

Report of Cabinet

1. Any Cabinet recommendations on the reports that require a decision by full Council appear as separate items on the agenda.

GENERAL REPORT OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 5 AUGUST 2020

South Ribble Local Prevention Zone Framework

2. The Leader presented a report of the Director of Neighbourhoods and Development seeking approval for the South Ribble Local Prevention Zone Framework. The Framework set out how the Council will work with partners, businesses and the public at a local level to prevent, contain and manage COVID-19 outbreaks. Cabinet thanked officers for their work on the framework and response to the pandemic. Regular updates on the pandemic would continue to be provided to Members.
3. Cabinet approved the South Ribble Local Prevention Zone Framework. It also noted that the document was dynamic and hence would be amended on a frequent basis in line with the risk-based response. The framework provided local management to help break the chains of COVID-19 transmission to enable people to return to and maintain a more normal way of life.

South Ribble Together Community Hub

4. The Leader presented a report of the Director of Neighbourhoods and Development updating the Cabinet on the work of the South Ribble Together Community Hub. The South Ribble Together Community Hub was set up in March this year as a direct response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Staff from across the Council were brought together to engage with and support vulnerable residents. The report indicated that feedback from residents had been extremely positive and had led to positive outcomes for South Ribble communities. The work of the Community Hub would continue through partnership working to ensure the model is sustainable in the future. Cabinet raised the impact of mental health as a result of the pandemic as a concern, with the Council working to support this important issue with its partners.
5. Cabinet noted plans to sustain COVID19 related community support moving forwards and agreed to investigate the impact of COVID19 on Mental Health within the South Ribble area and how this is being responded to.

Business Support COVID19 Member Working Group

6. The Cabinet Member for Planning, Regeneration and City Deal presented a report of the Director of Planning and Property summarising the activities and key issues address by the recently formed Business Support COVID-19

Member Working Group. Councillor James Flannery, Chair of the Member Working Group, updated Cabinet on the work of the group in engaging with businesses and providing an overview of the extensive support available to businesses in South Ribble following the pandemic.

7. Cabinet expressed its appreciation to the Member Working Group for their work and the support provided to business by the Council and Government. A discussion took place on maximising the grants provided to businesses and to this end it was suggested to remove the grant closure date from recommendation 3 of the report.
8. Cabinet approved the Terms of Reference for the Member Working Group, noted and agreed to a number of requests of the Member Working Group as follows:
 - a) Ensure that all business grant payments are maximised before the grant scheme closes and that the amount of unused funds is either nil or minimised
 - b) Prioritise support for businesses and employees with regards to mental health support as part of the South Ribble Together Community Hub
 - c) Ensure funding is directed to our high streets, borough wide to support local businesses, market the centres, provide advice to businesses and increase footfall
 - d) Consider measures to address concerns raised surrounding business cash flow beyond the current regimes – a dedicated financial response to support local businesses needs to be established
 - e) Approve in principle a temporary increase of resource in the Investment and Skills team to provide a focused period of business support for the next 18 months
 - f) Recognises the support provided by the Council and Government 3. Cabinet agrees to lobby the Lancashire Economic Partnership, the local MP's and relevant Government departments for funding to provide longer term support for businesses in the borough, especially in the context of the economic impact not yet being fully felt.

Budget Outturn 2019-20

9. The Cabinet Member for Finance, Property and Assets presented a report of the Deputy Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) outlining the overall financial position at the end of the 2019/2020 financial year on 31 March 2020. The overall revenue outturn was a net budget surplus of £1,400,000. This included a £270,000 surplus ring-fenced income and £166,000 relating to budget that will be utilised in 2020/2021, leaving a net surplus of £964,000. This surplus would be used to increase earmarked reserves. The report had been considered by the Scrutiny Budget and Performance Panel on Monday, 3 August 2020 with the recommendations from the meeting issued to Cabinet. Following an enquiry

about the definition of section 31 payments, a briefing note would be provided to all Members. An explanation would also be provided for the underspend on Disability Facilities Grants.

10. Cabinet noted, reviewed and commented on the contents of this report and approved the following transfers to reserves from the surplus in 2019/20:
 - a) Transfer £160,000 to the Borough Elections reserve
 - b) Transfer £173,000 to the Restructure Costs reserve
 - c) Transfer £270,000 to the 'Other Reserve' in relation to unspent grant income
 - d) Transfer £166,000 to the 'Other Reserve' in relation to unspent expenditure budgets and surplus income that are needed in 2020/21
 - e) Transfer the remaining surplus of £631,000 to the Business Rates Retention Scheme

Cabinet also approved the re-profiled budgets for the capital programme, including underspends to be carried forward and accepted the recommendations from the Scrutiny Budget and Performance Panel meeting held, Monday 3 August 2020.

Stock Condition Survey

11. The Cabinet Member for Finance, Property and Assets presented a report of the Assistant Director of Projects and Development bringing forward proposals to commission a stock condition survey of all council owned property assets. It was reported that this would include a thorough survey of the fabric of the buildings and the condition of the mechanical and electrical services for the buildings. The condition survey will support the Council's wider asset management review, providing accurate and consistent property information to ensure effective implementation of the Council's Asset Management Plan. The survey will enable repairs and maintenance works to be identified, priced, prioritised and form the basis for the developing of a planned maintenance programme over a five-year life cycle period.
12. Cabinet approved the commissioning of a Stock Condition Survey of the Council's estate using money approved as part of the Council's revenue budget for 2020/21 and approved the commencement of an open tender process to appoint a suitable contractor to carry out the Stock Condition Survey of the Council's estate. This will allow the Council to develop an investment plan to ensure sustainability of the estate and long-term compliance avoiding the reactive approach to repair and maintenance issues.

Land at Four Oaks Road, Walton Summit

13. This item was deferred.

COUNCILLOR PAUL FOSTER
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL