

Cabinet – Meeting held on Monday, 23rd January, 2012.

Present:- Councillors Swindlehurst (Chair), S Chaudhry, A S Dhaliwal, Pantelic, Parmar, Walsh and P K Mann

Apologies for Absence:- Councillor Anderson

PART I

83. Declarations of Interest

None.

84. Cabinet Membership

The Cabinet noted the appointment of Councillor P K Mann as Commissioner for Opportunity and Skills, with effect from 23rd December 2011.

85. Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th December 2011

The minutes of the Meeting held on 12th December 2011 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

86. Project, Performance and Financial Reporting for 2011/12

The Cabinet considered the Council's overall performance from delivery of service to financial management covering the period up to and including November 2011 against the Council's key areas of gold projects, performance score card and revenue and capital monitoring position. The report also contains a further update on the use of temporary staff.

In addition to the report an appendix was tabled setting out the allocation of in year underspend to community priorities.

Members discussed the progress against the Council's gold projects and noted that whilst the personalised services programme was indicating an overall status of amber there was no under performance against this project - there had been a huge volume of activity and the amber rating had been a particularly cautious approach to progress. With regard to school places in Slough and the predicted increase in children to 2016 members asked for a further report to the Cabinet on the authority's plan for the future. Members noted the volume of activity with regard to FOI requests and requested an estimate of the cost to the authority of providing responses, whilst acknowledging that it would be difficult to accurately estimate this cost. Members noted the budget monitoring information and considered the reallocation of the in year underspend to community priorities as set out in the tabled appendix.

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In discussing the emerging issues and risks, members noted the proposal to use short term lets to offset the current loss of rent to the authority for Highways properties and asked for a cost benefit analysis of the proposal to be undertaken before any decisions were taken.

The Cabinet congratulated officers on the delivery of the budget strategy which had enabled the protection of frontline services and streamlined back office functions.

Resolved -

Noted the following aspects of the report:

- i. Project management
 - Noted the current reported status of each Gold Project.
- ii. Performance Scorecard
 - Noted the performance issues identified and highlighted.
- iii. Financial performance – revenue and capital
 - Noted the current projected outturn position on the General Fund of an under spend of £1.323m.
 - Noted that the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) reported a forecast under spend of £116k.
 - Noted the identified areas of risk and emerging issues.
 - Agreed the reallocation of £525k to Community priority projects as set out in Appendix A as tabled.
- iv. Temporary Staff
 - Noted the continued reduction in the use of temporary staff
 - Recommended future reports come to Cabinet and O&S quarterly.

87. Progress Report: OFSTED Inspection of Safeguarding and Looked After

The Cabinet considered a report detailing progress to date following the outcome of the Ofsted announced inspection of Safeguarding and Looked After Children which had taken place between April 4th and 15th 2012 with the report published on 1st June 2011.

Members noted that the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel was due to meet the following evening and members had been asked for specific questions in advance of the meeting so that full and detailed answers could be given. The Director of Education and Children's Services detailed the progress that had been made against each of the five themes of the Improvement Plan.

Resolved – That the actions taken in the department and progress since the publication of the Ofsted report be noted.

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88. References from Overview and Scrutiny

None.

89. Executive Forward Plan

Resolved - That the Executive Forward Plan be approved.

90. Exclusion of the Press and Public

Resolved – That the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the item in part two of the agenda as it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

91. Part II Minutes - Cabinet 12th December 2011

That the Part II minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 12th December 2011 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 6.30 pm and closed at 7.20 pm)