

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

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 17 JUNE 2021

CORPORATE SERVICES PORTFOLIO

EXB2 DISCRETIONARY NON-DOMESTIC RATE RELIEF

The Board considered a report from the Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources, which presented an application for discretionary non-domestic rate relief, under Section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988.

It was reported that an application for discretionary rate relief had been received from ‘Have a Heart Foundation’, who were a registered Charity, in respect of their new premises located at 47 Runcorn Shopping Centre, Runcorn.

The report provided information on the Charity and details of the costs of granting 15% top-up discretionary rate relief to them for the 2021/22 financial year; full details were provided at Appendix one to the report.

RESOLVED: That the Board approves a 15% top-up discretionary rate relief to the ‘Have a Heart Foundation’ in respect of 47 Runcorn Shopping City, Runcorn for the 2021/22 financial year.

Strategic Director
- Enterprise,
Community and
Resources

EXB3 WASTE, WATER & ANCILLARY SERVICES CONTRACT

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources, advising of the intention to undertake a procurement exercise via a suitable framework in respect of the provision of a Waste, Water and Ancillary Services contract.

It was reported that since the deregulation of the water industry on 1 April 2017, United Utilities entered into a joint venture with Severn Trent Water to create ‘Water Plus’ which by default, had acted as the Council’s provider of waste, water and ancillary services ever since.

It was reported that the Yorkshire Purchasing

Organisation (YPO), the North East Procurement Organisation (NEPO) and Manchester Council all now had suitable frameworks in place, from which this service could be obtained. It was noted that the only provider on each framework was 'Wave' who were the leading national water retailer and were formed from two established regional entities.

Due to demonstrating excellent value in becoming the only provider on each of the above frameworks, as such it was the intention to award a contract to Wave via one of these frameworks, subject to the prices being competitive against costs over recent years, and a suitable term being available. A minimum contract of 3 years with the option of a one-year extension was intended. The report presented the likely costs of the contact over a 4-year period.

RESOLVED: That Members note the intention to undertake a procurement exercise via a suitable framework in respect of the provision of a Waste, Water and Ancillary Services Contract, and subject to competitive prices and a suitable contact term being available, note intention to award a contract to 'Wave' as the sole provider on the various frameworks available.

Strategic Director
- Enterprise,
Community and
Resources

EXB4 2020/21 FINANCIAL OUTTURN POSITION

The Board considered a report from the Operational Director – Finance, advising of the Council's overall revenue and capital net spending outturn position for the year 2020/21.

It was reported that the final accounts for 2020/21 were nearing completion. The revenue spending position for each Department was shown in Appendix one; which presented a summary of spending against the operational revenue budget; and Appendix two provided detailed figures for each individual Department. In overall terms, the outturn position for the year showed that net spend was under the approved budget by £2.340m. This was a significant improvement on the forecast overspend of £1.180m reported at the end of quarter 3. The reasons for the improved financial position were presented in the report and the key budget variances for the quarter were noted in the following Departments:

- Children and Families;

- Adult Social Care Department;
- Education, Inclusion and Provision;
- Public Health and Public Protection;
- Finance; and
- Policy, Planning and Transportation.

Members were also advised of the financial impact of Covid-19 and a summary of the general Government funding made available to the Council to date was outlined.

Operational
Director - Finance

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 15 JULY 2021

CORPORATE SERVICES PORTFOLIO

EXB14 TAXI LICENSING - POLICY CHANGES RELATING TO TAXI DRIVERS MEDICALS

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources, which presented amendments to the medical element of the Taxi Licensing Policy for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers, submitted by the Regulatory Committee.

Members were advised that on 30 June 2021, the Regulatory Committee considered an amendment to the medical element of the Taxi Licensing Policy for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers, as presented in Appendix 1 of the report. Over the past 3 years, licensed drivers and new applicants had encountered problems in obtaining the medical assessments, as explained in paragraph 3.3. This was exacerbated since the pandemic as some medical centres had withdrawn the service altogether and NW Boroughs Healthcare NHS FT had yet to restart assessing drivers, which has led to a backlog.

It was reported that the Regulatory Committee had agreed the amendments at its meeting on 30 June, and recommended their approval at Executive Board.

RESOLVED: That the Executive Board:

- 1) agree a minimum standard for 3rd party medical assessments;
- 2) delegate the authority of approving who can

Strategic Director
- Enterprise,
Community and
Resources

undertake medical assessments in accordance with current policy to the Licensing Manager; and

- 3) allow a technical exemption for certain licence holders from having to undertake the same medical assessment twice.

EXB15 2021/22 - 2023/24 CAPITAL PROGRAMME

The Board considered a report from the Operational Director – Finance, which presented the Council's total planned capital programme expenditure and associated funding over the next three years and requested that Council be recommended to approve the updated capital programme for 2021-24.

It was reported that Council had approved the capital programme for 2021/22 at its meeting on 4 March 2021. Since then new capital grant allocations have been received and slippage to capital projects for 2020/21 had been rolled forward to 2021/22. The report presented the planned capital programme expenditure for 2021/22 to 2023/24 in Table 1 for both Directorates; Table 2 summarised how the capital programme would be funded.

It was noted that the capital programme was subject to regular review and monitoring reports were presented to the Board on a quarterly basis. These included the actual spend incurred to date and how this compared to the capital allocation for the year; a forecast was also provided to indicate if the capital programme would be utilised in full during the year, or if there was any expected slippage to capital schemes.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) Council be recommended to approve the updated capital programme for 2021/24, including forecast spend and funding, as set out in Tables 1 and 2;
- 2) the Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources, in liaison with the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Urban Renewal, finalise the detailed implementation programme of Highways and Transportation schemes to be delivered in 2021/22.

Operational
Director - Finance

EXB16 DIRECTORATE PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW REPORTS -
QUARTER 4 OF 2020/21

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources, on progress against key objectives/milestones and performance targets for the fourth quarter period to 31 March 2021, for the People Directorate (Children and Young People and Adult Social Care and Health; and Enterprise, Community and Resources.

The Board was advised that the Directorate Performance Overview Report provided a strategic summary of key issues arising from the relevant quarter for each Directorate and was aligned to Council priorities or functional areas. The Board noted that such information was key to the Council's performance management arrangements and Executive Board had a key role in monitoring performance and strengthening accountability. Performance Management would continue to be important in the demonstration of value for money and strengthening accountability.

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

Strategic Director
- Enterprise,
Community and
Resources