

CABINET MEETING

Meeting: 18 September 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), 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).

1. MINUTES

The Minutes (copies of which had been circulated) of the meetings held on 25 June and 19 July 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

The Leader of the Council (Councillor Mark Hunter) reported that following consultation with him, the Chief Executive had taken urgent action under the constitution on 29 August 2024 to appoint Councillor Jake Austin in place of Councillor Lisa Smart on the Greater Manchester Clean Air Scrutiny Committee.

It was stated that the decision had been taken as urgent action to ensure that the Council had an appointed member in place should a meeting of the scrutiny committee be convened in advance of this meeting of the Cabinet.

RESOLVED – That the action be noted.

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.

No public questions were submitted.

5. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PUBLIC INTEREST TEST

The Leader of the Council (Councillor Mark Hunter) invited the Cabinet to consider whether to exclude the public and press from the meeting during consideration of agenda item 20 – ‘Marple Active Communities Hub’ and agenda item 21 – ‘Stockport Exchange - Acquisition 72 / 74 Wellington Road South Use Of Compulsory Purchase Order Powers’ as they contained information that was ‘not for publication’ within their appendices.

RESOLVED – That in order to prevent the disclosure of information which was not for publication relating to the financial or business affairs of the any particular person (including the authority), the disclosure of which would not be in the public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 agenda item 20 – ‘Marple Active Communities Hub’ and agenda item 21 – ‘Stockport Exchange - Acquisition 72 / 74 Wellington Road South Use Of Compulsory Purchase Order Powers’ in the eventuality it was necessary to discuss the information contained within the ‘not for publication’ appendices.

6. FINAL SCRUTINY REVIEW REPORT - STOCKPORT'S COMMUNAL CORRIDORS: SECURING THE SAFETY, CLEANLINESS AND BIODIVERSITY

The Cabinet received the final report of the Scrutiny Review into Stockport's Communal Corridors: Securing the Safety, Cleanliness and Biodiversity (copies of which had been circulated).

It was commented that while the Scrutiny Review Panel was broadly supportive of the actions that the council was undertaking with regard to alleyway greening and gully cleaning, a number of comments had been made in relation to potential improvements in communications in these areas of activity.

RESOLVED - (1) The Director of Place Management be requested to prepare a response to the ‘Stockport's Communal Corridors: Securing the Safety, Cleanliness and Biodiversity’ scrutiny review and the recommendations contained therein for consideration by the Cabinet at a future meeting.

(2) The gratitude of the Cabinet be recorded for the excellent work undertaken by the Scrutiny Review Panel ‘Stockport's Communal Corridors: Securing the Safety, Cleanliness and Biodiversity’ and others involved in the Review.’

Performance and Budget Monitoring

7. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN (MTFP) (F&R35)

(i) Part A: Medium Term Financial Plan Update

The Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources (Councillor Jilly Julian) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) detailing the outcomes of the review of the council's Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) update 2024/25 to 2028/29 which highlighted the continuing financial challenges as a result of significant budget pressures due to inflationary costs and increasing need for services, and the adjustments needed to the

approved MTFP forecasts and assumptions in order to present the most accurate forecast of the council's financial position and saving requirement over the medium-term period.

The Cabinet Member commended the ongoing work of officers that had meant that the council remained well-placed to tackle the ongoing financial constraints that the local government sector found itself in. It was further stated that notwithstanding these financial challenges, the council remained optimistic for the borough and its residents.

RESOLVED - (1) That the outcomes of the MTFP update including the identified core budget pressures in Children's and Education services, the fleet loan facility vehicle depreciation, and the highlighted changes to the MTFP forecasts and assumptions approved in February be noted.

(2) That approval be given to the forecast and assumption adjustments as a result of the MTFP Update outlined in the report.

(3) That it be noted that the council's savings requirement has decreased to £24.517m in 2025/26 rising to £61.898m in 2028/29 as a result of the adjustments highlighted and subject to further review and updates during the financial year.

(4) That it be noted that due to the significant uncertainty, volatility, and risk of the financial landscape the assessment of the MTFP forecasts and assumptions will continue to be iterative with further updates to the MTFP reported to Cabinet as part of the 2025/26 budget setting process.

(5) That approval be given to the recommended use of one-off resources identified during the financial year to support the council's in-year financial position, the 2025/26 Budget and MTFP.

(i) Part B: Responding to Our Medium Term Financial Plan

The Leader of the Council (Councillor Mark Hutner) and the Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources (Councillor Jilly Julian) submitted a joint report (copies of which had been circulated) outlining the Cabinet's proposed response to addressing the uncertainty, volatility and risk outlined within the review of the medium-term financial plan (MTFP) with a focus on delivering outcomes-focused transformational change for communities and businesses across Stockport.

RESOLVED - (1) That the approach be noted, and the next steps endorsed including agreeing to share with scrutiny, for comment, the proposals which support a resilient and sustainable MTFP.

(2) That the ongoing development of our MTFP response and transformation programme be supported.

8. 2024/25 Q1 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 June 2024 (Quarter 1) which included an update on the

Dedicated Schools Grant, Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and updates to the Capital Programme, and has:-

RESOLVED - (1) That approval be given to the virements to the Revenue Budget.

(2) That the Cash Limit and Non-Cash Limit forecast outturn positions for 2024/25 as at Quarter 1 be noted.

(3) That the DSG and HRA forecast outturn positions for 2024/25 as at Quarter 1 be noted.

(4) That the update on Reserves be noted.

(5) That the forecast position for the 2024/25 Capital Programme be noted.

(6) That the changes to the Capital Programme and re-phasing of schemes during Quarter 1 be noted.

(7) That the 2024/25 Capital Programme Prudential Indicators be noted.

9. TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24 (F&R37)

The Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources (Councillor Jilly Julian) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) detailing the Annual Report on the functioning of the Council's Treasury Management functions for 2023/24.

RESOLVED – That the Council Meeting be recommended to:-

(1) Approve the actual 2023/24 prudential and treasury indicators in this report.

(2) Note the Annual Treasury Management Report for 2023/24.

10. TREASURY MANAGEMENT Q1 REPORT 2024/25 (F&R36)

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 one of 2024/25.

RESOLVED – That the report treasury activity be noted and that approval be given to any changes to the prudential indicators.

11. 2024/25 RESERVES POLICY (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 Council's Reserves Policy following the reporting of the Council's 2023/24 outturn position.

RESOLVED - (1) That the annual review of Council's 2024/25 Reserves Policy including the level and rationale for the reserves held be noted.

(2) That approval be given to the adjustments and reclassification of earmarked reserves held in line with the recommended amounts.

(3) That approval be given to the proposed 2024/25 Reserves Policy.

Key Decisions

12. CITY REGION SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT SETTLEMENTS – A6 CORRIDOR IMPROVING JOURNEYS (PH&T7)

The Cabinet Member for Parks, Highways & Transport Services (Councillor Grace Baynham) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) detailing a proposed A6 Corridor Improvement scheme that extended from Crossley Road in the north, on the boundary with Manchester to Heaton Road in the south immediately north of Stockport town centre.

The following comments were made/ issues raised:-

- The development of cycling infrastructure was an important part of encouraging model shift.
- Members expressed their thanks to officers for the significant work that had been undertaken in developing this scheme.
- The scheme had been subject to extensive consultation, including with area and scrutiny committees and it was noted that it now had the support of local members.
- The approach of the council to facilitating active travel provision as part of wider schemes such as this, was welcomed.
- It was noted that in recent years, bus patronage in Greater Manchester had reduced, and schemes such as this were an important element in arresting that decline.
- It was noted that the sustainability of schemes such as capped bus fares were predicated on seeing an increase in patronage.

RESOLVED - That approval be given to the implementation of the recommendations detailed at Appendix 2 to the report and associated further appendices.

13. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE PLAN 2024-27 (CF&E13)

The Cabinet Member for Children, Families & Education (Councillor Wendy Meikle) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) detailing a refreshed Children and Young People Plan 2024-2027 that the Stockport Family Partnership Board had collaborated to develop.

The Plan reflected the shared partnership priorities from the One Stockport Borough Plan, 'One Stockport: One Future' and the Greater Manchester shared priorities for children and young people; and was aligned with other key strategy documents including the Stockport Council Plan and the Stockport Safeguarding Children Partnership Plan. The plan also provided a focus on the children and families responsibilities set out in the Stockport One Health and Care Plan.

RESOLVED – That the Children and Young People Plan be endorsed and that the Council Meeting be recommended to approve and adopt it.

14. YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN (CF&E9)

The Cabinet Member for Children, Families & Education (Councillor Wendy Meikle) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) detailing the Youth Justice Plan 2024/2025 which outlined achievements against last years' plan, priorities for the future and opportunities/ challenges for the forthcoming year.

RESOLVED – That the endorse Youth Justice Plan 2024/25 be endorsed and that the Council Meeting be recommended to approve and adopt it.

15. SEND STRATEGY (CF&E12)

The Cabinet Member for Children, Families & Education (Councillor Wendy Meikle) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) detailing the SEND Strategy 2024-2027 which was a refresh of the previous strategy, co-produced between Stockport Council, NHS GM Stockport and SEND Partners, including but not limited to SEND Parent Carer Forum.

RESOLVED – That the SEND Strategy be approved and endorsed.

General Items

16. SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY (NON-KEY)

The Cabinet Member for Communities, Culture & Sport (Councillor Frankie Singleton) submitted a report (Copies of which had been circulated) detailing a proposal to voluntarily adopt the socio-economic duty in Stockport including the steps necessary to implementation.

RESOLVED - (1) That the delivery of activity against the Anti-Poverty 2024 – 2027 objectives be noted.

(2) That the socio-economic duty be adopted and approved given to the implementation stages.

(3) That approval be given to the council taking socio-economic disadvantage into account in terms of its public sector equality duty.

(4) That it be confirmed that the council will continue to work with partner organisations across the borough on the development and implementation of the socio-economic duty.

17. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION (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 amendments to the Constitution, including amendments to the Officer Scheme of delegations within the Officer Functions section of the Scheme of Delegation to realign some functions due to recent changes in roles and post holders; an amendment to the Individual Cabinet Member Functions; various amendments to the Proper Officer

Appointments to reflect changes in job titles; and some typographical amendments to the Confidential Reporting (Whistleblowing) Policy.

RESOLVED - That the Council Meeting be recommended to give approval to the proposed amendments to the Constitution.

18. 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 22 March, 14 June and 12 July 2024.

RESOLVED – That the decisions be noted.

19. TO CONSIDER RECOMMENDATIONS OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

There were no recommendations to consider.

Items including information 'Not for Publication'

20. MARPLE ACTIVE COMMUNITIES HUB (ER&CC12)

The Cabinet Member for Economy, Regeneration & Housing (Councillor Colin MacAlister) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) providing an update on the progress being made on the delivery of the new Marple Active Communities Hub.

(NOTE: Appendices to this report contained information 'Not for Publication' which was circulated to members of the Cabinet only).

The following comments were made/ issues raised:-

- It was noted that while residents may experience some short-term inconvenience while construction was underway, the result would be a facility that residents of Marple and the wider borough could be proud of.
- There was an opportunity for learning across the council from the development of this facility that could be used in the development of new facilities elsewhere.

RESOLVED - (1) That the contents of this report and progress on the Marple Active Communities Hub be noted.

(2) That authority be delegated to the Deputy Chief Executive and the Section 151 Officer, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Economy, Regeneration and Housing to enter into any Grant Funding Agreement or Memorandums of Understanding with the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government, or any other government department or government organisation required to deliver the scheme.

(3) That authority be delegated to the Deputy Chief Executive and the Assistant Director (Legal & Democratic Governance), in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Economy, Regeneration and Housing, 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, including the necessary Works or Services contracts, providing the funding for such contracts sits within the overall funding envelope for the project.

(4) That approval be given to the release of the full grant funding package to allow the scheme to progress to completion.

(5) That approval be given to the development and implementation of an enabling works package, and delegate authority to the Deputy Chief Executive and the Section 151 Officer, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Economy, Regeneration and Housing, to approve the Council entering into any Works or Services contracts to enable this works package to progress, to facilitate the demolition of the current Marple Library, police, and clinic buildings enabling the Marple Community Hub project to be delivered.

(6) That approval be given to the establishment of an interim Marple Library provision during the construction phase of the project.

21. STOCKPORT EXCHANGE - ACQUISITION 72 / 74 WELLINGTON ROAD SOUTH USE OF COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER POWERS (ER&H11)

The Cabinet Member for Economy, Regeneration & Housing (Councillor Colin MacAlister) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) setting out a request to use compulsory purchase powers to acquire the land and buildings comprising 72/ 74 Wellington Road South to enable the delivery of Phases 6 and 7 of the Stockport Exchange regeneration scheme.

(NOTE: Appendices to this report contained information 'Not for Publication' which was circulated to members of the Cabinet only).

The following comments were made/ issues raised:-

- Stockport Exchange was an integral part of the redevelopment of the town centre.
- The properties at 72/74 Wellington Road South were needed to achieve the aims and ambitions of the wider scheme.
- Negotiations would continue with the owners of the properties with the aim of arriving at a solution that would obviate the need to exercise compulsory purchase powers.

RESOLVED - (1) That approval in principle be given to the use of compulsory purchase powers, to acquire all the necessary interests in the Site.

(2) That approval be given to the taking of all necessary steps/the carrying out of all necessary work required to establish a case for the making of a CPO, and the preparation of all necessary CPO documentation, including securing the appointment of suitable external advisors.

(3) That approval be given to the continuance of voluntary negotiations with the Landowner, and anyone else with an interest in the Site, in parallel with the preparation of CPO documentation.

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(4) That it be noted that a further report will be presented to the Cabinet to approve the making of any CPO following the finalisation of the necessary preparatory work and CPO documentation.

(5) That authority be delegated to the Assistant Director of Legal and Democratic Governance and the Deputy Chief Executive authority to do all things necessary or incidental to the implementation of the above-mentioned resolutions.

The meeting closed at 7.01 pm