

Cabinet – Meeting held on Monday, 20th November, 2017.

Present:- Councillors Ajaib, Bal, Arvind Dhaliwal (in the Chair from item 54 onwards), Matloob and Nazir

Also present under Rule 30:- Councillors Bains, Anderson and Swindlehurst

Apologies for Absence:- Councillors Bedi and Sharif

PART 1

54. Election of Chair

It was proposed by Councillor Bal and seconded by Councillor Matloob that Councillor Arvind Dhaliwal chair the meeting. This was agreed.

Resolved – That Councillor Arvind Dhaliwal be elected as chair for the duration of the meeting.

(Councillor Arvind Dhaliwal in the Chair)

55. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Bal declared that his daughter worked for Slough Borough Council.

56. Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 6th October 2017 and the Meeting held on 16th October 2017

Resolved –

(a) That the minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the Cabinet held on 6th October 2017 be approved as a correct record.

(b) That the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 16th October 2017 be approved as a correct record.

57. Revenue Financial Report - 2017-18 (Quarter 2)

The Director of Finance & Resources introduced a report that provided an update on the latest revenue financial position to the end of the second quarter of the 2017-18 financial year.

It was noted that the total estimated net commitment for the year was £106.3m, and with planned in year savings of £1.5m this represented a net overspend of £0.98m. The main reasons for the overspend included pressures on the temporary accommodation and homelessness budget and lower than anticipated income from cemeteries & crematorium, registrars and parks and open spaces. A series of management actions were in place to address the overspend. The update was noted and the virement and write off

requests detailed in sections 8 and 9 of the report were considered and approved.

The process to agree the new formula used to set the budgets for local schools for the 2018-19 financial year was underway and consultation was taking place with the Schools Forum and schools directly. Due to the timescales for decisions, the Cabinet was asked to delegate authority to the Director of Children, Learning & Skills, following consultation with the Cabinet Member, to agree any changes to the national formula. This was agreed.

Resolved –

- (a) That the latest financial position be noted.
- (b) That delegated authority be given to the Director of Children, Learning & Skills, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children, Education & Families, to agree any changes to the schools funding formula for 2018-19 as outlined in paragraph 6.3.4 of the report.
- (c) That the budget virements as listed in paragraph 8 be approved, and
- (d) That the write offs as requested in paragraph 9 be approved.

58. Performance & Projects Report: Q2 2017-18

The Director of Finance & Resources introduced a report that updated on the latest performance information for the 2017-18 financial year and summarised the Council's performance on the Corporate Balanced Scorecard and key projects.

In relation to the Corporate Balanced Scorecard indicators to the end of September 2017, 55.6% were rated as 'Green' and 33.3% were 'Amber'. There had been an improvement in the indicator on the prevalence of children with 'excess weight' at the start of primary school and this had now moved from 'Red' to 'Green'. Only one indicator was rated as 'Red' – children with 'excess weight' at the end of primary school. Members asked about the work the Council was undertaking to address obesity, it was noted that the Wellbeing Board had agreed that there would be a campaign on obesity with partners in the new year; that there would be a new obesity strategy for Slough; and that the Overview & Scrutiny Committee had established a Task & Finish Group looking into how the Council could become an exemplar employer in terms of staff wellbeing.

Progress on key projects was summarised which included the Slough Cemetery & Crematorium now being operational following building work; progress on the implementation of Agresso; and delivery of the new Repairs, Maintenance & Investment project with Osborne Property Services from 1st December 2017. At the conclusion of the discussion, the report was noted.

Resolved – That the Council's current performance as measured by the indicators within the balanced scorecard and update on Gold projects and performance be noted.

59. Financial Penalties as an Alternative to Prosecution for Certain Offences Under the Housing Act 2004- Section 126 of the Housing and Planning Act 2017

The Director of Place & Development introduced a report that sought approval for the policy and protocol for issuing Fixed Penalties as an alternative to prosecution for specific offences under the Housing Act 2004.

The approach would provide greater flexibility in dealing with breaches of housing legislation and provided an alternative sanction to criminal prosecutions, which were resource intensive to pursue. After due consideration, the policy, protocol and relevant delegations were approved.

Resolved –

- (a) That the Neighbourhood Services Lead, Resilience and Enforcement Neighbourhood Manager, Housing Regulation Manager and Housing Regulation Officers be given delegated authority to implement the new legislative provisions within Section 126 and Schedule 9 of the Housing and Planning Act 2016.
- (b) That the Policy and Protocol for issuing civil penalties up to a maximum of £30,000 for offences under the Housing Act 2004 be approved. The Policy was required by paragraphs 3.3 and 3.5 of the Government's Statutory Guidance 'Civil Penalties under the housing Act- Guidance for Local Authorities' and set out how the Local Authority will determine whether to issue a civil penalty or prosecute for relevant offences; as well as how the level of civil penalty will be determined.

60. Update on Senior Management Restructure and Next Steps

The Interim Chief Executive introduced an information report that updated the Cabinet on the progress of the implementation of the senior management restructure.

The new directorate structure had come into effect on 2nd October 2017 and external recruitment was underway for the small number of service lead posts that had not been successfully recruited to internally. All new Service Leads were reviewing their service areas to ensure the structures were aligned to the delivery of the Five Year Plan and the review process may lead to undertaking further restructures if required. These would be processed in line with the current procedures for undertaking change programmes.

Speaking under Rule 30, Councillor Anderson asked about the structure of the new Regeneration directorate given that it had fewer service leads. The

Director of Regeneration explained how he envisaged the directorate working. At the conclusion of the discussion, the report was noted.

Resolved –

- (a) That the progress of the implementation of the senior management restructure be noted.
- (b) That the next steps following the appointments of the Service Leads which may lead to further programmes of restructuring in the service areas in line with the agreed processes be noted.

61. References from Overview & Scrutiny

There were no references from Overview & Scrutiny.

62. Notification of Forthcoming Decisions

The Cabinet considered and endorsed the Notification of Key Decisions published on 13th October 2017 which set out the decisions expected to be taken by the Cabinet over the next three months.

Resolved – That the published Notification of Decisions be endorsed.

63. Exclusion of Press and Public

Resolved – That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the items in Part 2 of the Agenda, as they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information relating to the financial and business affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding the information) as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (amended).

The following is a summary of the matters considered during Part II of the agenda.

64. Part II Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 6th October 2017 and the Meeting held on 16th October 2017

The Part II minutes of the extraordinary Cabinet meeting held on 7th October 2017 and the meeting held on 16th October 2017 were approved as a correct record.

65. Compulsory Purchase Orders Approvals for Two Empty Properties

It was agreed to authorise the use of Compulsory Purchase Order proceedings for the following two empty properties to facilitate bringing them back into use:

Cabinet - 20.11.17

- 32 Adam Close, Slough, SL1 9AR; and
- 64 Diamond Road, Slough, SL1 1RX

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 6.32 pm and closed at 6.57 pm)