

Cabinet – Meeting held on Monday, 13th December, 2010.

Present:- Councillors Anderson (Chair), S Chaudhry, A S Dhaliwal, Matloob, Pantelic, Parmar, Small and Swindlehurst

Also present under Rule 30:- Councillors Plimmer and MacIsaac

PART I

68. Declarations of Interest

None.

69. Minutes of the Meetings held on 9th and 22nd November 2010

The Minutes of the meetings of the Cabinet held on 9th and 22nd November, 2010 were taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

70. Performance and Financial Reporting 2010/11

The Cabinet received a report detailing the Council's overall performance from delivery of service to financial management covering the period up to and including October 2010 against the following key areas:-

- Performance monitoring against the Corporate Balanced Score Card and the LAA Balanced Score Card
- Revenue and Capital Monitoring position.

The report also highlighted the outcome of the Annual Performance Assessment for Adult Social Care 2009/10.

In addition to the main agenda a Supplementary Paper had been circulated detailing the findings of the Ofsted inspection of Adult Learning Services provided by the Council and the Annual Children's Services Assessment for 2010.

Members noted that for the Annual Performance Assessment Adult Social Care 2009/10 for the second year running Slough had achieved an overall rating Grade 3 – performing well (people who use services find that services consistently deliver above minimum requirements).

With regard to the Ofsted inspection Assessment of Adult Learning the Council had been assessed as achieving an overall effectiveness of service of "good" and with regard to the Children's services assessment the Council's assessment for 2010 was that Children's Services in Slough perform well. The Commissioners welcomed the inspection outcomes and stated that they were a credit to Slough in the current environment of increasing demand and falling budgets.

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The Leader confirmed that the financial settlement had been received by the Council that day, the outcome needed to be considered in detail and it was notably different to the settlement of other authorities in the Region. However the settlement appeared to be in line with what the Council had feared and what the Council had planned for. A full report on the details of settlement would be submitted to the next meeting of the Cabinet.

Resolved – That the following aspects of the report be noted:

- i. Performance and Project management
- ii. Financial performance – revenue and capital
- iii. Annual Performance Assessment for Adult Social Care 2009/10 and Adult Learning
- iv. Annual Performance Assessment for Children's Services.

71. Medium Term Financial Plan 2011/12 to 2014/15

The Cabinet considered a report setting out the latest projection of the Council's revenue budget for the period 2011/12 to 2014/15 following the previous Cabinet report on the 9th November 2010 and the Policy Performance and Review Group on 23rd November 2010.

The Chief Executive reported that a significant amount of the identified £6.9m savings target had been achieved and the Council was on target for achieving the remainder of the savings required by 1st April 2011. Commissioners asked for confirmation that employees' whose post might be at risk were aware of this. The Chief Executive advised that no formal consultation had been carried out at this stage pending a decision by the Cabinet. All teams affected had had a general briefing on the way forward and the Council was committed to redeploying people wherever possible.

In answer to a question the Chief Executive outlined two options with regard to the Print Service and indicated that both options would be part of the consultation that was undertaken with staff which would also invite any further suggestions.

In addition to the update on the support service savings Members were also provided with proposed areas for identifying the allocated savings from GBE and this was set out in full in Appendix B to the report.

Resolved -

- (a) That the current council projected revenue budget for 2011/12 to 2014/15 be noted.
- (b) That the savings plan for 2011/2012 as set out in Appendix A be confirmed and progress to date be noted.
- (c) That the areas of savings allocation for elements of support services as summarised in para 5.7, be considered and approved

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and that officers be requested to implement them with immediate effect where possible.

- (d) That the proposed areas for allocated savings from GBE as set out in Appendix B approved.

72. Council Taxbases for 2011/12

The Cabinet considered a report presenting information on the properties in Slough and their categories of occupation for the purposes determining the Council Tax Base for the Borough for 2011/12 financial year.

The Council was required by law to set the Council Tax Base by 31st January prior to start of the financial year. The level of Council Tax Base would be used in the calculation of Slough Borough Council's council tax for 2011/12.

Resolved -

- (a) That the level of council tax discount in respect of second homes remains at 10%.
- (b) That the level of discount in respect of long-term empty properties remains at 0%.
- (c) That the collection rate for the council tax for 2011/12 be set at 98% which is at the same rate as the current year 2010-11.
- (d) That in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992 the amount calculated by Slough Borough Council as its council taxbase for 2011/12 shall be:

(i) Parish of Britwell	1,805.6
(i) Parish of Colnbrook with Poyle	1,947.5
(ii) Parish of Wexham	1,499.5
(iii) Slough Town	<u>36,314.6</u>
All areas	41,567.2

73. Voluntary and Community Sector Funding Policy

The Cabinet considered a report seeking approval for a new Voluntary and Community Sector Funding Policy which set out principles for all future commissioning and grant funding support. Implementation of the Policy would ensure best use was made of limited resources to deliver agreed priorities and improve the outcomes by the local Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) for Slough residents. Members were asked to approve the commissioning and/or grant funding of identified Voluntary and Community Sector related activities in line with procurement requirements and guidelines.

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Members were also asked to approve the extension of existing funding arrangements to ensure continuity of service during the transition period. It was proposed that these funding arrangements would be terminated at the earliest possible date following implementation of the new funding policy.

Commissioners asked for clarification on the extension of the existing funding arrangements. Members were advised that it was anticipated that the commissioning work would be concluded within a four month period and the existing funding arrangements would be terminated as early as practically possible. Members were concerned at leaving the termination of the existing funding arrangements without a time limit. The report set out the two possible procurement routes that could be followed and the latest end date was the 29th June 2011. Members endorsed this as the end date for the latest possible termination of the existing funding arrangements.

Members acknowledged the significant amount of work that had gone into developing the Voluntary and Community Sector policy and welcomed it as a strategic approach to the Council's funding arrangements and relationship with the Voluntary and Community Sector.

Resolved -

- (a) That the draft Voluntary and Community Sector Funding Policy be approved.
- (b) That identified voluntary and community sector activities be commissioned/grant funded in line with procurement requirements and guidelines.
- (c) That existing funding arrangements be extended as required and terminated at the earliest possible date following implementation of the new funding policy (and by the 29th June 2011 latest). No new arrangements are to be entered into during the extension period.

74. New Fairer Contributions Policy

The Cabinet considered a report seeking approval in principle for a new Fairer Contributions Policy for Adult Social Care services in accordance with the Department of Health's Fairer Contributions guidance. The new policy did not propose any changes in the way the Council undertook financial assessments or how income or savings were treated. The driver for the policy was equity rather than income generation. The new policy would support the delivery of the "Putting Me First" programme and reflected the changing way in which social care support would be provided in the future.

Resolved -

- (a) That the draft fairer contributions policy be approved in principle subject to consultation.

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- (b) That Officers be authorised to implement the statutory consultation process on the new policy with users of existing services and stakeholder groups and prepare for implementation.
- (c) That the Health Scrutiny Panel be requested to review the outcome of the consultation and endorse the new policy at the meeting on 21 March 2011.
- (d) That the Strategic Director of Community and Wellbeing in consultation with the lead Commissioner be delegated to agree the most appropriate date for implementing the new policy following review of the outcome of consultation and presentation to Health Scrutiny Panel.

75. Review of Adult Social Care Day Services

The Cabinet considered a report seeking approval for the recommendations of the Day Services review carried out during 2009/2010. Members noted that the review of Day Services had worked closely with service users, family members, staff and other stakeholders to identify new service models to meet the needs of adults of learning disabilities and physical disabilities. The recommendations arising from the review delivered improved outcomes for service users through increased use of community based facilities and also made best use of the resources and assets available to the Council. The consultation feedback had showed a general support for the recommendations.

Commissioners welcomed the outcome of the review. It had been appropriate to consolidate a high quality services acknowledging that buildings could not run under capacity. In answer to a question the Director of Community and Wellbeing advised that Mencap was currently looking at options for the future and the Council would be encouraging co-use of council buildings. Mencap would be housed in the West Wing until a longer term solution was identified.

Resolved -

- (a) That the implementation of a hub and opportunities service model for day opportunities services for adults with physical disabilities and learning disabilities be approved.
- (b) That the integration of the Elliman and Langley Services for people with Learning Disabilities at the Elliman Resource Centre, to provide a service hub be approved.
- (c) That the re-location of the Phoenix Service for adults with physical disabilities to the current Learning Disability Langley Resource Centre at Spitfire Close, to provide a service hub be approved.
- (d) That the future options for the location of Slough Mencap be agreed.
- (e) That the staff and financial implications of the proposals and the full implementation date of January 2011 be approved.

76. References from Overview and Scrutiny

The Cabinet considered a reference from the Neighbourhoods and Renewal Scrutiny Panel on the Council's strategy for improving the thermal efficiency of its housing stock.

The recommendation had come as a result of the Panel considering a member call-in submitted by Councillor Plimmer with regard to the insulation of the council's supporting housing units and homes occupied by vulnerable tenants. Members noted that in order to maximise the benefit of the available grant funding the Council's strategy for improving the thermal efficiency of its housing stock currently focused on the needs of the property rather than the individual occupancy. Having considered the report and the strong concerns raised by several members the Panel had agreed that the future sequencing of the insulation programme should reflect a broader approach encompassing both the condition of the property and the impact of the work on the occupants with regard to elderly and vulnerable tenants. The Cabinet endorsed the views of the Scrutiny Committee, and

Resolved - That the Council's strategy for improving the thermal efficiency of its housing stock, which currently prioritised works based on the condition of the property, be reviewed and amended to include prioritisation for:

- (a) Those homes designated for the elderly and vulnerable.
- (b) Those homes that have fuel costs greater than 10% of their disposable income.

77. Executive Forward Plan

Resolved - That the Executive Forward Plan be approved.

78. Members' Attendance Record

Noted.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 6.30 pm and closed at 7.50 pm)