the report Councillor Bailey then provided a further detailed update to the meeting in relation to those comments specifically made by the Stepping Hill Area Committee. Councillor Bailey then provided individual responses to the comments made by the Communities & Housing Scrutiny Committee as follows:-

Comment 1: Concern was expressed in relation to the proposal within the report to supply councillors with free permits.

Response: No firm proposal was made in the original document, merely a statement of projected costs. Proposed charges have been included in the finalised report.

Comment 2: It was queried how visitors to residential accommodation within the town centre would be accommodated within the proposals.

Response: All details relating to the town centre have been discussed in detail with the ward councillors representing that area.

Comment 3: The report stated that it did not anticipate any impact on LGBTQ people.

Response: An Equality Impact Assessment had been completed and included with the report.

Comment 4: In response to a question about behavioural change and what work had been undertaken thus far, it was stated that the council and TfGM had invested significantly in walking and cycling schemes to encourage the use of alternative modes of transport.

Response: Information was given on the night at committee regarding TfGM walking and cycling schemes and encouragement to use alternative modes of transport.

Comment 5: It was requested that ward councillors be involved in delineating the boundaries of the town centre for parking policy purposes.

Response: This has been discussed in detail with the ward councillors representing that area and a map had been included in the report at their request.

Comment 6: Discussions were ongoing with regard to the final cost to residents for a parking permit under the new scheme. It was clarified that any scheme would be

introduced at least initially using paper-based permits, however work was taking place to transition this to e-permits.

Response: Information about this issue was given on the night but is confirmed within the report presented at the Cabinet Meeting.

Comment 7: It was suggested that the report be submitted to area committees for their comments in the light of the localised impact that the proposed strategy would have on communities across the borough.

Response: This was done.

It was then

RESOLVED – That approval be given to:-

- the revised principles to guide future parking policy decisions.
- the proposed methods for demand management for parking schemes.
- the proposal to move all free schemes to paid for schemes as and when maintenance work takes place, but this approach will be kept under review with the Cabinet Member.
- the proposal to charge for a permit as identified in paragraphs 6.2 and 6.3 of the report and to review the costs annually as part of the Council Fees and Charges Report.
- That the proposed charges start to be applied from the 1st April 2021 and increase annually by inflationary costs.
- the proposed changes to residents parking policy (Appendix 2) to reflect the revised principle.
- the proposed changes to town centre parking policy (Appendix 3) to reflect the revised principles.

13. STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY REVIEW (SS12)

The Cabinet Member for Sustainable Stockport (Councillor Sheila Bailey) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) stating that Stockport Council was the Licensing Authority for the area of Stockport, and under the provisions of the Licensing Act 2003 (the Act) it was therefore responsible for the regulation of licensing matters within the borough. The Act further required the Council to have a Statement of Licensing Policy which must be reviewed every five years. The current policy was last published in 2016 and so a review and publication was now due.

The report outlined the approach taken to review the existing Statement of Licensing Policy and the next steps in readiness for ongoing approval up to the Council Meeting on 21 January 2021.

It was commented that some councillors experienced frustration in relation to the strict parameters within which applications for licences under the Licensing Act 2003 were dealt with, with particular relevance to objections and the public nature in which those must be made. In response, it was stated that this was governed by the requirements of the Act and the Council had no discretion to alter this.

RESOLVED – That the Council Meeting be recommended to approve and adopt the Statement of Licensing Policy.

14. 2019 FLOODING - FINAL INVESTIGATION REPORT (SS13)

The Cabinet Member for Sustainable Stockport (Councillor Sheila Bailey) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) presenting the various aspects of the flood events in July 2019 when areas across Northern England were hit by a low-pressure weather system and experienced periods of intense and significant rainfall that also incorporated the Final Independent Section 19 Investigation Report in accordance with the Flood & Water Management Act (FWMA) 2010 on the investigation into the flooding events undertaken independently by Mott MacDonald Consulting Engineers.

RESOLVED - (1) That approval be given to the final Section 19 report.

(2) That approved be given to the proposed response as detailed in the report and that it be requested that an annual Flood Resilience Plan be brought to Communities and Housing Scrutiny Committee each year.

15. SUSTAINABLE MODES OF TRANSPORT TO SCHOOL (CFS&E3/ SS16)

The Cabinet Member for Cabinet Member for Children, Family Services & Education (Councillor Colin Foster) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) outlining the Council's statutory duty under the Education and Inspections Act 2006 to promote sustainable travel to school; detailing a review of the existing strategy, and outlining a proposed Sustainable Modes of School Travel Strategy for 2020 to 2025.

RESOLVED - That approval be given to the adoption of the proposed Sustainable Modes of School Travel Strategy as the Council's Strategy for sustainable school travel promotion until 2025.

General Items

16. COUNCIL SIZE SUBMISSION REPORT IN RESPONSE TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION REQUIREMENT FOR REVIEW

The Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Resources, Commissioning & Governance (Councillor Tom McGee) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) detailing the progress of the ongoing electoral review being undertaken in Stockport by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England and detailing a proposed draft Council Size Submission Report.

RESOLVED - That the Council Meeting be recommended to give approval to the Council Size Submission Report.

17. PUBLIC MORTUARY AND AUTOPSY RELATED POST MORTEM SERVICES

The Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Resources, Commissioning & Governance (Councillor Tom McGee) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) detailing a proposal for the extension of the contract between the Council and

Tameside Hospital NHS Foundation Trust in relation to the provision of Public Mortuary and Autopsy Related Post Mortem Services.

RESOLVED – That approval be given to the extension of the contract between the Council and Tameside Hospital NHS Foundation Trust in relation to the provision of Public Mortuary and Autopsy Related Post Mortem Services on the terms identified in the report.

18. STOCKPORT COUNCIL MODERN SLAVERY STATEMENT REVIEW

The Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Resources, Commissioning & Governance (Councillor Tom McGee) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) identifying that in September 2018, the Council Meeting had given approval to a motion condemning the practice of modern slavery and that the Council had subsequently signed a Modern Slavery Charter.

It was noted that one of the Charter's commitments was to publish a Modern Slavery Statement that sets out the measures the council had implemented to ensure its supply chains were not linked to modern slavery, as well as further measures it intended to implement.

RESOLVED - That approval be given to the adoption of the second iteration of the Stockport Council Modern Slavery Statement for the period up to 31 March 2022 as detailed in the report.

19. GMCA DECISIONS - 25 SEPTEMBER, 30 OCTOBER AND 27 NOVEMBER 2020

The Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Resources, Commissioning & Governance (Councillor Tom McGee) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) setting out decisions taken by the GMCA at its meetings on 25 September, 30 October and 27 November 2020.

RESOLVED – That the decisions be noted.

Performance and Budget Monitoring

20. CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES - MID-YEAR REPORT 2020/21

The Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Resources, Commissioning & Governance (Councillor Tom McGee) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) providing a summary of progress in delivering the Council's priority outcomes and budget in the first half of the financial year, with a particular focus on the second quarter of 2020/21 (July – Sept) and up to the end of October where possible.

Councillor McGee extended the thanks of the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet to all of its staff and those of its partners in the way in which it had dealt with very challenging circumstances.

RESOLVED - That in relation to the Corporate Performance and Resources Mid-Year Reports 2020/21, the Cabinet has:-

- reviewed progress against delivering Council priorities and capital schemes alongside budget and performance forecasts contained within the report;
- noted the key achievements against Shared Priorities (Section 1) and analysis of corporate performance for 2020/21 (Section 2);
- approved the virements to the Revenue Budget set out in section 3.2;
- noted the Cash Limit and Non-Cash Limit forecast positions for 2020/21 as set out in section 3.3;
- noted the Dedicated Schools Grant, Housing Revenue Account and Collection Fund forecast positions as set out in sections 3.4, 3.5 and 3.6;
- noted the appropriations to/from reserves and balances as set out in section 3.7 and noted the resulting reserves and balances position as at 31 October 2020;
- noted the financial impact of the Covid-19 pandemic set out in section 3.8;
- noted the position for the 2020/21 Capital Programme as set out in section 4.1;
- noted the changes and re-phasing of capital schemes during the quarter as set out in 4.2 to 4.4;
- approved the resourcing of the capital programme as set out in section 4.5;
- approved the 2020/21 prudential indicators as set out in section 4.6; and
- identified key areas for further investigation and responsibility for taking forward corrective action to address any existing or outturn issues or risks.

21. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY AND ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY MID-YEAR REVIEW REPORT 2020/21 (RCG21)

The Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Resources, Commissioning & Governance (Councillor Tom McGee) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) providing the Cabinet with a mid-year review of the Council's Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy for 2020/21 approved by Council on 27 February 2020 and has been prepared in accordance with the CIPFA Code of Practice for Treasury Management in the Public Services.

RESOLVED – (1) That the report and the treasury activity in the first half of the financial year be noted.

(2) That the revised interest rate forecasts for Bank rate and PWLB rates over the short and medium-term, which will drive the Council's long-term borrowing strategies going forward be noted.

22. STOCKPORT BILLING AREA - 2020/21 COUNCIL TAXBASE AND NON- DOMESTIC RATES FORECAST

The Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Resources, Commissioning & Governance (Councillor Tom McGee) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) inviting the Cabinet to consider the forecast Collection Fund outturn position for 2020/21, the setting of the Council Tax Taxbase for 2021/22 and a forecast for Business Rates income for 2021/22.

RESOLVED – (1) That in relation to the Stockport Billing Area - 2021/22 Council Tax Taxbase and Non Domestic Rates forecast, the Cabinet has agreed to:-

- Declare a provisional forecast outturn Collection Fund deficit of £48.543m in 2020/21 relating to a Council Tax deficit of £5.603m and Business Rates deficit of £42.940m;
- Declare a provisional forecast outturn Collection Fund deficit to be reimbursed to the Council's General Fund in 2021/22 of £47.271m relating to a Council Tax deficit of £4.760m and Business Rates deficit of £42.511m;
- Note the 2021/22 Council Tax Taxbase for budget setting purposes of 95,945.1 Band D equivalent dwellings. The Council's final 2021/22 Council Tax Taxbase will be presented for approval to the Council meeting on 21 January 2021;
- Provisionally approve the 2021/22 forecast for Business Rates income of £77.055m; and
- Note the forecast 100% Pilot benefit from the 2020/21 Pilot of £2.966m.

(2) That the following decisions be delegated to the Corporate Director (Corporate and Support Services) and Deputy Chief Executive in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Resources, Commissioning and Governance:-

- the decision to change the in-year provisional forecast outturn Collection Fund position in 2020/21 prior to declaring the position by 31 January 2021;
- the decision to continue in the Greater Manchester and Cheshire Business Rates pooling arrangement; and
- the decision to vary the Business Rates forecast presented in Table 7 and Table 8.

23. TO CONSIDER RECOMMENDATIONS OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

There were no recommendations to consider.

Items 'Not for Publication'

24. BHS - REDEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS (E&R51)

The Cabinet Member for Economy & Regeneration (Councillor David Meller) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) detailing a proposal for the redevelopment of the former BHS store, acquired by the Council in July 2019, into three units, with new public realm to provide grade level access to the front of the store, a rear access leading to a first floor unit and a new shopfront.

(NOTE: This item contained a not for publication appendix that had been circulated to members of the Cabinet only).

RESOLVED - (1) That approval be given to the redevelopment of the former BHS store as outlined in the report.

(2) That authority be delegated to the Corporate Director (Place) and Deputy Chief Executive, and the Corporate Director (Corporate and Support Services) and Deputy Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Economy & Regeneration to:

- Appoint a contractor to deliver the refurbishment works and execute any necessary letter of intent or other agreement, pending resolution of the final contract, to maintain progress.

- Take any action needed to resolve issues that may hinder the delivery of this project within the planned programme and budget.
- Agree the final terms of the occupational interests with the proposed tenants.

(3) That authority be delegated to the Strategic Head of Service (Legal & Democratic Governance) to do all things necessary or incidental to the implementation of the above-mentioned resolutions.

25. FORMER RITZ CINEMA CAR PARK AND FORMER GREENHALE HOUSE DISPOSAL (E&R58)

The Cabinet Member for Economy & Regeneration (Councillor David Meller) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) setting out and summarising the marketing campaigns that have recently concluded on two key town centre development sites and seeking approval for the disposal of the former Ritz Cinema car park (also known as 'land at Piccadilly' and 'Fletcher Street') and the former Greenhale House site.

(NOTE: The report contained a 'not for publication' appendix that had been circulated to members of the Cabinet only).

RESOLVED – (1) That approval be given to the proposal to dispose of the former Ritz Cinema car park in line with the recommendation report in Confidential Appendix 2 and the Heads of Terms as detailed in Confidential Appendix 4.

(2) That approval be given That approval be given to the proposal to dispose of the former Greenhale House in line with the recommendation report in Confidential Appendix 2 and the Heads of Terms as detailed in Confidential Appendix 5.

(3) That authority be delegated to the Corporate Director (Place) & Deputy Chief Executive and Corporate Director (Corporate and Support Services) & Deputy Chief Executive in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Economy and Regeneration and the Cabinet Member for Resources, Commissioning and Governance to negotiate and agree the detailed final terms relating to the disposal of the interests in the two subject sites.

(4) That authority be delegated to the Strategic Head of Service (Legal & Democratic Governance) to do all things necessary or incidental to the implementation of the above-mentioned resolutions.

26. ACTIVE COMMUNITIES: ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMUNITY INTEREST COMPANY TO DELIVER ACTIVE COMMUNITIES PROGRAMMES AND OPERATE COUNCIL-OWNED LEISURE CENTRES (SS15)

The Cabinet Member for Sustainable Stockport (Councillor Sheila Bailey) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) detailing proposals to move to new delivery arrangements for Council-owned leisure facilities and Active Communities programmes.

(NOTE: The report contained a 'not for publication' appendix that had been circulated to members of the Cabinet only).

RESOLVED - (1) That authorisation be given to the establishment of a Community Interest Company to deliver active communities programmes on behalf of the Council and to operate Council owned leisure centres, subject to:

- (i) the development of a detailed business case and benefit rationalisation for moving to a Community Interest Company with advice on the optimum timescale and scope of services to minimise overall Council spend on active communities/leisure whilst maximising the impact of interventions to improve levels of physical activity in the Borough.
- (ii) the development of a detailed implementation and transition plan to move from current arrangements to a Community Interest Company at an appropriate time which minimises overall Council spend on active communities/leisure whilst maximising the impact of interventions to improve levels of physical activity in the Borough.

(2) That authority be delegated to the Corporate Director (Place) & Deputy Chief Executive and Corporate Director (Corporate & Support Services) & Deputy Chief Executive, in consultation with the Cabinet Members for Sustainable Stockport and Resources, Commissioning & Governance to take all action necessary to establish the Community Interest Company and transfer services to the new organisation.

The meeting closed at 8.35 pm