

Cabinet – Meeting held on Monday, 5th February, 2018.

Present:- Councillors Swindlehurst (Chair), Anderson, Carter, Nazir, Pantelic (until 7.20pm) and Sadiq

Also present under Rule 30:- Councillors Smith and Wright

Apologies for Absence:- Councillors Hussain and Mann

PART 1

89. Declarations of Interest

No declarations were made.

90. Minutes of the Meeting held on 22nd January 2018

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 22nd January 2018 be approved as a correct record.

91. Revenue Financial Report - 2017-18 (Quarter 3)

The Director of Finance & Resources introduced a report that updated on the latest revenue financial position to the end of the third quarter of the 2017/18 financial year and sought approval for virement and write off requests.

The forecast revenue overspend for the year was projected to be £0.65m which was a significant reduction of £0.64m on the previous month due to the inclusion of some additional savings in the adults and communities directorate, contract renegotiation and one off income. The main causes of the budget pressure were unchanged and were primarily transport for children with special educational needs, temporary accommodation, homelessness and an income shortfall in the cemeteries and crematorium and registrars service. The management actions being taken to address the forecast overspend were noted and the Director was confident the budget would be balanced by the end of the financial year.

Lead Members discussed the reasons for the pressures on SEN transport and it was noted that there was rising demand as there were more children in the schools system and more with complex needs requiring often expensive types of transport. In relation to the pressures on the temporary accommodation budget, the Cabinet was already taking significant steps to provide the necessary funding in the budget to acquire more properties to increase the supply of temporary accommodation and asked that any internal capacity issues be addressed to ensure the increased levels of acquisitions proceeded in a timely manner.

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At the conclusion of the discussion, the Cabinet noted the revenue position and considered and approved the virement and write off requests as detailed in paragraphs 7 and 8 of the report.

Resolved –

- (a) That the latest financial position be noted;
- (b) That the budget virements as listed in paragraph 7 of the report be approved; and
- (c) That the write offs as requested in paragraph 8 of the report be approved.

92. Five Year Plan 2018/19 - 2022/23

The Service Lead Strategy & Performance summarised the refreshed Five Year Plan 2018/19 to 2022/23 which the Cabinet was being asked to recommend to full Council for approval.

The Plan was originally launched in 2015 as the high level strategic plan for the Council which set out the vision and key priority outcomes. It was refreshed each year and there was an Annual Report to check progress. It had been aligned to the Medium Term Financial Strategy to ensure resources were focused on strategic priorities. Further work would be undertaken to further refine the performance measures for the revised outcomes and there would continue to be regular reporting on these to Cabinet and scrutiny.

Lead Members had worked with Directors and the Service Lead to refresh the sections relevant to their portfolios and it was felt that the Plan provided increased focus which would help provide a clear direction for each of the five outcomes. It was recognised that a significant amount of excellent work was already taking place across the Council and this activity would continue. The Leader highlighted that 2018 marked the 80th anniversary of Slough receiving its Charter to become a Borough and this was a useful point to reflect on the huge changes that the town had and was undergoing since.

At the conclusion of the discussion, the Cabinet welcomed the work done refresh the Five Year Plan and agreed to recommend it to full Council for approval on 22nd February 2018.

Recommended – That the refresh of the Five Year Plan be agreed as at Appendix A to the report.

93. Treasury Management Strategy 2018/19

The Director of Finance & Resources summarised the Treasury Management Strategy 2018/19 which the Cabinet was asked to recommend to full Council on 22nd February 2018. The draft strategy had been considered by the

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Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 1st February 2018 and no recommendations or proposed amendments had been made to Cabinet.

The Council had £289.841m of borrowing and an average investment balance of £50.714m throughout the year. The total debt for 2018/19 was expected to be £424m which was within the recommended limit in the CIPFA prudential code. The borrowing was supporting a wide range of investments set out in more detail in the capital strategy. The Council also had a number of non-treasury assets in the £50m strategic acquisition fund which helped generate strong revenue returns.

The borrowing strategy was discussed and it was noted that very low rates were being secured from other authorities. The Council's advisors, Arlingclose, were forecasting that interest rates would be held in the medium term. The Cabinet discussed the investment strategy and it was noted that a diverse portfolio of investments were made to balance risk including property funds, balances and loan notes to Slough Urban Renewal.

At the conclusion of the discussion, it was agreed to recommend the Treasury Management Strategy 2018/19 to full Council.

Recommended – That the Treasury Management Strategy for 2018/19 be approved.

94. Capital Strategy 2018/24

The Director of Finance & Resources introduced a report seeking approval to recommended the Capital Strategy 2018/24 and the capital programme 2018/19 to full Council. The strategy had been considered by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee and no recommendations or amendments were referred to Cabinet.

The Capital Strategy totalled £285m to 2024 and included investment in a range of projects and schemes including £40.5m to expand local schools; £13.1m on the new leisure centre and other facilities; £75m to improve the Council's housing stock; £66.7m capital loans to James Elliman Homes to support the housing strategy; and £54m on regeneration schemes including the redevelopment at the Thames Valley University and Old Library sites. The programme was funded through a mixture of sources including grants, section 106 receipts and borrowing. The Director confirmed that he was satisfied the programme was affordable and the Council was operating within the appropriate limits.

The Cabinet welcomed the Strategy which would provide significant investment in services and facilities to support the priority outcomes in the Five Year Plan. It was agreed to recommend approval to full Council on 22nd February 2018.

Recommended –

- (a) That the capital strategy of £285.0m and the Minimum Revenue Provision be approved and Recommended to full Council.
- (b) That it be noted that the notional costs of borrowing for the capital programme to the revenue budget would be an increase of up to £5.5m per annum -commencing during the period of the capital strategy to fund borrowing.
- (c) That the principles underpinning the capital programme as at paragraph 5.1.2 and the Minimum Revenue Provision principles in Section 6 of the report be approved.
- (d) That appendices A and B detailing the capital programmes (subject to these having approved Final Business Cases by the Capital Strategy Board) be approved.

95. Revenue Budget 2018-19

The Director of Finance & Resources introduced a report setting out the proposed revenue budget 2018/19 to be recommended to full Council. The budget had been considered by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee which had requested some further information on some of the fees and charges but no comments or recommendations had been made to Cabinet.

The proposed revenue budget for the forthcoming year was £100.680m and the key sources of income were summarised including the new Business Rates pilot scheme for Berkshire and the further decline in government funding. The budget proposed a Council Tax increase of 1.5% for local services in addition to passing on the 3% precept for adult social care. It was anticipated that the total rise of 4.5% would be the lowest increase in Berkshire. The savings had already been agreed by the Cabinet in December 2017 and Lead Members reviewed the key areas of growth including funding to cover the costs of demographic growth in adult social care.

After due consideration, the Cabinet agreed to recommend approval of the revenue budget to full Council at its meeting on 22nd February 2018.

Recommended –

That the budget as attached be approved, whilst noting that the Thames Valley Police Authority and the Royal Berkshire Fire Authority were still to confirm their final council tax precept requirements and:

Council Tax Resolution – In relation to the Council Tax for 2018/19

- (a) That in pursuance of the powers conferred on the Council as the billing authority for its area by the Local Government Finance Acts (the Acts), the

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Council Tax for the Slough area for the year ending 31 March 2019 is as specified below and that the Council Tax be levied accordingly.

- (b) That it be noted that at its meeting on 18 December 2017 Cabinet calculated the following Tax Base amounts for the financial year 2018/19 in accordance with Regulations made under sections 31B (3) and 34(4) of the Act:
- (i) 41,723.4 being the amount calculated by the Council, in accordance with Regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 2012 (the Regulations) as the Council Tax Base for the whole of the Slough area for the year 2018/19; and
 - (ii) The sums below being the amounts of Council Tax Base for the Parishes within Slough for 2018/19:

a) Parish of Britwell	849.3
b) Parish of Colnbrook with Poyle	1,885.9
c) Parish of Wexham	1,310.2
- (c) That the following amounts be now calculated for the year 2018/19 in accordance with sections 31A to 36 of the Act:
- (i) £388,340,008 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in section 31A (2)(a) to (f) of the Act. (Gross Expenditure);
 - (ii) £332,544,974 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in section 31A (3) (a) to (d) of the Act. (Gross Income);
 - (iii) £55,795,034 being the amount by which the aggregate at paragraph c (i) above exceeds the aggregate at paragraph c (ii) above calculated by the Council as its council tax requirement for the year as set out in section 31A(4) of the Act. (Council Tax Requirement);
 - (iv) £1,337.26 being the amount at paragraph c(iii) above divided by the amount at paragraph b(i) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with section 31B(1) of the

Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year, including the requirements for Parish precepts.

- (v) That for the year 2018/19 the Council determines in accordance with section 34 (1) of the Act, Total Special Items of £224,168 representing the total of Parish Precepts for that year.
- (vi) £1,331.89 being the amount at paragraph c (iv) above less the result given by dividing the amount at paragraph c (v) above by the relevant amounts at paragraph b (i) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with section 34 (2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special item relates.
- (vii) Valuation Bands

Band	Slough Area	Parish of Britwell	Parish of Colnbrook with Poyle	Parish of Wexham Court
	£	£	£	£
A	887.93	44.06	32.93	24.48
B	1,035.91	51.41	38.42	28.56
C	1,183.90	58.75	43.91	32.64
D	1,331.89	66.10	49.40	36.72
E	1,627.87	80.79	60.38	44.89
F	1,923.84	95.47	71.36	53.05
G	2,219.82	110.16	82.33	61.21
H	2,663.78	132.19	98.80	73.45

Being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at paragraph c (iv) and c (vi) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in section 5 (1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with section 36 (1) of the Act, as the amount to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

- (viii) Calculate that the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2018/19 (excluding Parish precepts) is £55,570,866.
- (ix) That it be noted that for the year 2018/19 the Thames Valley Police

Authority precept has been increased by 7.05%. The following amounts are stated in accordance with section 40 of the Act, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Band	Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) for Thames Valley £
A	121.52
B	141.77
C	162.03
D	182.28
E	222.79
F	263.29
G	303.80
H	364.57

[These precepts had not been formally proposed or agreed by the Thames Valley Police at the time of the Cabinet and would be revised when agreed].

- (x) That it be noted that for the year 2018/19 the Royal Berkshire Fire Authority has been increased by 2.99% as the following amount in precept issued to the Council, in accordance with section 40 of the Act, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Band	Royal Berkshire Fire Authority £
A	42.91
B	50.06
C	57.21
D	64.36
E	78.66
F	92.96
G	107.27
H	128.73

[These precepts had not been formally proposed or agreed by the Royal Berkshire Fire Authority at the

time of the Cabinet meeting and would be revised when agreed.]

- (xi) Note that arising from these recommendations, and assuming the major precepts are agreed, the overall Council Tax for Slough Borough Council for 2018/19 including the precepting authorities will be as follows:

Band	Slough	Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) for Thames Valley	Royal Berkshire Fire Authority	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£
A	887.93	121.52	42.91	1,052.36
B	1,035.91	141.77	50.06	1,227.74
C	1,183.90	162.03	57.21	1,403.14
D	1,331.89	182.28	64.36	1,578.53
E	1,627.87	222.79	78.66	1,929.32
F	1,923.84	263.29	92.96	2,280.09
G	2,219.82	303.80	107.27	2,630.89
H	2,663.78	364.57	128.73	3,157.08

- (xii) That the Section 151 Officer be and is hereby authorised to give due notice of the said Council Tax in the manner provided by Section 38(2) of the 2012 Act.
- (xiii) That the Section 151 Officer be and is hereby authorised when necessary to apply for a summons against any Council Tax payer or non-domestic ratepayer on whom an account for the said tax or rate and arrears has been duly served and who has failed to pay the amounts due to take all subsequent necessary action to recover them promptly.
- (xiv) That the Section 151 Officer be authorised to collect (and disperse from the relevant accounts) the Council Tax and National Non-Domestic Rate and that whenever the office of the Section 151 Officer is vacant or the holder thereof is for any reason unable to act, the Chief Executive or such other authorised post-holder be authorised to act as before said in his or her stead.
- (xv) That in the event that there are any changes to the provisional precept of the Fire Authority, arising from their precept setting meeting being held on 28 February, the

Section 151 Officer is delegated authority to enact all relevant changes to the Revenue Budget 2018/19, Statutory Resolution and council tax levels.

Fees and Charges –

- (e) That the Council resolves to increase Fees and charges as outlined in Appendix E for 2018/19.

Use of Flexible Capital Receipts –

- (f) That the Council resolves to approve the proposed use of new capital receipts under the freedoms of the Flexible Capital Receipts regulations and that they are to be used to fund revenue spend as outlined in Appendix K.

Pay Policy –

- (g) The Slough Borough Council Pay Policy Statement update 2018/19 will be going to Employment and Appeals Committee on 25th January 2018 and will be included in this report once agreed.

Business Rate Pilot –

- (h) That the Council agrees to participate in the 2018/19 Berkshire Business Rates Pilot Scheme.

Local Government Finance Settlement 2018/19 -

- (i) It must be noted that the government has not yet announced the final Local Government Finance Settlement 2018/19 and the results will not be known until after this report is published. Consequently, it is agreed that if there is any substantial changes in the amount of funding received by the Council at the final settlement, the Section 151 Officer will be authorised to use the Council's reserves to balance the overall budget for 2018/19 following consultation with the Cabinet member for Corporate Finance and Housing.

96. Council Tax and Business Rates Discretionary Relief

The Cabinet considered a report that sought approval for a suite of policies for Business Rates for 2018/19 in respect of:

- Discretionary Rate Relief for Charities and not for profit organisations;
- Partially Occupied Relief (Section 44a);
- Hardship Relief;
- General Rate Relief;
- Revaluation Relief;
- Inward Investment;
- Public House Relief Scheme;

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- Council Tax Hardship Relief;
- Amended policy for 2017-18 on Revaluation Relief.

The award of reliefs as set out in the policies was in line with government policy and there were no significant changes to any of the policies, other than their uprating. The first four reliefs listed above would now have to be fully funded by the Council, having previously being 50% funded by government, however the overall impact of the Business Rates retention pilot was expected to have a positive net financial impact. Most of the other reliefs were either funded by government, within limits, or the Council would be reimbursed providing the schemes operated within government guidelines.

At the conclusion of the discussion, the Cabinet agreed the policies as set out in appendices A to I of the report.

Resolved –

- (a) That the policies for Business Rates for 2018-19 onwards as set out in Appendix A-H to the report be approved.
- (b) That the amended policy for Business Rates Revaluation Relief as set out in Appendix I to the report be approved.

97. Annual Early Years Childcare Sufficiency Report

The Lead Member for Children & Education introduced a report informing the Cabinet of the outcomes of the annual Early Years Childcare Sufficiency Assessment carried out as part of the statutory duty to secure sufficient place for eligible children in Slough.

There was a high and growing demand for places in Slough and the Council was working closely with providers to ensure sufficient places were available. The assessment highlighted that there would be insufficient places in some wards by the summer of 2018, although assurance was provided that action was being taken to expand provision to meet the identified shortfall. Demand for places could change rapidly, or may not be fully taken up, and the Council worked closely with the sector to address demand pressure where they arose by making additional places available. The particular issues for children with special educational needs and disabilities were highlighted. It was intended that an Early Years Strategy would be published by September 2018.

The Cabinet noted the report and work underway to address the identified gap in provision from the summer of 2018.

Resolved –

- (a) That it be noted that current childcare sufficiency information indicated that there would be insufficient childcare places in some wards across Slough by the summer of 2018.

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- (b) That the need to prioritise the development of early years and childcare provision in those wards where demand for places is projected to exceed supply be noted.
- (c) That the need for additional early years provision for children with SEND be noted.
- (d) That the intention to publish an Early Years Strategy by September 2018 be noted.

98. Establishment of Trading Partnership with OPSL

The Director of Place & Development introduced a follow up report to that considered by the Cabinet on 18th September 2017 on the business case and structure of a trading partnership with Osborne Property Services Ltd (OPSL).

The Cabinet agreed to note the business case at Appendix A to the report during Part I of the agenda without disclosing any of the exempt information.

The arrangement would provide a mechanism to develop affordable, modular housing units, initially at seven small sites across Slough. It would also make available a home improvement, repairs and maintenance incentive offer to private landlords to help prevent homelessness as well as other home improvement and repairs services. The decisions would enable the partnership to be established and set the work programme for the next twelve months.

The Cabinet welcomed the potential opportunities of the trading partnership, approved the recommendations and requested that an update on progress be received at the meeting in June 2018.

Resolved –

- (a) That the business case set out in Appendix A, and indicative programme for the first 12 months be approved.
- (b) That the Service Lead Governance, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Corporate Finance and Housing and Leader of the Council, be authorised to seek the incorporation of the Trading Partnership and to complete all necessary procedures for this purpose.
- (c) That authority be delegated to the Service Lead Governance and Service Lead Neighbourhoods, following consultation with the Leader and Cabinet Member for Corporate Finance & Housing, to confirm the governance arrangements and complete and agree the Articles of Association and Shareholder Agreement.
- (d) That the TP continuously report back to RMI Strategic Management Board which consists of Contract Administrator (Neighbourhood Service Lead),

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Strategic Director, Place & Development, Cabinet Member for Corporate Finance & Housing and OPSL.

- (e) That the Section 151 officer sanction any financial support including the use of retained 1-4-1 RTB receipts or pump priming investment by HRA or GF to facilitate Trading Partnership start up so as to deliver work programmes.
- (f) That the Cabinet receive an update on the progress of establishing the Trading Partnership at the meeting to be held on 18th June 2018.

(Councillor Pantelic left the meeting)

99. References from Overview & Scrutiny

There were no references from Overview & Scrutiny.

100. Notification of Forthcoming Decisions

The Cabinet considered and endorsed the Notification of Key Decisions published on 5th January 2018 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.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 6.33 pm and closed at 7.24 pm)