

APPENDIX 1

Extract of Executive Board Minutes Relevant to the Corporate Policy and Performance Board

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 13th JUNE 2019

RESOURCES PORTFOLIO

EXB6 VICTORIA PARK GREENHOUSE PROJECT - WAIVER OF STANDING ORDERS

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, which sought approval of a waiver of Procurement Standing Orders, for the provision of a greenhouse structure at Victoria Park, Widnes.

The Board was advised that the current Victorian style greenhouse was a central part of the visitor offer in the Park, although it was in need of repair. Following a feasibility study, a soft market testing exercise was undertaken to establish a manufacturer of a new greenhouse. The report set out details of the breakdown of the various elements of the project together with costs for Members' consideration. It was reported that the waiver of the relevant Procurement Standing Orders would allow the Council to make a further saving against the quoted costs of the original scheme.

RESOLVED: That the waiver of Procurement Standing Order 1.5.2 Open Tendering Procedure under Procurement Standing Orders 1.14.4 (iv and v) be approved, to allow a direct award to Hartley Botanical in the amount of £159,348, for the provision of the greenhouse structure on the Victoria Park Greenhouse project.

Strategic Director
- Enterprise,
Community and
Resources

EXB7 2018/19 FINANCIAL OUTTURN

The Board considered a report of the Operational Director, Finance, on the final revenue and capital spending position for 2018/19.

The Board was advised that the final accounts for 2018/19 were near completion; the revenue spending for

each department, which would be subject to external audit, was attached to the report at Appendix 1.

The report provided details on the key budget variances within the following services:-

- Children and Families;
- Adult Social Care;
- Community and Environment;
- Education, Inclusion and Provision;
- Planning and Transportation; and
- Corporate and Democracy.

Members were advised that the Council's Reserves and Balances had been reviewed in accordance with the Reserves and Balances Strategy. Total revenue spending for the year was £2.4m above budget, and as a result, this would have had the impact of reducing the Council's General Reserve to £2.6m. At this level, it was considered the General Reserve would be insufficient given the level of increased service pressures and uncertainty regarding future funding cuts and fluctuations in the business rates retained on an annual basis. However, it was reported that a number of earmarked reserves had been reviewed and reductions made where possible, to enable funds to be moved into the General Reserve to increase the balance to a more prudent level.

A breakdown of School's Balances and spending for 2018/19 was provided, indicating a total of £4.6m at 31 March 2019. Capital spending at 31 March 2019 totalled £21.890m, being 64.6% of the total Capital Programme.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the report be noted; and
- 2) the information within the report be taken into account when reviewing the 2019/20 budget monitoring position, medium term forecast and

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saving proposals for future years.

EXB8 CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2019/20 TO 2021/22

The Board considered a report of the Operational Director, Finance, which presented the Council's total forecast Capital Programme expenditure and associated funding for 2019/20 to 2021/22.

The report updated Members on the latest position on the Council's Capital Programme, including planned Capital Programme expenditure 2019/20 to 2021/22, a summary of how this would be financed and details of Capital Receipts. The report also outlined the proposed use of the ICT rolling Capital Programme, as set out in Appendix A attached to the report.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) Council be recommended to approve the updated Capital Programme for 2019/22, including forecast spend and funding, as set out in Table 1 and Table 2, attached to the report;
- 2) the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, in consultation with the Portfolio holder for Transportation, be authorised to finalise the detailed implementation programme of Highways and Transportation Schemes to be delivered in 2019/20; and
- 3) the proposed use of the ICT rolling Capital Programme for 2019/20, as set out in Appendix A attached to the report, be approved.

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EXB9 DISCRETIONARY NON-DOMESTIC RATE RELIEF

The Board considered a report of the Operational Director, Finance on an application for discretionary non-domestic rate relief.

The Board was advised that under the amended provisions of the Local Government Finance Act 1988, the

Council was able to grant discretionary rate relief to any business rate payer. The Council currently met the full cost of all mandatory and discretionary relief granted, as part of the Liverpool City Region 100% Business Rates Retention Pilot Scheme.

An application had been received for discretionary rate relief, as outlined in the report. It was noted that the organisation was not a registered charity or considered to be a charity by HMRC for tax purposes, so the 80% mandatory relief was not applicable.

RESOLVED: That the application for 90% discretionary rate relief from Power in Partnership Ltd in relation to its premises at 5 Alcock Street, Runcorn, and Unit 1a Halton Lodge Local Centre, Whitchurch Way, Halton Lodge, Runcorn, be approved from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2022.

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EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 18TH JULY 2019

RESOURCES PORTFOLIO

EXB13 REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES INCORPORATING THE WARD BOUNDARY REVIEW

The Board considered a report of the Returning Officer, David Parr, on a review of polling districts and polling places, incorporating the Ward Boundary Review.

The Board was advised that local authorities were required to periodically carry out and complete a review of polling districts and polling places. It was reported that the last review took place in 2015 and since that time, polling stations had been reviewed at election times by the Returning Officer. The report set out details of the three stages of review – the Preliminary Stage, the Proposal Stage and the Consultation Stage.

Given the nature and imminent timescale of this review, it was proposed to establish a Working Party to undertake the review, reporting to Council on the outcome

later in 2019.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the publication of the notice of the Polling Districts and Polling Places Review, incorporating the Ward Boundary Review, be authorised; and
- 2) a Working Party of 6 Members (4 Labour, 1 Liberal Democrat and 1 Conservative), be appointed to undertake the review of polling districts and polling places, following consultation, as required by the Electoral Administration Act 2006, and make recommendations to the Executive Board.

Returning Officer

EXB14 TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2018/29

The Board considered a report of the Operational Director, Finance, which presented the Treasury Management Report for 2018/19.

The report updated the Board on activities undertaken on the money market as required by the Treasury Management Policy. It provided supporting information on the economic outlook, interest rate forecast, short term borrowing rates, long term borrowing rates, borrowing and investments, budget monitoring, new long term borrowing and treasury management indicators. It was noted that no debt rescheduling had been undertaken during 2018/19.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

EXB15 DIRECTORATE PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW REPORTS FOR QUARTER 4 2018/19

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, on progress against key milestones/objectives and performance targets for the first quarter 2019/20.

The Board was advised that the Directorate Performance Overview Report provided a strategic summary

of key issues arising from performance in the relevant quarter for each Directorate, being aligned to Council priorities or functional areas. The Board noted that such information was key to the Council's management arrangements, with the Board having a key role in monitoring performance and strengthening accountability. Performance management would continue to be important in the demonstration of value for money and outward accountability.

RESOLVED: That the report, and progress and performance information be noted.