

Cabinet

Meeting held 11 February 2015

PRESENT: Councillors Julie Dore (Chair), Leigh Bramall, Isobel Bowler,
Ben Curran, Harry Harpham (Deputy Chair), Mazher Iqbal and Mary Lea

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1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jackie Drayton and Jayne Dunn.

2. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

2.1 No items were identified where it was proposed to exclude the public and press.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3.1 Councillor Ben Curran declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in Agenda Item 12 'Voluntary Sector Grant Aid Investment' (See minute 11 below) as a Trustee of the Ben Centre. Councillor Curran left the room during consideration of the item and took no part in the discussion or vote.

3.2 Councillors Julie Dore, Harry Harpham and Mazher Iqbal declared personal interests in Agenda Item 12 'Voluntary Sector Grant Aid Investment' (See minute 11 below) as they had savings accounts with Sheffield Credit Union.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 The minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 11 January 2015 were approved as a correct record.

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

5.1 Public Question in respect of the Public Health Budget

Mike Simpkin commented that there were some excellent examples of public health funding being used in targeted programmes to improve health through adding to local authority services, for example through housing improvement. However, the proposed saving and transfer of up to £2.5m from the public health budget looked like a significant dilution and it wasn't obvious whether this year's use of public health money to support community libraries had any specific health link (e.g. health collections, health information, links to health hubs etc.) Will the Council therefore spell out exactly what public health services were proposed to be lost and what measures will be taken to assess the health impacts of the proposed transfers (both positive and negative)? If agreed, will these re-allocations be subject to reassessment next year, rather than being absorbed into the basic budgets of the services they are supporting?

In response Councillor Mazher Iqbal, Cabinet Member for Communities and Public Health, reported that Public Health had come into the Council in April 2013. There were a number of historical contracts which existed and savings and transfers in relation to this were outlined in the Budget report on the agenda for this meeting.

Councillor Iqbal then referred to the Smoking Cessation project. This was based on payment by results where for every person who stopped smoking the Council would get paid. There had been a projected underspend in this project for the year and possibly next year. As a result the Council were looking at other Public Health projects which they could look to fund with the underspend. For example, a lot of work had been done on the Best Start project which aimed to give children the best start in life. A bid had been made for external funding to support the project which had been unsuccessful. However, the Council were keen to continue with the project and it may be possible to use the underspend from the Smoking Cessation project to support this.

Councillor Iqbal also confirmed that no funding from Public Health was being invested in libraries in the City.

5.2 Public Question in respect of Healthwatch Sheffield

Mike Simpkin commented that it was being rumoured that there will be a significant cut to the Sheffield Healthwatch budget, possibly up to 15%. This was a statutory function for which the Council received external though not ringfenced funding from the Department of Health which had requested transparency about local decisions. If rumours were true and not due to a cut in the national allocation, would it not be disreputable for the Council to cut local inspection and evaluation not just because of the NHS but also of its own social care services at a time when these were under hugely increasing pressure as well as being subject to integration and change?

Councillor Iqbal confirmed that the rumours referred to by Mr Simpkin were not true and there would be no 15% grant to Healthwatch.

Councillor Julie Dore, Leader of the Council, added that Healthwatch Sheffield were members of the Health and Wellbeing Board which she Co-Chaired with Tim Moorhead of the Sheffield Clinical Commissioning Group. Councillor Dore and Tim Moorhead also had regular meetings with Healthwatch Sheffield and were committed to engaging with them.

6. ITEMS CALLED-IN FOR SCRUTINY

- 6.1 It was noted that a Leaders decision on 'Tender for Reprovision of Day Services and Residential Short Term Care Beds for People with Dementia' taken on 3 February 2015 had been called-in for Scrutiny.

7. RETIREMENT OF STAFF

7.1 The Executive Director, Resources submitted a report on Council staff retirements.

RESOLVED: That this Cabinet :-

(a) places on record its appreciation of the valuable services rendered to the City Council by the following staff in the Portfolios below:-

<u>Name</u>	<u>Post</u>	<u>Years' Service</u>
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Children, Young People and Families

Susan Abramski	Curriculum Specialist, Intake Primary School	28
Shan Bennett	Clerical Officer and Primary School Assistant, Dobcroft Infant School	21
Susan Blackett	Business Support Manager, Sacred Heart Primary School	23
Nina Blackwood	Teacher, Talbot Specialist School	22
Lorraine Goodwin	Senior Administrative Officer, Windmill Hill Primary School	29
Jean Owen	Administrator, Nether Green Junior School	26
Peter Sweet-Escott	Headteacher, Windmill Hill Primary School	35

Communities

Graham Compton	Estate Officer	25
Stephen Todd	Strategic Commissioning Manager	31

Place

Linda Dale	Medico-Legal Centre Manager	35
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Resources

Christine Prime	HR Business Partner	38
Patrick Scanlan	Motor Vehicle Fitter	25

(b) extends to them its best wishes for the future and a long and happy retirement; and

(c) directs that an appropriate extract of this resolution under the Common Seal of the Council be forwarded to them.

8. REVENUE BUDGET AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING 2014/15 MONTH 8 (AS AT 30/11/14)

8.1 The Interim Executive Director, Resources submitted a report providing the month 8 on the City Council's Revenue and Capital Budget for 2014/15.

8.2 **RESOLVED:** That Cabinet:-

- (a) notes the updated information and management actions provided by the report on the 2014/15 Revenue budget position;
- (b) approves the carry forward request for 100+ Apprenticeships Scheme within the Children, Young People and Families Portfolio as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report;
- (c) approves the next phase of New Homes Bonus projects as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report;
- (d) in relation to the Capital Programme:-
 - (i) approves the proposed additions to the Capital Programme listed in Appendix 3 of the report, including the procurement strategies and delegations of authority to the Director of Commercial Services or nominated Officer, as appropriate, to award the necessary contracts following stage approval by Capital Programme Group; and
 - (ii) approves the proposed variations and slippage requests listed in Appendix 3 of the report; and notes;
 - (A) the latest position on the Capital Programme including the current level of delivery;
 - (B) the emergency approvals and Director variations under delegated authority; and
 - (C) the slippage requests authorised by the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources under his delegated authority;

8.3 Reasons for Decision

8.3.1 To formally record changes to the Revenue Budget and the Capital Programme and gain Member approval for changes in line with Financial Regulations and to reset the Capital Programme in line with latest information.

8.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

- 8.4.1 A number of alternative courses of action are considered as part of the process undertaken by Officers before decisions are recommended to Members. The recommendations made to Members represent what Officers believe to be the best options available to the Council, in line with Council priorities given the constraints on funding and the use to which funding is put within the Revenue Budget and the Capital Programme.

9. **REVENUE BUDGET 2015/16**

- 9.1 A joint report of the Chief Executive and the Interim Executive Director of Resources was submitted which sought approval for the City Council's revenue budget for 2015/16, a 2015/16 Council Tax for the City Council and commented upon the levies and precepts made on the City Council by other authorities.

- 9.2 As part of Cabinet's consideration of the joint report, it was noted that the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee had noted the following recommendations, without amendment, as part of its consideration of the joint report earlier in the day.

- 9.3 **RESOLVED:** That the City Council, at its meeting on 6th March, 2015, be recommended to:-

- (a) approve a net Revenue Budget for 2015/16 amounting to £422.972m;
- (b) approve a Band D equivalent Council Tax of £1308.28 for City Council services, i.e. an increase of 1.99%;
- (c) approve the Revenue Budget allocations and Budget Implementation Plans for each of the services, as set out in Appendix 2 of the report;
- (d) note the information on the precepts issued by the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner and the South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority;
- (e) approve the proposed amount of compensation to Parish Councils for the loss of council tax income in 2015/16 at the levels shown in the table below paragraph 175;
- (f) note the latest 2014/15 budget monitoring position;
- (g) approve the Treasury Management and Annual Investment Strategies as set out in Appendix 7 to the report and the recommendations contained therein;
- (h) approve the Minimum Reserve Provision (MRP) Statement set out in Appendix 7 to the report;
- (i) delegate authority to the Director of Finance to undertake Treasury Management activity, to create and amend appropriate Treasury Management Practice

statements and to report on the operation of Treasury Management activity on the terms set out in those documents;

- (j) agree that the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2013/14 and onwards, approved on 15 May 2013, and implemented for 2014/15, be also implemented for 2015/16, with the addition (to paragraph (h) of Schedule 2) of the following approved duty which was approved by Council at its meeting held on 3 December 2014 – "attendance at meetings of Local Housing Area Forums";
- (k) approve foregoing an annual increase in the Members' Allowances in 2015/16;
- (l) approve a Pay Policy for 2015/16 as set out in Appendix 8; and
- (m) delegate authority to the Director of Public Health and the Interim Executive Director, Resources, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources, to approve the final allocation of Public Health grant to portfolios in 2015/16.

10. CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2015/16

10.1 The Executive Director, Resources submitted a report setting out the proposed Capital Programme from 2015-16 onwards, describing the programmes to be undertaken, listing the projects to be delivered and setting out the context in which it had been compiled.

10.2 As part of the Cabinet's consideration of the report it was noted that the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee had noted the following recommendations, without amendment, as part of its consideration of the report earlier in the day.

10.3 **RESOLVED:** That the City Council, at its meeting on 6th March, 2015, be recommended to:-

- (a) approve those specific projects included in the years 2014-15 to 2019-20 programmes as at Appendix 9 of the report and block allocations being included within the programme for noting at this stage and detailed proposals will be brought back for separate Member approval as part of the monthly monitoring procedures;
- (b) note the proposed Capital Programme for the 5 years to 2019/20 as per Appendix 9 to the report; and
- (c) approve the allocations from the Corporate Resource Pool (CRP) and the policy outlined in Appendix 4 to the report such that the commitment from the CRP is limited to 1 year and no CRP supported schemes are approved beyond 2015-16 unless explicitly stated, and if substantial capital receipts are realised within 2014-15 or 2015-16 a further report will be brought to Members as part of the monthly approval process.

11. VOLUNTARY SECTOR GRANT AID INVESTMENT 2015-16

11.1 The Executive Director, Communities submitted a report seeking approval for recommended investment in the voluntary and community sector for 2015/16 from the Voluntary Sector Grant Aid budget. This budget is subject to approval of the Council budget for 2015/16 to be adopted at Council on 6th March 2015.

11.2 **RESOLVED:** That Cabinet:-

- (a) having had due regard to the provisions of Sections 149 and 158 of the Equality Act 2010 and Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, and to the issues raised by those provisions, approves the grant agreement extension recommendations listed in Section 4 of the report, and detailed further in Appendix 1 of the report;
- (b) endorses the grant agreement extension process described in Appendix 2 of the report and approves the actions, arrangements and recommendations at Sections 4 and 11 of the report, and the following specific delegations;
- (c) delegates authority to the Executive Director, Communities:-
 - (i) to administer the Lunch Clubs Small Grants Fund as described in Appendix 1 of the report;
 - (ii) to agree the terms of and authorise the completion of all funding agreements, including amendments to the terms of any existing grant funding agreements, relating to grants made from the Lunch Clubs Small Grants Fund and the Voluntary Sector Grants Fund, together with any other associated agreements or arrangements that she may consider appropriate, provided that if the terms of a proposed funding agreement or amendments to the terms of an existing agreement involve the variation of any standard terms previously agreed by Internal Audit and/or Legal Services, the agreement shall not be completed without the consent of the Chief Internal Auditor and the Director of Legal and Governance;
 - (iii) to review, adjust or suspend grant awards where (a) a change of circumstance affects the ability of an organisation to deliver the purpose of the grant awarded, the Executive Director, Communities considers the performance of the organisation to be below an acceptable standard or (c) an organisation has breached any of the award conditions contained in their funding agreement,
- (d) delegates authority to the Executive Director, Communities, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Communities and Public Health to:-
 - (i) agree the amounts, purposes and recipients of any individual grants awarded in year from the Grant Funds, including any additional sums received or returned or unpaid funds;
 - (ii) to withdraw grant awards where (a) a change of circumstance

affects the ability of an organisation to deliver the purpose of the grant awarded or (b) the Executive Director, Communities considers the performance of the organisation has breached any of the award conditions contained in their funding agreement, and

- (iii) to allocate any other additional sums that may be received in year from other parts of the Council or other partners as part of the Voluntary Sector Grant Aid process to fund local voluntary sector activity.

11.3 **Reasons for Decision**

- 11.3.1 The allocation of this funding to preventative services will fundamentally contribute to the Values, Priorities and Strategic Outcomes of the Council's Corporate Plan 2015-18. In particular:-

Values

- Prioritising those with greatest need
- Working with, and within, communities

Priorities

- Tackling inequalities
- In-touch organisation
- Strong neighbourhoods and communities

Outcomes

- Specifically 'Tackling Poverty and Increasing Social Justice' but also-
- Health and Wellbeing
- Successful children, young people and families
- Housing and neighbourhoods
- Safe and secure

- 11.3.2 In addition, the allocation of this funding will contribute to the Fairness Commission's recommendations around:-

- Health and Wellbeing for All
- Fair access to High Quality Jobs and Pay
- Fair Access to Benefits and Credit
- Housing and a Better Environment
- A Safe City
- What Citizens and Communities can do

11.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

- 11.4.1 The proposal and recommendations within the report had been submitted by the Grants Awards Recommendations Panel, which is made up of the Cabinet Member for Communities and Public Health, his advisors and the Head of Libraries and Community Services. Details of the whole process used to come to this proposal and recommendations can be seen in Appendix 2 of the report.

- 11.4.2 In order to inform recommendations on the grant extensions and award amounts to Cabinet, each of the 24 Voluntary Grants Fund current grant recipients were invited to complete an Impact Form. This asked organisations to profile the impact of a 20% reduction in grant on their service and their service users, including an analysis of the impact on different communities of interest within their service users.
- 11.4.3 Officers made a recommendation on the amount to be awarded to each organisation during the extension period, having regard to the impact form and budget proposal, considering the impact on the service and service users, including an assessment of equality impact, as reported in the impact form, organisational performance, whether the budget was balanced or shows a shortfall, proposals for covering shortfall and the continued viability of the service/project funded in 2015-16 if a reduction was to be applied.
- 11.4.4 The Grants Awards Recommendations Panel considered the option of reducing the total Grant Aid budget by 20%. As a result of the information provided by organisations (as described in section 9.3 of the report) and having consideration for the statutory Best Value Guidance, the Panel are recommending that the budget is only reduced by 9%.

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