

CABINET EXECUTIVE

Minutes of a meeting held in the Council Chamber.

MONDAY, 5 SEPTEMBER 2022

Present:

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

Cllr. Sharon Coe	- Health, Wellbeing, Community Engagement & Business Support Portfolio Holder
Cllr. Nigel Grundy	- Neighbourhood Services & Assets Portfolio Holder
Cllr. Les Phillimore	- Housing, Community & Environmental Services Portfolio Holder
Cllr. Ben Taylor	- Planning Delivery and Enforcement & Corporate Transformation Portfolio Holder

Officers present:-

Julia Smith	- Chief Executive
Sarah Pennelli	- Strategic Director - S.151 Officer
John Richardson	- Strategic Director
Nick Brown	- Finance Group Manager
Anna Farish	- Environmental Services Manager
Katie Hollis	- Accountancy Services Manager
Louisa Horton	- Corporate Services Group Manager & Monitoring Officer
Nicole Cramp	- Democratic & Scrutiny Services Officer

Also in attendance as Observers:

Cllr. Geoff Welsh – Scrutiny Commissioner
Cllr. Roy Denney – Scrutiny Commissioner

1. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS FROM MEMBERS

No disclosures were received.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 July 2022, as circulated, were approved and signed as a correct record.

3. PUBLIC SPEAKING PROTOCOL

None.

4. FIXING OF THE HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES

Considered – Report of the Environmental Services Manager.

Other options considered: There are no other options considered at this time.

DECISIONS

1. That the Hackney Carriage table of fares as presented in Appendix C of the report, be agreed and “fixed”, and subject to any objections being received following a statutory consultation period of 14 days, that the fares come into effect from 1st October 2022.
2. That delegated authority be provided to the Group Manager for Environmental Health, Housing & Community Services, in conjunction with the Portfolio Holder, to determine any future changes to the table of fares and authorise statutory publication.

Reasons:

1. To enable the updated table of fares to be effective from 1st October 2022.
2. To allow the Group Manager for Environmental Health, Housing & Community Services, in conjunction with the Portfolio Holder, to review and update the table of fares as frequently, reasonably and practicably required.

5. QUARTER 1 BUDGET REVIEW 2022/23

Considered – Report of the Accountancy Services Manager.

Other Options Considered: None.

DECISIONS

1. That the financial performance against the budget for the quarter ending 31st June 2022 be accepted.
2. That the forecast contribution of £975,735 from General Fund balances be accepted.
3. That approval be given for the Housing Benefit Write Off as detailed in section 4.5 of the report.

Reason:

The Council's performance up to 30th June 2022, together with the anticipated impact on the Council's services due to the cost of living crisis and the increase in inflation, the current forecast is that a significant, additional contribution from balances is likely to be required.

Additional approvals and commitments to date have seen the call on balances rise to £975,735 and there is a likelihood that this could increase further in line with rising inflation.

6. QUARTER 1 CAPITAL PROGRAMME REVIEW 2022/23

Considered – Report of the Accountancy Services Manager.

Other Options Considered: None.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL

1. That the report be accepted.
2. That the latest Capital Programme totalling £5,507,463 be approved.

Reasons:

To ensure that the Council has adequate resources in place to meet its capital expenditure commitments.

7. REVIEW OF MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION POLICY

Considered – Report of the Strategic Finance Manager.

Other options considered: None. It is a legislative requirement that the Council receives an annual report covering its treasury activities for the financial year.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL

That the revised MRP Policy Statement for 2022/23 at Appendix B of the report be approved.

Reason:

To take the opportunity to move to a more suitable and cost effective method for calculating MRP, whilst ensuring that it remains prudent and complies with the MRP Guidance.

8. STRATEGIC PROPERTY INVESTMENT FOR REGENERATION

Considered – Report of the Executive Director (Section 151 Officer)

Other options considered:

1. Consideration was given to bring before Cabinet or Council each opportunity to invest as it arose. The swift nature of such transactions however made this an unviable alternative.
2. To not engage in property investment for regeneration. This is not discounted as not undertaking the activity will not allow the Council to actively participate in all aspects of place-shaping.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL

1. That Cabinet approve the Commercialism Position Statement at 4.2 of the report.
2. That Cabinet approve the delegation to the Chief Executive, Executive Director (S151 Officer) and Monitoring Officer to approve the purchase or disposal of commercial properties in accordance with the listed criteria in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Deputy Leader, Finance, People and Performance Portfolio Holder.
3. That £2.5m be added to the capital programme to be drawn upon to make acquisitions.

Reasons:

1. To date, the Council has lacked a Position Statement which outlines the direction of Commercialism.
2. Delegation is required to enable the Council to make decisions quickly regarding commercial acquisitions and disposals.
3. It is necessary for an investment amount to be added to the capital programme in order to make acquisitions.

THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 6.08 P.M.