

CABINET MEETING

Meeting: 12 March 2024

At: 6.00 pm

PRESENT

Councillor Mark Hunter (Leader of the Council) (Chair) in the chair; Councillor Mark Roberts (Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Climate Change & Environment) (Vice-Chair); Councillors Grace Baynham (Cabinet Member for Parks, Highways & Transport Services), Keith Holloway (Cabinet Member for Health & Adult Social Care), Jilly Julian (Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources), Colin MacAlister (Cabinet Member for Economy, Regeneration & Housing), Wendy Meikle (Cabinet Member for Children, Families & Education) and Frankie Singleton (Cabinet Member for Communities, Culture & Sport).

The Chief Executive

The Chair reported that as this was the first formal council meeting since the announcement that Caroline Simpson was to be appointed as the new Chief Executive of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, he wished to place on record the Cabinet's thanks for her immense contribution to the work of the Council.

It was stated that Caroline had served Stockport extremely well over the whole of her eight years at the Authority, and in particular for the last two as the Council's Chief Executive where she had led a dedicated team of senior colleagues with flair and distinction as a committed public servant.

The Chair congratulated Caroline on being appointed to the biggest job in local government as Chief Executive of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority and although the Council would miss her day-to-day involvement in Stockport, it would undoubtedly be a good thing to have a powerful friend and ally at the Combined Authority.

It was emphasised that there would be no loss of momentum in the Council's determination to take Stockport forward and plans were already being made to appoint a successor with a meeting of the Appointments Committee already scheduled to take place on 21 March 2024. It was confirmed that the recruitment process had already started and consultants were to be appointed shortly to head up a full external recruitment process.

Finally, the Chair confirmed that Caroline would continue in her current role in the short-term and play a full part in the seamless transition to the next stage in the Council's journey.

1. MINUTES

The Minutes (copies of which had been circulated) of the meeting held on 30 January 2024 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.

One public question was submitted where the questioner was not in attendance at the meeting and in accordance with the Code of Practice, the Chief Executive was requested to respond to the questioner in writing.

5. SCRUTINY REVIEW FINAL REPORT – SERVICES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE (NON-KEY)

The Vice Chair of the Children & Families Scrutiny Committee and Lead Councillor for the Review (Councillor Janet Mobbs) attended the meeting to present the final report of the Scrutiny Review into Services for Young People (copies of which had been circulated) and to answer questions from the Cabinet.

The following comments were made/ issues raised:-

- It was noted that the Stockport Youth Summit had taken place on 6 February 2024 involving high schools across the borough as well as many networks of young people from school councils to other youth forums which aimed to capture the views of young people.
- The 7,008 diversionary holiday activities for young people that were provided by Stockport Youth Justice Service and Targeted Youth Support Service was highlighted.
- Holiday activities and Food Programme that was run during school holidays provided an active and stimulating space for young people and makes a direct difference to children across the borough.

RESOLVED - (1) That the Director of Education, Work & Skills be requested to prepare a response to the Services for Young People 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 'Services for Young People' and others involved in the Review.

6. SCRUTINY REVIEW FINAL REPORT - IT SYSTEMS AND DATA (NON-KEY)

The Lead Councillor for the Review (Councillor Geoff Abell) attended the meeting to present the final report of the Scrutiny Review into IT Systems and Data (copies of which had been circulated) and to answer questions from the Cabinet.

RESOLVED - (1) That the Director of Adult Social Care be requested to prepare a response to the IT Systems and Data 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 'IT Systems and Data' and others involved in the Review.

7. TREASURY MANAGEMENT Q3 REPORT 2023/24 (F&R30)

The Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources (Councillor Jilly Julian) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) providing an update on the operation and effectiveness of the Council's Treasury Management function for quarter three of 2023/24.

RESOLVED - (1) That the report and treasury activity be noted.

(2) That approval be given to any necessary changes to the prudential indicators.

8. 2023/24 QUARTER 3 BUDGET MONITORING UPDATE (NON-KEY)

The Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources (Councillor Jilly Julian) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) providing an update on the revenue budget forecast outturn for the period to the end of December 2023 (Quarter 30 which also provided an update on the Dedicated Schools Grant, Housing Revenue Account (HRA), Collection Fund and updates to the Capital Programme.

It was commented that the Council's reserves position did not make the authority an outlier, but represented a healthy position that allowed the Council to weather troughs.

RESOLVED - (1) That the cash limit and non-cash limit forecast outturn positions for 2023/24 as at Quarter 3 be noted.

(2) That the DSG, HRA and Collection Fund forecast outturn positions for 2023/24 as at Quarter 3 be noted.

(3) That the update on Reserves be noted.

(4) That the forecast position for the 2023/24 Capital Programme be noted.

(5) That the changes to the Capital Programme and re-phasing of schemes during Quarter 3 be noted.

(6) That the 2023/24 Capital Programme Prudential Indicators be noted.

Key Decisions

9. ANNUAL PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2024/25 (F&R31)

The Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources (Councillor Jilly Julian) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) detailing the Council's Annual Pay Policy Statement for 224/25 and the Gender Pay Gap figures.

It was noted that the for the first time, there was a negative gender pay gap in Stockport showing that women received higher hourly rates of pay than men when calculated by either the mean or median hourly rate.

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.

10. ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN 2024-2025 (F&R31)

The Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources (Councillor Jilly Julian) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) detailing a proposed Asset Management Plan (AMP) for 2023/24 setting out details of the capital programme for 2024/25 and the indicative programmes for future years.

RESOLVED - (1) That approval be given to the programme for 2024-25 and the financing thereof, and the Indicative AMP programme for future years, as set out in the report.

(2) That approval be given to the application of corporate resources to fund the AMP programme 2024/25 onwards; 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 Regeneration & Development be authorised to award construction contracts as required to deliver the works programme.

11. ONE STOCKPORT: ONE FUTURE UPDATE (F&R32)

The Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources (Councillor Jilly Julian) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) providing an update on the development of One Stockport One Future following engagement with local organisations, businesses, young people, and elected members.

RESOLVED - (1) That approval be given to the report, accompanying presentation and engagement report to be developed into a One Future document and supporting promotional material to support with the communication of our ambition.

(2) That authority be delegated to the Director of Strategy, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources, for oversight of the finalisation of the One Future document.

12. AFFORDABLE HOUSING ACQUISITION: VINE STREET, HAZEL GROVE (ER&H9)

The Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources (Councillor Jilly Julian) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) detailing a proposal to authorise the purchase of 12 recently constructed residential units at Vine Street, Hazel Grove to be used for shared ownership affordable housing.

It was stated that the Council was taking every opportunity to increase the number of affordable homes in the borough and that there were a further 170 units in the pipeline.

RESOLVED - That approval be given to the purchase of 12 recently constructed residential units at Vine Street, Hazel Grove on the basis and terms outlined in the report subject to the purchase conditions outlined in section 3 being met.

13. STOCKPORT COUNTY FC - LONG LEASEHOLD (GENERAL EXCEPTION)

The Cabinet Member for Economy, Regeneration & Housing (Councillor Colin MacAlister) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) detailing proposals for revised terms for the grant of a 250 year lease of Edgeley Park to Stockport County Football Club.

(1) That approval be given to the terms of the proposed 250 year lease for Edgeley Park between the Council and Stockport County Football Club.

(2) That authority be delegated to the Director of Development and Regeneration and Deputy Chief Executive (Corporate and Support Services), in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources to complete the transaction; and

(3) That authority be delegated to the Assistant Director (Legal & Democratic Governance), to take such steps and complete such agreements as are necessary to implement the resolutions recommended in this report and any decisions properly made under authority delegated by these resolutions.

14. ANTI-POVERTY OBJECTIVES 2024-2027 (CC&S1)

The Cabinet Member for Communities, Culture & Sport (Councillor Frankie Singleton) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) outlining proposed Anti-Poverty objectives for 2024-2027 that aimed to set out priorities for tackling poverty.

It was commented that there had been positive engagement with the Communities & Transport Scrutiny Committee that had contributed to the development of the proposed objectives.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted and that approval be given to the proposed Anti-Poverty objectives for 2024-2027.

15. SCHOOL INVESTMENT PLAN (CF&E6)

The Cabinet Member for Children, Families & Education (Councillor Wendy Meikle) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) detailing a proposed school investment plan that set out how the council would carry out its responsibility to ensure

there were sufficient places in good and improving local inclusive schools at the heart of the community that children and families want to go to.

RESOLVED - (1) That approval be given to the terms outlined in the strategy and the associated investment detailed in the Education Asset Management Plan (Appendix 2).

(2) That authority be delegated to the Director for Development and Regeneration to procure the works and services, and subsequently determine the outcome of any contract award process for any project specified in the asset management plan.

(3) That authority be delegated to the Director for Education, Work, and Skills and Deputy Chief Executive to enter into funding agreements with schools and to release basic need funding to schools who are working with the LA to create additional mainstream or resource base places as specified in the 2023/24 asset management plan approved by Cabinet in January 2023 and the 2024/25 asset management plan in Appendix 2 of this report.

(4) That authority be delegated to the Director of Education, Work, and Skills and Deputy Chief Executive to determine the allocation of up to £2m of basic need funds to schools who work with the LA to create additional mainstream or resource base places in the secondary phase.

(5) That authority be delegated to the Director for Education, Work, and Skills and Deputy Chief Executive to enter into funding agreements with schools determined in the above and to release basic need funding to those schools.

16. ANNUAL RESIDENTIAL/ NURSING CARE, HOME CARE AND OTHER CARE MANAGEMENT FEE SETTING 2024/ 2025 (H&ASC4)

The Cabinet Member for Health & Adult Social Care (Councillor Keith Holloway) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) outlining the commissioning proposals and 2024/25 fee setting for the most significant areas of externally commissioned service provision for adults with care needs.

RESOLVED - That approval be given to the fee setting approach, including fee uplifts, as detailed in the report.

General Items

17. STOCKPORT CAN FUND (NON-KEY)

The Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Climate Change & Environment (Councillor Mark Roberts) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) detailing proposals for a new iteration of the Climate Action Now (CAN) Fund, which included two funding streams: the CAN Catalyst Fund and the CAN Seed Fund

RESOLVED – That the approach detailed in the report for next iteration of Stockport CAN Fund be approved and endorsed.

18. PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE SCHEME OF DELEGATION FOR DETERMINING PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND THE PLANNING PROTOCOL (NON-KEY)

The Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources (Councillor Jilly Julian) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) detailing proposals to make a number of changes to the scheme of delegation for the determination of planning applications and amendments to the Planning Protocol to ensure that it reflects accurately long-standing custom and practice in how the Council exercised its planning powers

RESOLVED – That the Council Meeting be recommended to approve and adopt the proposed changes to the Scheme of Delegation for Determining Planning Applications and the Planning Protocol as detailed in the report and associated appendices.

19. DISCLOSURE AND BARRING SERVICE CHECKS FOR ELECTED MEMBERS (NON-KEY)

The Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources (Councillor Jilly Julian) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) detailing a proposal for the Council to undertake enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks for elected members undertaking specified duties.

RESOLVED - That approval be given to the proposals detailed in Section 4 of the report for the undertaking of enhanced DBS checks for elected members.

20. GMCA DECISIONS

The Leader of the Council (Councillor Mark Hunter) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) setting out decisions taken by the GMCA at its meetings on 27 January, 9 February and 23 February 2024.

RESOLVED – That the decisions be noted.

21. TO CONSIDER RECOMMENDATIONS OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

There were no recommendations to consider.

The meeting closed at 7.15 pm