

CABINET MEETING

Meeting: 14 March 2023

At: 6.00 pm

PRESENT

Councillor Wendy Meikle (Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Children, Families & Education) (Vice-Chair) in the chair; Councillors Malcolm Allan (Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources), Grace Baynham (Cabinet Member for Highways, Parks and Leisure Services), Helen Foster-Grime (Cabinet Member for Communities & Housing), Keith Holloway (Cabinet Member for Health & Adult Social Care), Colin MacAlister (Cabinet Member for Economy & Regeneration) and Mark Roberts (Cabinet Member for Climate Change & Environment).

1. MINUTES

The Minutes (copies of which had been circulated) of the meeting held on 31 January 2023 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.

The following interest was declared:-

Personal Interest

Councillor

Interest

Grace Baynham

Agenda Item 15 – ‘Stockport Rail Station Regeneration Update’ as her husband was an employee of Network Rail.

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.

One public question was submitted relating to whether the Cabinet would agree to the undertaking of a public consultation in respect of the proposals contained within agenda item 22 – ‘Adlington Walk Future High Streets Fund’ that would include an option to oppose the changes and to retain the current library service in full in the Central Library building.

The Cabinet Member for Economy & Regeneration (Councillor Colin MacAlister) responded that the Council remained committed to delivering high quality library services in the town centre, and that the opening of Stockroom would enable the Council to widen library service provision. It was stated that there remained a commitment to retain significant library services within the Central Library building as well as providing a new home for adult education services.

It was further stated that Stockport was an outlier as an authority that was not reducing library services, but rather increasing library provision and was equally proud that this would include the retention of services within Central Library as well as a new facility at Stockroom.

5. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PUBLIC INTEREST TEST

The Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Children, Families & Education (Councillor Wendy Meikle) invited the Cabinet to consider whether to exclude the public and press from the meeting during consideration of agenda items 22 and 23 as they contained information that was 'not for publication' within its appendices.

RESOLVED – That in order to prevent the disclosure of information which was not for publication relating to the financial or business affairs of the any particular person (including the authority), the disclosure of which would not be in the public interest, would not be fair and would be in breach of Data Protection principles, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the 'not for publication' appendices to agenda item 22 - 'Adlington Walk Future High Streets Fund' and 23 – 'Merseyway Update'.

Scrutiny Review Final Reports

6. SCRUTINY REVIEW PANEL - GROWTH IN FREE SCHOOL MEALS FINAL REPORT

The Vice Chair of the Children & Families Scrutiny Committee and Lead Councillor for the Review (Councillor Linda Holt) attended the meeting to present the final report of the Scrutiny Review 'Growth in Free School Meals' (copies of which had been circulated) and to answer questions from the Cabinet.

RESOLVED - (1) That the Director of Education, Work & Skills be requested to prepare a response to the "Growth in Free School Meals Scrutiny Review and the recommendations contained therein for consideration by the Cabinet at a future meeting.

(2) That the gratitude of the Cabinet be recorded for the excellent work undertaken by the Scrutiny Review Panel 'Growth in Free School Meals' and others involved in the Review.

7. SCRUTINY REVIEW PANEL - ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CASE FOR METROLINK IN STOCKPORT FINAL REPORT

The Vice Chair of the Economy & Regeneration Scrutiny Committee and Lead Councillor for the Review (Councillor David Meller) attended the meeting to present the final report of the Scrutiny Review 'Economic and Social case for Metrolink in Stockport' (copies of which had been circulated) and to answer questions from the Cabinet.

Councillor Meller stated that he wished to specifically highlight the recommendations in relation to prioritising public transport infrastructure over road building and that the ongoing work of the Stockport Mayoral Development Corporation should be leveraged as much as possible to help deliver Metrolink into the borough.

The Cabinet Member for Economy & Regeneration (Councillor Colin MacAlister) responded by welcoming the report and stating that it was a priority for the Council to have Metrolink extended to Stockport and that all development in the town centre was considered with the retention and preservation of viable routes into the borough in mind.

RESOLVED - (1) That the Director of Place Management be requested to prepare a response to the 'Economic and Social Case for Metrolink' Scrutiny Review and the recommendations contained therein for consideration by the Cabinet at a future meeting.

(2) That the gratitude of the Cabinet be recorded for the excellent work undertaken by the Scrutiny Review Panel 'Economic and Social Case for Metrolink' and others involved in the Review.

8. SCRUTINY REVIEW PANEL - LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL AND GOVERNANCE SUSTAINABILITY FINAL REPORT

The Vice Chair of the Corporate, Resource Management & Governance Scrutiny Committee and Lead Councillor for the Review (Councillor Mike Hurleston) attended the meeting to present the final report of the Scrutiny Review 'Local Government Financial and Governance Sustainability' (copies of which had been circulated) and to answer questions from the Cabinet.

RESOLVED - (1) That the Deputy Chief Executive be requested to prepare a response to the "Local Government Financial and Governance Sustainability" Scrutiny Review and the recommendations contained therein for consideration by the Cabinet at a future meeting.

(2) That the gratitude of the Cabinet be recorded for the excellent work undertaken by the Scrutiny Review Panel 'Local Government Financial and Governance Sustainability' and others involved in the Review.

Performance and Budget Monitoring

9. CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES QUARTER 3 UPDATE REPORT

The Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources (Councillor Malcolm Allan) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) detailing the Corporate Performance and Resources Third Quarter Update Report setting out the delivery of the Council's priority outcomes and budget since mid-year, with a particular focus on the fourth and final quarter.

RESOLVED - (1) That progress against delivering council priorities and capital schemes alongside budget and performance forecasts contained within the report be reviewed and noted.

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- (2) That the key achievements and other issues quarter in each of the councils seven portfolios (in the Executive Summary) and analysis of corporate performance for 2022/23 (Section 2 – Corporate Performance: Overview and Analysis) be noted.
- (3) That the Cash Limit and Non-Cash Limit forecast positions for 2022/23 as set out in section 3.3 and 3.6 of the report be noted.
- (4) That the update to the council's positive investments as set out in section 3.4 of the report be noted.
- (5) That the update on the council's Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) investments plan set out in section 3.5 of the report be noted.
- (6) That the Dedicated Schools Grant, Housing Revenue Account and Collection Fund forecast positions as set out in sections 3.7, 3.8, and 3.9 of the report be noted.
- (7) That the appropriations to/from reserves and balances as set out in section 3.10 of the report and the resulting reserves and balances position as of 31 December 2022 be noted.
- (8) That the position for the 2022/23 Capital Programme as set out in section 4.1 of the report be noted.
- (9) That the adjustments and re-phasing of capital schemes during the quarter as set out in section 4.2 of the report be noted.
- (10) That approval be given to the resourcing of the capital programme as set out in section 4.3 of the report.
- (11) That approval be given to the 2022/23 prudential indicators as set out in section 4.4 of the report.

Key Decisions

10. FUTURE PROVISION OF BEREAVEMENT SERVICES (HP&L3)

The Cabinet Member for Highways, Parks & Leisure Services (Councillor Grace Baynham) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) detailing a proposal to seek delegated approval to implement new arrangements for managing the borough's bereavement services.

RESOLVED - (1) That authority be delegated to the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Place Management in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Highways, Parks and Leisure Services in relation to responsibility for the review of options.

(2) That authority be delegated to the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Place Management in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Highways, Parks and Leisure Services for the award of any contract.

11. ANNUAL PAY POLICY STATEMENT (F&R15)

The Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources (Councillor Malcolm Allan) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) detailing the Council's Annual Pay Policy Statement and Gender Pay Gap figures for 2022.

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.

12. ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN 2023/24 - 2027-28 (GENERAL EXCEPTION)

The Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources (Councillor Malcolm Allan) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) detailing a proposed Asset Management Plan for 2023/24 setting out details of the capital programme for 2023/24 and the indicative programmes to be delivered through to 2027/28.

RESOLVED - (1) That approval be given to the programme for 2023/24 and the financing thereof, and the Indicative Asset Management Plan programme for up to 2027/28, as set out in the report.

(2) That approval be given to the application of corporate resources to fund the Asset Management Plan programme 2023/24 to 2027/28; with the application of funding types (capital receipts and borrowing) being delegated to the Deputy Chief Executive (S151 Officer) in conjunction with the Capital Board.

(3) That the Director of Development & Regeneration be authorised to award construction contracts as required to deliver the works programme.

13. ANNUAL RESIDENTIAL/ NURSING CARE, HOME CARE AND OTHER CARE MANAGEMENT FEE SETTING 2023/2024 (H&ASC3)

The Cabinet Member for Health & Adult Social Care (Councillor Keith Holloway) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) detailing the 2023/24 fee setting recommendations for the most significant areas of externally commissioned services within Adult Social Care.

It was commented that there were a number of inflationary pressures that contribute to increased costs within Adult Social Care not least of which was the cost of staff. It was further noted that in this regard, many care homes and domiciliary care providers were in direct competition with the hospitality and retail sectors.

RESOLVED – That approval be given to the fee setting approach, including fee uplifts as set out in the report.

14. REVISED DIRECT PAYMENTS POLICY (H&ASC4)

The Cabinet Member for Health & Adult Social Care (Councillor Keith Holloway) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) outlining proposals for a new Direct Payment policy that had been reviewed following consultation and adapted to ensure that it was easier to read and understand.

RESOLVED - (1) That approval be given to the new Direct Payment policy.

(2) That the outcome of the Equality Impact Assessment be noted.

(3) That the implementation plans be noted.

15. STOCKPORT RAIL STATION REGENERATION UPDATE (E&R91)

The Cabinet Member for Economy & Regeneration (Councillor Colin MacAlister) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) providing an update on the Stockport Station Project, including progress on the project to date and the planned next steps.

RESOLVED - (1) That the contents of the report and progress on the project be noted.

(2) That the approach to the development and submission of the business case be endorsed.

(3) That authority be delegated to the Director of Development and Regeneration, the Director of Place Management, and the Deputy Chief Executive (Corporate and Support Services), in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Economy and Regeneration for the following:

- The council, in its role as accountable body to sign off and submit the business case documents for the Stockport Railway Station project.
- The council, in its role as accountable body to enter into all required funding agreements, and associated terms with Avanti West Coast and Network Rail.
- Authority to enter all contract, partner, land and procurement arrangements, and to seek permissions, including planning permissions, as required to build and operate or manage, as appropriate, reporting back as necessary and appropriate to the Cabinet.
- Authority to approve the final schemes and their construction programme following approval of the final business cases.
- Authority to enter into agreement with the landowners for temporary access rights and purchase the land necessary to construct the schemes.
- Agree to authorise officers to enter into final negotiations with affected landowners to agree heads of terms for land purchase by agreement.

(4) That authority be delegated to the Assistant Director for Legal and Democratic Governance to do all things necessary or incidental to the implementation of the abovementioned resolutions.

16. UNITED KINGDOM SHARED PROSPERITY FUND - STOCKPORT ARRANGEMENTS (E&R92)

The Cabinet Member for Economy & Regeneration (Councillor Colin MacAlister) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) detailing the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) Communities and Place funding allocation for Stockport and the proposed governance arrangements.

RESOLVED - (1) That the content of the report be noted, including the approach relating to Stockport's UKSPF investment plan for Communities & Place and the suitability of the proposed governance model for any future Support for Local Business and the People and Skills elements of UKSPF, once they are approved.

(2) That authority be delegated to the Director of Development and Regeneration who will approve funding allocations for projects in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Economy & Regeneration, to oversee and approve the delivery of activities relating to Stockport's investment plan.

(3) That it be noted that the Cabinet and Economy & Regeneration Scrutiny Committee will receive copies of the regular reporting on the project bids and agreed funding allocations, and any other updates on UKSPF.

General Items

17. AREA COMMITTEE BOUNDARIES

The Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources (Councillor Malcolm Allan) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) detailing proposed arrangements for the boundaries of Area Committee for the 2023/24 municipal year following a review of the warding arrangements for the borough undertaken by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

RESOLVED - That the Council Meeting be recommended to give approval to the adoption of the arrangements for area committees, as identified in Section 3.5 of the report, subject to an item being included within the Constitution Working's Party's work programme for 2023/24 to give further consideration to this matter, including scope for a possible radical realignment of area committee boundaries.

18. COUNCIL MEETING PROCEDURE RULES - AMENDMENTS

The Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources (Councillor Malcolm Allan) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) detailing a proposal for the amendment of the Council Meeting Procedure Rules to introduce a deadline for the submission of amendments to motions on notice at the Council Meeting.

It was commented that the current arrangements whereby members are given up to 20 minutes to consider an amendment during a meeting was insufficient and the proposal within the report provided a sensible approach to resolve this issue.

RESOLVED – That the proposed amendments to the Council Meeting Procedure Rules, as detailed in paragraphs 4.2 and 4.3 of the report, be referred to the Council Meeting, noting that the matter would be required to stand adjourned until the next ordinary meeting of the Council Meeting on 13 July 2023.

19. NOMINATIONS FOR THE MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR 2023/24

The Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Children, Families & Education (Councillor Wendy Meikle) invited the Cabinet to consider nominations for the Mayor and Deputy Mayor for the 2023/24 Civic Year.

RESOLVED – That the Leader of the Council be authorised to nominate Councillors Graham Greenhalgh and Kerry Waters for the positions of Mayor and Deputy Mayor respectively for the 2023/24 municipal year.

20. GMCA DECISIONS

The Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Children, Families & Education submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) setting out decisions taken by the GMCA at its meetings on 27 January and 10 February 2023.

RESOLVED – That the decisions be noted.

21. TO CONSIDER RECOMMENDATIONS OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

There were none to consider.

Items including information 'not for publication'

22. ADLINGTON WALK FUTURE HIGH STREETS FUND (C&H38/ E&R89)

The Cabinet Member for Economy & Regeneration (Councillor Colin MacAlister) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) providing an update on progress relating to the delivery of Stockroom and proposals to seek Cabinet approval to delegate entering into a build contract and additional finance in light of construction inflationary pressures.

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

RESOLVED - (1) That approval be given to the additional financial commitment from the Council to progress with the project as detailed in the report.

(2) That the headline offer and overall vision for Stockroom and the benefits to the Council and the people of Stockport this will bring be endorsed.

(3) That authority be delegated to the Director of Development and Regeneration and the Deputy Chief Executive in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Economy and Regeneration to enter into contract with the contractor to build Stockroom for a target cost of £13.5m

(4) That authority be delegated the Assistant Director (Legal & Democratic Governance) to do all things necessary to enter into contract with the contractor.

23. MERSEYWAY UPDATE (E&R93)

The Cabinet Member for Economy & Regeneration (Councillor Colin MacAlister) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) detailing a proposal to enter into contract with a contractor to begin the main refurbishment works on the former BHS store.

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

RESOLVED - (1) That approval be given to the appointment of a contractor to begin main construction works to the former BHS store as detailed in the report.

(2) That authority be delegated to the Deputy Chief Executive and the Director of Development & Regeneration; in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Economy and Regeneration to approve the final terms and enter into the build contract with the main contractor.

(3) That authority be delegated to the Assistant Director (Legal & Democratic Governance) to do all things necessary to enter into contract with the contractor.

The meeting closed at 7.14 pm