

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

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 19TH SEPTEMBER 2019

RESOURCES PORTFOLIO

EXB28 TERM MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources on the provision of term maintenance contracts across the Borough.

The Board was advised that the existing maintenance and minor works term contracts for mechanical, electrical and building elements would end on 31 May 2020. Members were asked to approve the use of The Chest to proceed with the procurement process. Details of the evaluation process were set out in the report; Members noted that the cost of works would be met from a variety of existing budgets. The contracts would ensure that the authority delivered the maintenance and servicing of plant and equipment in a cost effective manner.

RESOLVED: That Members approve the entering into of a procurement process via The Chest to secure the maintenance and minor works contract for mechanical, electrical and building elements for use across corporate and school buildings Borough-wide.

Strategic Director
- Enterprise,
Community and
Resources

EXB29 2019/20 QUARTER 1 SPENDING

The Board considered a report of the Operational Director, Finance, which summarised the overall revenue and capital spending position at 30 June 2019.

In overall terms, the revenue expenditure was £1.247m above the budget profile. It was reported that based on current spend patterns, projections showed that the Council would have a year-end outturn overspend position of £6.772m if no corrective action were taken. There were a number of departments where net overspend for the quarter exceeded the budget profile. The main budget

pressure continued to be within the Children and Families Department, with a forecast outturn overspend in the region of £4.7m.

Council approved budget savings proposals at its meeting in March 2019, for the current year's budget. It was reported that the value of permanent savings was £4.432m, of which a number of savings proposals totalling £1.754m remained unallocated to specific budgets. The delay in implementation impacted detrimentally on the forecast position as set out in Appendix 1; Table A in the report listed the savings proposals still to be implemented.

The Capital Programme had been revised to reflect a number of changes in spending profiles as schemes had developed; a list of those schemes that had been revised were set out in the report. Capital spending at 30 June 2019 totalled £6.4m which was 98% of the planned spending at this stage. It was noted that this represented 17.3% of the total Capital Programme of £36.8m.

The Council's balance sheet was monitored regularly in accordance with the Reserves and Balances Strategy, which formed part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy. The key reserves and balances had been reviewed and considered prudent and appropriate at this stage in the financial year.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) all spending continues to be limited to the absolutely essential items;
- 2) departments seek to implement as soon as possible the 2019/20 budget savings proposals listed in Table A, which were approved by Council in March 2019;
- 3) Strategic Directors take appropriate action to ensure overall spending is contained as far as possible within their total operational budget by year-end; and
- 4) Council be recommended to approve the revised Capital Programme, as set out in Appendix 2, attached to the report.

Operational
Director - Finance

ENFORCEMENT OF AGENT SERVICES - COUNCIL TAX AN BUSINESS RATES

The Board considered a report of the Operational Director, Finance, which sought approval of a waiver of Procurement Standing Orders for the provision of Enforcement Agents Services.

It was reported that the current contracts for bailiff services expired on 4 September 2019. The service encompassed the collection of all council tax and business rates income where the Council could not directly collect it from the debtors.

To ensure continuity, it was proposed that the services of the current providers be retained. The success rate in terms of collections, were detailed in the report. It was noted that there were no costs incurred by the Council, as fees were charged to the debtor(s).

RESOLVED: That a waiver of Procurement Standing Orders to the value of £300,000 to cover a period of two years from 5 September 2019 to 4 September 2021 be approved, for the provision of Enforcement Agents Services, under the existing arrangements with Jacobs Ltd and Rossendales Ltd.

Operational
Director - Finance

EXB31 DISCRETIONARY NON-DOMESTIC RATE RELIEF APPLICATIONS

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, on four applications for discretionary non-domestic rate relief.

The Board was advised that, under the amended provision of the Local Government Finance Act 1988, the Council was able to grant discretionary rate relief to any business rate payer. Since 1 April 2017, the Council had been responsible for meeting the full cost of all mandatory and discretionary rate relief granted, as part of the Liverpool City Region 100% Business Rates Retention Pilot Scheme.

The report set out details of four applications for discretionary non-domestic rate relief for Members to consider.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the application from Halton Citizens Advice Bureau for 15% discretionary rate relief for Store E within Grosvenor House, Runcorn, from 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2022, be approved;
- 2) the application from Trade Training UK for 15% discretionary rate relief for their premises at 122 Bancroft Road, Widnes from 8 January 2019 to 31 March 2022, be approved;
- 3) the application from Halton Credit Union Ltd for 90% discretionary rate relief for their premises at 110 Widnes Road, Widnes from 24 June 2019 to 31 March 2022, be approved; and
- 4) the application from United Living Ltd for 90% discretionary rate relief for their premises at 28A Albert Square, Widnes from 13 April 2019 to 31 March 2022, be approved.

Strategic Director
- Enterprise,
Community and
Resources

EXB32 DISPOSAL, ACQUISITION, RETENTION STRATEGY

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, which sought approval of the Disposal, Acquisition, Retention Strategy (the Strategy), attached to the report at Appendix A.

The Board was advised that the previous disposal programmes had been considered by the Board in 2010 and updated in 2013. The revised Strategy outlined the Council's approach to the disposal and/or purchase of assets, and would form part of the Council's overall Asset Management Plan.

RESOLVED: That Executive Board

- 1) approves the process as outlined in the Disposal, Acquisition, Retention Strategy attached to the report at Appendix A; and
- 2) authorises the Operational Director, Economy, Enterprise and Property, to prepare a disposal programme on the basis of the Disposal, Acquisition, Retention Strategy, attached to the report at Appendix A.

Strategic Director
- Enterprise,
Community and
Resources

EXB36 SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

The Board considered:

- 1) whether Members of the press and public should be excluded from the meeting of the Board during consideration of the following item of business in accordance with Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 because it was likely that, in view of the nature of the business to be considered, exempt information would be disclosed, being information defined in Section 100 (1) and paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972; and
- 2) whether the disclosure of information was in the public interest, whether any relevant exemptions were applicable and whether, when applying the public interest test and exemptions, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed that in disclosing the information.

RESOLVED: That as, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed that in disclosing the information, members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business in accordance with Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 because it was likely that, in view of the nature of the business, exempt information would be disclosed, being information defined in Section 100 (1) and paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972

RESOURCES PORTFOLIO

EXB37 LAND AT DAVY ROAD, ASTMOOR, RUNCORN

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, on the acquisition of the freehold interest in land at Davy Road, Runcorn.

Members were advised that the site referred to, edged red on the plan attached to the report, housed a derelict single storey building. The site provided an opportunity to improve access into adjacent handback land

from the Mersey Gateway so as to create a larger quality redevelopment opportunity.

The report set out a number of options for Members' consideration. It was noted that the proposal supported the Borough's regeneration objectives; Astmoor had been identified as one of eight locations where the new Mersey Gateway Bridge and the reconfigured road network had the potential to open up land and stimulate new development and an area for growth.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the acquisition of the freehold interest in land at Davy Road, Astmoor for the amount reported in paragraph 3.11 be approved;
- 2) the Board approves the land in Davy Road as surplus to requirements and to be sold for redevelopment included in the Astmoor Masterplan; and
- 3) the Operational Director, Economy, Enterprise and Property be authorised to arrange for all required documentation for the transactions to be completed to the satisfaction of the Operational Director, Legal and Democratic Services.

Strategic Director
- Enterprise,
Community and
Resources

EXB38 DISPOSAL OF EMPLOYMENT LAND AT JOHNSON'S LANE, WIDNES

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, which sought approval to the disposal of a plot of land at Johnson's Lane, Widnes.

The report set out details of the proposals for Members' consideration.

RESOLVED: That Executive Board

- 1) approves the disposal of land shown edged red on the plan attached to the report, to the company and for the price set out in the recommendation, both subject to planning permission and subject to contract; and
- 2) authorises the Operational Director, Economy,

Strategic Director
- Enterprise,
Community and
Resources

Enterprise and Property, to arrange all required documentation to be completed to the satisfaction of the Operational Director, Legal and Democratic Services.

(N.B. Councillor R. Hignett declared a disclosable other interest in the following item of business, as he was on the board of the Sci-Tech Daresbury public sector joint venture board)

EXB39 SCI-TECH DARESURY: PROJECT VIOLET FUNDING UPDATE

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, which provided an update on the next phase of the Sci-Tech Daresbury Enterprise Zone Masterplan – Project Violet.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) Council be recommended to include the scheme in the 2019/20 Capital Programme, to be funded as set out in paragraph 3.2 to 3.4 of the report; and
- 2) Members note the procurement process undertaken by the Sci-Tech Daresbury Joint Venture.

Strategic Director
- Enterprise,
Community and
Resources

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 17TH OCTOBER 2019

RESOURCES PORTFOLIO

EXB48 DIRECTORATE PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW REPORT

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