

South Ribble Borough Council

Council Meeting – 25 September 2019

Report of the Cabinet

The Cabinet met on the evening of Wednesday, 11 September 2019.

On that occasion the Cabinet considered the matters set out below. The reports considered by the Cabinet were made available to all Members in advance of the Cabinet meeting.

1. Naming of Penwortham Bypass

The Cabinet Member for Planning, Regeneration and City Deal, presented a report from the Director of Planning and Property proposing the naming of the Penwortham Bypass which was due to be completed in December.

The Leader welcomed Laura Gillett and Grace Shields from Penwortham Girls High School who had suggested the winning name for the new road, which would be known as John Horrocks Way. Cabinet expressed its gratitude to Laura and Grace for taking part in the competition and suggesting such an appropriate name for the Penwortham Bypass.

It was agreed that:

Cabinet notes the name of Penwortham Bypass as John Horrocks Way.

2. Corporate Performance Report – Quarter 1

The Leader of the Council, presented a report of the Interim Chief Executive outlining the quarter 1 performance against the programmes, projects and key performance indicators agreed by the Council within the Council's Corporate Plan agreed in February 2019.

It was reported that of the 34 projects in the Corporate Plan 28 were on track and 6 off track at the end of the quarter 1. Of the key performance indicators and measures 14 were succeeding, 22 on track and 8 off track. Further information was provided on the progress made and work to bring items back on track.

It was agreed that:

1. Cabinet notes the performance summary outlined within quarter 1 reflects the deliverables and priorities identified by the previous administration and corporate plan, approved in February 2019.
2. Cabinet notes that existing performance measures are currently being reviewed in conjunction with the review of the Corporate Plan.

3. Cabinet notes that the Quarter 2, Corporate Plan performance reports will be structured based upon the new administration's identified outcomes and priorities.
4. Cabinet notes that the performance report will be developed further across the course of the year.

3. Budget Monitoring Report – Quarter 1

In the absence of the Cabinet Member for Finance, Property and Assets, the Leader of the Council presented a report of the Interim Section 151 Officer updating the Council's overall financial position as at the end of July 2019.

The overall revenue outturn forecast for 2019/2020 was a net budget saving of £681,000 which represents a variance of 4.7% of the total net budget requirement. The report provided a breakdown of the forecasted variance which were attributed to savings in staff costs, increase in garden waste income, increase in the vehicle maintenance contract income and business rates compensatory grant funding.

The current capital budgets have been reviewed to establish the forecast outturn expenditure and any re-phasing of schemes into future years. The total capital budget forecast for 2019/20 is £14,939,000, with £1,986,000 potential slippage identified at this stage in the year.

An additional recommendation was proposed to allocate funding of £75,000 to organise a music festival for South Ribble to be funded from the forecasted underspend to cash flow the initial phase of the festival preparations.

It was agreed that:

1. Cabinet notes the report.
2. Cabinet approves a virement of the £150,000 turnover savings target budget to reflect staffing savings achieved in the first period to the end of July 2019.
3. Cabinet approves the creation of a new budget of £75,000 for hosting a music event in the Borough in summer 2020, to be funded from the forecasted underspend in the 2019/20 revenue to cash flow the initial phase of the festival preparations.

4. Lancashire Business Rates Pool

In the absence of the Cabinet Member for Finance, Property and Assets, the Leader of the Council presented a report from the Interim Section 151 Officer concerning the release of business rate growth funding prior to it being realised to support the funding of cross-county work on 'Repositioning Lancashire: The Greater Lancashire Plan'.

It was agreed that:

Cabinet approves a contribution of £36,012 to the Strategic Economic Growth and Financial Sustainability Fund, being South Ribble's share of the £400,000 bid to fund

the work on the Greater Lancashire Plan, subject to all Lancashire councils who are in the business rate pool committing to fund their share of the total cost of the work.

5. Single Use Plastics Strategy

In the absence of the Cabinet Member for the Environment, the Leader of the Council presented a report from the Director of Neighbourhoods and Development on the Council's strategy to reduce 'single use plastics' within all council operations, as part of the work of the Climate Emergency Member Working Group.

It was agreed that:

Cabinet adopts the Single Use Plastics Strategy and the Climate Emergency Member Working Group be given the lead to develop, implement and achieve the goals of the strategy with a view to reducing the amount of single use plastics used in council operations.

I commend the report of the Cabinet to the Council.

Councillor Paul Foster
Leader of the Council