

CABINET EXECUTIVE

Minutes of a meeting held via Zoom

MONDAY, 18 SEPTEMBER 2023

Present:

Councillor Terry Richardson (- Leader of the Council) (Leader)
Councillor Maggie Wright (- Finance, People & Performance Portfolio Holder) (Deputy Leader)

Cllr. Nigel Grundy	- Neighbourhood Services & Assets Portfolio Holder
Cllr. Les Phillimore	- Housing, Community & Environmental Services Portfolio Holder

Also in attendance:

Cllr. Nick Brown (Scrutiny Commissioner)
Cllr. Roy Denney (Scrutiny Commissioner)

Officers present:-

Julia Smith	- Chief Executive
Sarah Pennelli	- Executive Director - S.151 Officer
John Richardson	- Executive Director
Louisa Horton	- Corporate Services Group Manager & Monitoring Officer
Teresa Neal	- Business, Partnerships and Health Improvement Group Manager
Katie Hollis	- Accountancy Services Manager
Katie Brooman	- Elections and Governance Manager
Isaac Thomas	- Democracy Support Officer

Apologies:

Cllr. Ben Taylor - Planning Delivery and Enforcement & Corporate Transformation Portfolio Holder

87. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS FROM MEMBERS

Cllr. Les Phillimore	-	Agenda Item 10, Economic Development Strategy for Blaby District
Nature of Interest	-	Non-registerable
Extent of Interest	-	Cllr. Phillimore is the Chair of the Federation of Small Businesses, however he was not involved in the consultation process. Cllr. Phillimore has arrived at the meeting with an open mind and will take part in the discussion and vote on the item. Cllr. Phillimore declared this interest at consideration of Agenda Item 10, Economic Development Strategy for Blaby District.

88. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 July 2023, as circulated, were approved and signed as a correct record.

89. PUBLIC SPEAKING PROTOCOL

No requests were received.

90. QUARTER 1 BUDGET REVIEW 2023/24

Considered – Report of the Finance Group Manager.

Other options considered:

None.

DECISIONS

1. That the financial performance against the budget for the quarter ending 30th June 2023 be accepted.
2. That the forecast contribution of £489,416 from General Fund balances be accepted.
3. That additional establishment budget in the sum of £69,743, as set out in paragraph 4.2 of the report, be approved.
4. That the irrecoverable debts set out in paragraph 4.5 of the report be written off.

Reasons:

1. It is good practice that Members have oversight of the Council's financial performance at regular points during the financial year.
2. To recognise movements in the call on reserves and balances to date, along with potential variances in establishment costs and key income streams that may arise between now and the end of the financial year.
3. To recognise demand pressures and additional resource requirements within the Finance and Neighbourhood Services teams.
4. The debts listed in paragraph 4.5 are uncollectable. Where applicable, all available means of recovery has been explored.

91. QUARTER 1 TREASURY MANAGEMENT UPDATE 2023/24

Considered – Report of the Finance Group Manager.

Other options considered:

None, this report is a requirement of the 2023/24 Prudential Code.

DECISION

That the latest position in respect of treasury activities, and the prudential indicators, be accepted.

Reason:

The 2023/24 edition of the Prudential Code has added a requirement for quarterly reporting of treasury management activities and prudential indicators. Whilst quarters 1 and 3 do not need to be formally reported to full Council, there is an implicit understanding that they should be adequately scrutinised by Cabinet Executive.

92. QUARTER 1 CAPITAL PROGRAMME REVIEW 2023/24

Considered – Report of the Finance Group Manager.

Other options considered:

None.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL

1. That the report be accepted.
2. That the latest Capital Programme for 2023/24, totalling £9,187,982, be accepted.

Reasons:

1. To ensure that the Council has adequate resources in place to meet its capital expenditure commitments.
2. To reflect additions or other changes to the Capital Programme since it was approved by Council on 22nd February 2023, including the carry forward of unspent budget from 2022/23.

93. RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2023 - 2026

Considered – Report of the Finance Group Manager.

Other options considered:

None.

DECISION

That the revised Risk Management Strategy be adopted.

Reasons:

1. The Risk Management Strategy should be subject to regular review to ensure that it reflects the Council's risk appetite and procedures.
2. The strategy forms part of the Council's governance framework.

94. LEISURE CONTRACT - SOFT PLAY EQUIPMENT

Considered – Report of the Business, Partnerships and Health Improvement Group Manager.

Other options considered:

Not to support the project – this is rejected as the leisure centres need to develop and grow to remain competitive, financially viable and to continue improving the offer to residents.

DECISIONS

1. That the installation of the soft play equipment at Enderby Leisure Centre be supported.
2. That delegated authority be given to the Business, Partnerships & Health Improvement Group Manager in consultation with the Neighbourhood Services & Assets Portfolio Holder to make any decisions in relation to timescales for the project to be delivered.

Reasons:

1. The installation of the equipment is at no cost to Blaby District Council (BDC), helps to safeguard the contract management fee paid to BDC, improve the offer to residents, support Everyone Active to grow the business and could improve any future profit share generated.
2. To provide delegated decision making to allow the project to progress quickly.

95. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR BLABY DISTRICT

Considered – Report of the Business, Partnerships and Health Improvement Group Manager.

Other options considered:

It could be decided not to have an Economic Development Framework for the district, but this would mean the Council would not be supporting Blaby District to have a strong and prosperous local economy.

This could potentially have an impact on other documents which links to and supports the achievement of business growth including the Council's Corporate Plan, Medium Term Financial Strategy, Tourism Growth Plan and Commercial Strategy 2022-2027.

DECISIONS

1. That the Economic Development Framework 2023-2026 for Blaby District be agreed.
2. That delegated authority be given to the Business, Partnerships & Health Improvement Group Manager in consultation with the Leader to monitor progress against the priorities in the framework and make any changes needed to ensure delivery of it.

Reasons:

1. Delivery of the framework can commence and action plans supporting the five key priorities can be developed.
2. To monitor progress against the framework and make decisions that are required to keep the document on track.

THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 6.07 P.M.