

## **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 Cabinet - Meeting held on 23 March 2022**

### **Corporate Strategy Quarterly Monitoring Report - Quarter 3 2021/22**

2. Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Deputy Chief Executive providing Cabinet with a position statement for the Corporate Strategy for quarter three (Oct – Dec) 2021/22.
3. The Cabinet also considered the recommendations of the Scrutiny Budget and Performance Panel held on 21 March 2022.
4. A query was raised in relation to the key performance indicator Number of households in temporary accommodation. It was agreed that Councillor Walton be informed of the length of time families spent in hotels.
5. The report was noted and the recommendations of the Scrutiny Budget and Performance Panel be accepted.

## **Biodiversity Strategy and Environment Act 2021**

6. Cabinet considered a report of Director of Communities requesting agreement to launch a public consultation on a Biodiversity Strategy for South Ribble. The report explained that following the consultation and subject to adoption by Full Council, an Action Plan to achieve the stated objectives identified within the Strategy would be produced.
7. Under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, and recently updated by the Environment Act 2021 public authorities in England are under a legal duty to have due regard to the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity in the exercise of its functions.
8. Public bodies must also determine what action is required to conserve and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of its functions and must determine such policies and objectives as appropriate to achieve this.
9. They must also publish biodiversity reports providing a summary of the action taken and planned and detailing the resulting biodiversity gains achieved.
10. In response to a member query, it was agreed that the inclusion of canals and ditches in the Biodiversity Strategy be incorporated into the public consultation.
11. A query was made in relation to the Big tree Plant project. The report stated that the Council itself does not own enough land and invited residents, schools and landowners to pledge space. The Cabinet Member (Health and Wellbeing) gave assurances that the tree planting was currently on target.

12. It was also suggested by a member that the Biodiversity Strategy could potentially be adopted as a supporting document for the Council's planning policy.
13. Cabinet agreed that permission be given to launch a public consultation on the formation of a Biodiversity Strategy for South Ribble.

### **Decarbonisation Works**

14. Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Communities requesting authority to spend £5,468,854.00 which included £500,000 partnership funding allocated in the Council's capital programme and a grant received of £4,968,854.0000 from the BEIS Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme to support the Decarbonisation works at the Council's Leisure Centres, the Civic Centre and the Depot. Previously approved at Full Council on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2021, the report requested approval to use the UK Leisure Framework direct award framework to complete the works.
15. The report explained that through the work of the Council's climate change task group, the opportunity emerged of attracting significant new investment into six key Council buildings including the four Leisure Centres, the Civic Centre and the Council's Depot, identified as the Big 6.
16. Through a significant bidding process the Council has been successful in attracting a grant of £5,468,854 to South Ribble which includes £500,000 match funding from the Council.
17. The Decarbonisation works planned will significantly reduce the Carbon footprint of the Big six key buildings within South Ribble Borough and will contribute significantly to the Councils net zero carbon emissions target by 2030.
18. As part of the conditions of the PSDS grant there is a need to deliver the improvement works and spend the money within the next 12 months. This is a particularly tight timescale and failure to deliver on the timescales would result in a non-compliance of the grant award conditions and potential result in non-payment of the grant funding.
19. Cabinet therefore agreed:
  1. That Cabinet authorises a spend of £5,468,854.00 which includes a grant of £4,968,854.00 from the BEIS Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) and £500,000 allocated in the Council's Capital programme.
  2. That Cabinet approves the use of the UK Leisure Framework to complete the Decarbonisation work.

3. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing to award the contract pursuant to recommendation 4.
4. That a report will come forward to full Council in April 2022 on proposals for a wider investment scheme into the Council's Leisure Centres.

### **Final Report and Recommendations of the Scrutiny Review of Health Inequalities**

20. Cabinet considered a report of the Deputy Chief Executive submitting the final report from the Scrutiny Committee's review of Health Inequalities.
21. The purpose of the report was to ensure that the Council continues to place the health and wellbeing of residents at the forefront of its work and to support the Council's vision for *"a healthy and happy community, flourishing together in a safer and fairer borough that is led by a council recognised for being innovative, financially sustainable and accountable."*
22. It was agreed that Cabinet accepts and supports the recommendations of the Scrutiny Review of Health Inequalities.

### **Holiday and Food Programme Update**

23. Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Communities providing an update on delivery of the 2021 HAF Programme and seeking approval to deliver the 2022 HAF Programme in South Ribble.
24. Funding received for the HAF Programme in 2021 enabled a wide-ranging offer of activities and food for children across the borough. There is a will from leisure services, community groups and providers to continue the scheme. Feedback received from parents and carers echoes this.
25. Delivery of the HAF Programme is directly in line with the Council's corporate priorities. It complements other schemes such as the holiday hunger programme and school uniform bank; supporting families who need a little additional help.
26. In response to concerns expressed at the meeting, it was confirmed that additional resources would be made available as required so that no child in need is turned away.
27. Cabinet therefore agreed:-
  1. To note successful delivery of the 2021 HAF Programme.
  2. To approve delivery proposals for the 2022 HAF Programme.

3. To delegate authority for allocation of additional resources from the COVID recovery fund to the Cabinet Members, to allow flexibility should additional capacity be required.
4. To authorise officers to lobby for any additional HAF funding which is available.

### **Revenue Budget Monitoring Quarter 3**

28. Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Finance / Section 151 officer setting out the revenue and reserves forecast for the Council as at 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022.
29. The Cabinet also considered the recommendations of the Scrutiny Budget and Performance Panel held on 21 March 2022.
30. Cabinet agreed the following:

That Cabinet:

1. Notes the forecast position for revenue and reserves as at 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022.
2. Notes the virements to the revenue budget made during the period, as detailed in **Appendix 2** of the report.
3. Approves the creation of reserves from the forecast in-year underspend and the reallocation of existing reserves as follows:
  - Use of in year underspends for:
    - £30k to create a reserve to support communities in celebrating the Queen's Jubilee
    - £200k to create a reserve for business support, advice and grants to support economic recovery
    - £200k to create a reserve targeting fly-tipping and environmental improvements
    - £200k to create a reserve to support the creation of Apprentice, Graduate, and Trainee posts across the council
    - £200 to create a reserve to support the community hub Boost Fund, to support them in making a real impact in the community
    - £200k to create a reserve to provide support for sports clubs & community organisations
4. Approves the remaining forecast underspend of £392k to be allocated to a COVID reserve for future projects.
5. Notes and supports the recommendations of the Scrutiny Budget and Performance Panel.

31. The report indicated that based on the financial position and latest information as at 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022, there is a forecast underspend against the budget for 2021/22 of £1.422m. Following the allocation to the reserves detailed above, the revised forecast underspend to be moved to general reserves would be nil.
32. The council's Medium-Term Financial Strategy reported that working balances were to be maintained at a minimum of £4.0m due to the general financial risks facing the council. Based on point 3 above, the forecast level of general fund balances as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 is £4.533m.
33. The report ensures the Council's budgetary targets are achieved.

### **Capital Budget Monitoring Report Quarter 3**

34. Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Finance / Section 151 officer outlining the overall financial position of the Council in respect of the capital programme as at 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022, highlighting key issues and explaining key variances, and providing an overview of various elements of the Council's Balance Sheet as at 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022.
35. Cabinet agreed:-
  1. To approve the revised capital programme as attached at **Appendix A** which includes approved amendments to the programme, as detailed at point 11 of the report, since the last Capital Monitoring report was approved by Cabinet in November 2021;
  2. To note the variations to the programme, (which are detailed, by scheme, at **Appendix B** and referenced within the body of the report);
  3. To note the position in the Balance Sheet Monitoring section of the report in respect of cash, investment and loan balances as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021, and debtors as at 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022.
  4. To note and support the recommendations of the Scrutiny Budget and Performance Panel.

### **Completion of the Penwortham to Howick Green Links Cycle and Pedestrian route**

36. Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Commercial requesting approval to award the contract for the completion of a section of the cycle and pedestrian route from Penwortham to Howick Green as part of the Green links network.
37. The Green links strategy was adopted by the Council in June 2019 with a 4 year programme to deliver fully accessible cycling and walking networks upgrades across the borough.

38. Penwortham to Howick – ‘Penwortham Loop’ is a 10km route around Higher Penwortham linking & improving existing routes to create a new accessible leisure route through Priory Park and alongside the River Ribble. The £250K original budget was set in year 1 to upgrade the largely unpaved informal route alongside the Ribble to Howick – with the increase in materials costs experienced over the past two years we now have a budget shortfall.
39. The report indicated that the funding shortfall could be funded from the unallocated green links budget.
40. The recommendation was to fund the shortfall and install a robust path; learning from experiences with the River Lostock, it would be fit for purpose for years to come. This was no doubt the long-term best value option.
41. Other elements of this scheme were improving access from adjacent paths onto the route as well as a full signage and interpretation scheme.
42. The completed route will provide a fantastic new community asset available and accessible to all sections of the local community. From recreational walkers through to serious runners, from families out for a bike ride to cycle groups meeting on a club day the new route will provide opportunities for all.
43. In response to a member query at the meeting, it was confirmed that waste bins collection would be included on the Green links routes.
44. In response to another query, it was agreed that it be confirmed to Councillor Walton if all the land was in the Council’s ownership.
45. Cabinet therefore agreed:-
  1. That the contract for the completion of the cycle and pedestrian route from Penwortham Priory Park to Howick as part of the Green links network be awarded to Wade Group for the sum of £314,415 following a tender exercise carried in accordance with the Council’s contract procedure rules.
  2. The capital budget for the ‘Green Link - Penwortham Holme to Howick’ scheme is increased to £314,415 to match the tender price, with a transfer of £64,415 from the unallocated green links budget.

### **Naming of West Paddock Extra Care Facility**

46. Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Commercial advising of the preferred name for the Extra Care Development at West Paddock.
47. Cabinet agreed the proposed name for the development as “Jubilee Gardens”.

48. The naming of the development is crucial not just to give the development an identity but also allows a number of other key actions to be undertaken. These include securing a domain name for website registration, street name/address registration, allowing for secondary actions to be undertaken which include orders to be placed for service connections etc.
49. It was proposed that the development is named in recognition of the achievement of Her Majesty the Queen becoming the first monarch to celebrate a platinum Jubilee (70 years of service).
50. The proposal fits in well with the Progress Housing complex directly across the road called Jubilee Court and also ties in well with the Queen's Platinum Jubilee set to take place this year.

### **Moss Side & Birch Avenue Playground Refurbishment Projects**

51. Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Customer and Digital bringing the refurbishment projects for the playgrounds at Moss Side Park, Leyland and Birch Avenue, Penwortham before Cabinet, seeking permission to award the contract for Moss Side to the preferred bidder and requesting that authority to award the contract to the highest scoring bidder for Birch Avenue, when identified, be delegated to the Cabinet Member (Finance, Property and Assets).
52. Cabinet approved the following:-
  - i. To award the contract for the works at Moss Side, Leyland to Bidder 2 in Table 1, Appendix 1 at a cost of £175k.
  - ii. That authority to award the contract to the highest scoring bidder (yet to be identified) for Birch Avenue Playground be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Finance, Property & Assets in consultation with the Director of Customer and Digital
53. The current capital programme includes a number of play areas identified for improvement. Moss Side Playground has an approved total budget of £175,000 and bids have been invited on a design and build basis, meaning all tender prices are fixed at £175k.
54. Birch Avenue Playground had a budget of £75,000 included in the approved capital programme with an uplift of £70,000 to a total of £145,000 approved by Council at the meeting on 26 January 2022. Tender returns were due back on 21 March 2022 with a three week period needed for evaluation of the bids and analysis of the social value element by the Social Value Portal.
55. The £145,000 budget requires that the contract award be authorised by Cabinet, however, a preferred bidder will not be identified before the start of April 2022. The next Cabinet meeting after this date was scheduled for 20 June

2022 and therefore it was requested that the award decision be delegated as described to allow an earlier award and start of works on site.

#### **Extra Care (West Paddock) - Stage 4 Approval**

56. Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Commercial to establish and identify the reasons for progressing the Extra Care scheme at West Paddock to RIBA Stage 4.

57. Cabinet agreed:-

1. To approve the request to progress the scheme to RIBA Stage 4.

2. To approve the request to incur additional expenditure of £500,000 from the approved capital budget of £10,000,000, (making a total approved expenditure of £700,000) to cover the Stage 3 and Stage 4 design fees.

58. This decision ensures the project can maintain progress as per the programme and that expenditure can be allocated against the approved capital budget on scheme.

59. It allows early contractor involvement in the scheme to provide support of construction efficiencies and ensures that costs for delivery of the scheme are agreed at the earliest opportunity to reduce the risk to the council against potential cost increases in materials and labour.

#### **Leyland Town Deal – Acquisitions and Leases**

60. Cabinet considered a report of Director of Commercial and the Director of Planning and Development regarding the Council's freehold interest in relation to a number of plots.

61. Cabinet agreed:-

1. To acknowledge the previous approval of South Ribble Borough Council's (the Council's) freehold interests in the 4 plots identified in the report of the Record of Executive Member Decision Taken Under the Scheme of Delegation.

2. To approve the proposed terms in the plots specified in paragraphs 5 and 6 of the report.

3. To delegate any amendments to both Heads of Terms to the Director of Commercial Services, in conjunction with the Leader of the Council.

62. The report requested approval to the Heads of Terms to subsequently lease on obtaining the plot specified. The unit was currently occupied and the Council was seeking suitable alternative smaller premises for the Tenant to relocate to.
63. Not agreeing the Heads of Terms and entering in to a lease as specified in the report would cause further delay to the acquisition of the 4 plots.
64. An option of submitting this report to a later Cabinet would not be feasible as this would not align with the pressing programme associated with Leyland Town Deal and the funding criteria requirements.

Councillor Paul Foster  
Leader Of The Council

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