

MINUTES OF CABINET

3 DECEMBER 2018

PRESENT:

Councillors Stokes (Chairman), Mrs Crane, Lowe, Mrs Parker and Ms Robbins.

Councillors Douglas, Ms Edwards, Lewis, Mrs O'Rourke and Roodhouse were also in attendance.

39. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 October 2018 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

40. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Item 12 of Part 1 – Service Level Agreements and one-off community grants for 2019/20 – Councillor Ms Edwards (non-pecuniary interest as defined by the Council's Code of Conduct for Councillors by virtue of being a member of Brownsover Community Association and Newbold Community Partnership).

Item 12 of Part 1 – Service Level Agreements and one-off community grants for 2019/20 – Councillor Ms Robbins (non-pecuniary interest as defined by the Council's Code of Conduct for Councillors by virtue of being a member of Brownsover Community Association).

41. QUESTION TIME

There were no questions.

Corporate Resources Portfolio

42. DRAFT GENERAL FUND REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET 2019/20 AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2019-23

Cabinet considered the report of the Head of Corporate Resources and Chief Financial Officer (Part 1 – agenda item 5) concerning the Council's draft General Fund revenue and capital budgets for 2019/20 and medium term financial plan for 2019-23.

RESOLVED THAT –

- (1) the updated draft General Fund Revenue and Capital Budget position for 2019/20 be noted alongside the Council's 2019-23 Medium Term Financial Plan; and
- (2) Cabinet considers the key decisions identified to date and identifies other policy or service changes required for consideration to deliver a balanced budget for 2019/20.

43. TREASURY MANAGEMENT REPORT 2018/19 – PROGRESS REPORT

Cabinet considered the report of the Head of Corporate Resources and Chief Financial Officer (Part 1 – agenda item 6) concerning progress on the treasury management activities for 2018/19.

RESOLVED THAT -

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) the monitoring and review of the Treasury Management indicators be agreed; and
- (3) IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT-
 - (a) the revised Minimum Revenue Policy for 2018/19 onwards be agreed;
 - (b) the revised Operational Boundary and Authorised Limit Treasury Management indicators be approved; and
 - (c) the amended Specified and Non Specified Investment List (Appendix A) be approved.

44. FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE MONITORING 2018/19 – QUARTER 2

Cabinet considered the report of the Head of Corporate Resources and Chief Financial Officer (Part 1 – agenda item 7) concerning the Council's financial and performance position to quarter 2 for 2018/19.

RESOLVED THAT -

- (1) the Council's anticipated financial position for 2018/19 be noted;
- (2) a supplementary General Fund capital budget of £9,000 be approved for 2018/19 for an upgrade of the document management system, to be funded from £6,000 of General Fund revenue contributions and £3,000 HRA revenue contributions;
- (3) a General Fund revenue budget virement of £26,390 be approved from Legal Services to Financial Services due to a restructure which has resulted in the Procurement officer transferring to the Financial Services team;
- (4) a supplementary General Fund revenue income budget of £20,000 for 2018/19 only be approved for the Garden Waste service, with a corresponding contribution and reduction in the Corporate Savings Target; and
- (5) IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT -
 - (a) the following HRA capital budgets be returned to balances:
 - Rewiring £235,000,
 - Roof Refurbishments Rounds Gardens £283,930 and
 - Patterdale Sheltered Scheme Improvements £192,500;

- (b) a supplementary General Fund capital budget of £60,000 for 2018/19 be approved for Croop Hill chapel refurbishment, to be funded from external contributions;
- (c) a supplementary General Fund revenue budget of £100,000 for 2018/19 only be approved for Economic Development in relation to completion of the Local Plan, to be funded from the Budget Stability Reserve;
- (d) a supplementary General Fund revenue budget adjustment of £186,000 be approved for the Hall of Fame to align the income budgets with the income achieved in previous years, to be funded from General Fund Balances; and
- (e) performance summary and performance data included in Appendix 4 be considered and noted.

45. LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE ACT 1992 – COUNCIL TAX ON EMPTY PROPERTIES

Cabinet considered the report of the Head of Corporate Resources and Chief Financial Officer (Part 1 – agenda item 8) concerning amendments to discounts of council tax on empty properties.

RESOLVED THAT - IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT -

- (1) the discount period be removed;
- (2) the premium amount be increased and increased in line with legislation for subsequent years; and
- (3) the updated Appeals Procedure at Appendix 1 to the report be continued.

46. HOUSING ACQUISITION FUND

Cabinet considered the report of the Head of Corporate Resources and Chief Financial Officer (Part 1 – agenda item 9) concerning the creation of a Housing Acquisition Fund.

RESOLVED THAT –

- (1) the creation of a Housing Acquisition Fund be approved;
- (2) the Head of Corporate Resources and Chief Financial Officer be given delegated authority to approve acquisitions and new build projects via the Housing Acquisitions Fund in accordance with the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and General Fund Housing Acquisitions and Disposals Policy and Approval Process (Appendix A);
- (3) the Head of Corporate Resources and Chief Financial Officer be given delegated authority to appoint a fixed term project team to oversee new build projects as detailed in the report; and

- (4) IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT a supplementary General Fund capital budget of £12,900,000 for the Housing Acquisition Fund be approved for 2019/20 to be met from RTB receipts / Homes England grant and borrowing.

47. CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2019/20

Cabinet considered the report of the Executive Director (Part 1 – agenda item 10) concerning the Council’s calendar of meetings for 2019/20.

RESOLVED THAT – the calendar of meetings for 2019/20, as at Appendix 1 to the report, be approved.

Communities and Homes Portfolio

48. DRAFT HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT CAPITAL AND REVENUE BUDGETS 2019/20 AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2019-23

Cabinet considered the report of the Head of Corporate Resources and Chief Financial Officer (Part 1 – agenda item 11) concerning the Council’s draft Housing Revenue Account capital and revenue budgets for 2019/20 and medium term financial plan for 2019-23.

RESOLVED THAT –

- (1) the draft revenue and capital budgets at Appendices A and B for 2019/20 be noted;
- (2) the responses to the consultation documents listed below be noted:
 - Green Paper: A New Deal for Social Housing (Appendix D)
 - the Use of Right to Buy Receipts (Appendix E)
 - Rents for Social Housing (Appendix F); and
- (3) IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT a reallocation of the 2018/19 budgeted HRA voluntary debt repayment of £5,839,040 to HRA balances be approved to ensure that the Council has earmarked balances to commence potential demolition and rebuild costs at Biart Place (notwithstanding central Government financial support).

49. SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS AND ONE-OFF COMMUNITY GRANTS FOR 2019/20

Cabinet considered the report of the Head of Communities and Homes (Part 1 – agenda item 12) concerning service level agreements and one-off community grants for 2019/20.

RESOLVED THAT –

- (1) the proposals related to the Council’s service level agreements with the Community Associations and Food Bank, as identified in table 1, be endorsed for implementation in 2019/20, subject to budget setting;

- (2) the above service level agreements be reviewed during 2019;
- (3) the proposals related to the Council's funding of one-off community grants, as identified in table 4, be endorsed for implementation in 2019/20, subject to budget setting;
- (4) the changes to criteria, as outlined in section 3.3 of the report be approved; and
- (5) any monies made available (including surpluses from 2018/19) from Public Health Warwickshire be utilised according to:
 - health and well-being priorities identified through the local joint strategic needs assessment work
 - transparent eligibility criteria to be agreed by Public Health, Rugby Health and Wellbeing Partnership and subsequently agreed by Cabinet.

Environment and Public Realm Portfolio

50. STATEMENT OF GAMBLING POLICY

Cabinet considered the report of the Head of Environment and Public Realm (Part 1 – agenda item 13) concerning the Council's Statement of Gambling Policy.

RESOLVED THAT - IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT the Gambling Policy, as at Appendix 1 to the report, be adopted with effect from 31 January 2019 for a three-year period.

Note: this decision is not subject to call-in.

51. MOTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC UNDER SECTION 100(A)(4) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

RESOLVED THAT - under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of information defined in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

Corporate Resources Portfolio

52. ACQUISITION OF AFFORDABLE HOMES

Cabinet considered the private report of the Head of Corporate Resources and Chief Financial Officer (Part 2 – agenda item 1) concerning the acquisition of affordable homes within the borough.

RESOLVED THAT –

- (1) the acquisition of 5 affordable homes authorised by the Head of Corporate Resources and Chief Financial Officer under officer delegated powers (Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and Housing General Fund Acquisition & Disposal Policy and Process) be noted; and
- (2) IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT a supplementary HRA capital budget of £186,000 for 2018/19 and £494,000 for 2019/20 be approved for the acquisition of affordable homes at Rugby Gateway to be funded from HRA capital investment balances and Right To Buy (RTB) receipts.

Note: this decision is not subject to call-in.

Item considered en bloc

53. WRITE OFFS

Cabinet considered the private report of the Head of Corporate Resources (Part 2- agenda item 2) concerning write offs.

RESOLVED THAT – the schedule of write offs, as at Appendix 1 to the report, be approved.

CHAIRMAN