

Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on Tuesday 12 September 2023 at 18:30

Present: Councillor Marland (Chair)

Councillors R Bradburn, J Carr, Darlington, Middleton, Townsend, Trendall
and Wilson-Marklew

Apologies: Councillors Nolan

Also Present: M Bradburn

Officers: T Aldworth (Deputy Chief Executive), M Bracey (Chief Executive), M Hancock
(Group Head - Commissioning), A Rulton (Head of Finance), C Stephens (Head
of Legal) and R Tidman (Committee Services Manager)

C12 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor Nolan.

C13 Cabinet Announcements

None.

C14 Disclosures of Interest

None.

C15 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 6 June 2023 be approved and
signed by the Chair as a correct record.

C16 Questions from Members of the Public

The member of the public was unable to attend the meeting so the Leader of the Council
asked Councillor Middleton to provide a written response to their question.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Middleton provide a written response to the public question.

C17 Councillors' Items

None.

C18 Councillors' Questions

None.

C19 Corporate Parenting Panel - 20 June 2023

Councillor M Bradburn introduced the referral, noting the good work the authority was doing with regard to the children in its care and reminded all members and officers that they were the corporate parent for these children.

Councillor Marland noted the written response from Councillor Nolan to the referral and thanked all the members of the Corporate Parenting Panel, officers, and foster parents for the work they do looking after and acting as the voice of our looked after children.

RESOLVED:

1. That the referral and the written response provided be noted.
2. That the Corporate Parenting Annual Report be referred to Council for noting.

C20 Public Realm and Environment Scrutiny Committee - 4 July 2023

The Leader of the Council noted that there was nothing further to add to the referral or its written response.

RESOLVED:

That the referral and the written response provided be noted.

C21 Housing Needs Task and Finish Group

Councillor Darlington noted her thanks to the Task and Finish Group and to the Scrutiny Officer for their work on this difficult topic. The Group had done a good job in identifying the key pressures of the Milton Keynes housing market. The Cabinet member advised that she would provide a more detailed response to the Group.

RESOLVED:

That the referral and the response provided be noted and that for completeness the Cabinet member provide a written response.

C22 Improving Hospital Discharge

Councillor Darlington introduced the report, noting that the Council had a good working relationship with the hospital and officers from both organisations had worked together to identify reasons for delayed discharge and to develop these two new pilot programmes.

RESOLVED:

1. That use of the Council's existing Dynamic Purchasing System for the procurement of bridging care, and 24-hour live-in services to run for a period of 1 November 2023 until 31 March 2024, be agreed.
2. That authority be delegated to the Director, Adult Services to award the contracts within the budget outlined in the report.
3. That approval to extend both services for a period of up to two years, if following evaluation and subject to funding, the pilot has proved to be successful, be granted.

4. That authority be delegated to the Director Adult Services to award the contract extensions, if applicable and within the budget outlined in this report.

C23 Update on Youth Led Democracy

Councillor J Carr introduced the item, noting the work of officers to the significant change in which the Youth Council was run. It was a credit to the Democratic Services team and the young people themselves that the Youth Council was much more reflective of the city as a whole.

The Cabinet heard from two members of the Youth Council on the item.

RESOLVED:

1. That the progress, work and outcomes set out in the report, be noted.
2. That Cabinet offer any feedback or recommendations on the next steps set out in the report.

C24 Quarter 1 2023/24 Forecast Outturn, General Fund Revenue, Housing Revenue Account, Dedicated Schools Grant and Capital Programme 2023/24

Councillor Middleton introduced the report noting that the Council had moved from a surplus at the year end to a forecast in year overspend of £4 million. This was not out of step with the financial situation across local government. There were sufficient pressures from systemic issues in adult social care, children's services and the provision of temporary accommodation. Work was underway to mitigate the projected overspend but much of this would rely on central government who needed to bring forward comprehensive plans and reforms in these areas. To address these financial issues the Council was implementing a more stringent recruitment regime and was reducing areas of discretionary spend in service areas.

Councillor Darlington noted the commitment of the Council to continue to ensure there was essential infrastructure in our new estates particularly the commitment to provide a footpath for access to the Newton Leys estate.

Councillor Marland noted the difficult financial situation and highlighted the importance of delivering the Council Plan and that as an authority the Council was better of than a number of other authorities however the amount of discretionary funding available was becoming significantly limited.

RESOLVED:

1. That the GFRA forecast outturn of £4.019m against budget be noted, together with the management actions set out in the report.
2. That GFRA savings of £7.490m savings are forecast to be achieved (95% of budget) be noted, which is set out in the report.
3. That the forecast outturn for the HRA is an underspend of £1.265m, which has been funded through an increase in the transfer to reserves be noted, together with the management actions set out in the report.

4. That the DSG forecast surplus carry forward of £6.037m be noted, together with the management actions set out in the report.
5. That the reserves position as detailed in the report be noted.
6. That the forecast outturn on the 2022/23 Capital Programme is an underspend of £1.004m after proposed slippage of £21.053m as detailed in the report be noted.
7. That the forecast outturn position of the 2022/23 tariff programme as detailed in the report be noted.
8. That the debt position of the Council at the end of quarter 1 as detailed in the report be noted.
9. That the Write-off of an unrecoverable debts that exceeds £50,000 as detailed in the report be approved.
10. That the Treasury Management report including prudential indicators, as detailed in the report be noted.
11. That the virements to the original budget as detailed in the report be approved.
12. That the current position on the Collection Fund as detailed in the report be noted.
13. That the procurement waiver decisions as detailed in the report be noted.
14. That the additions and amendments to resource allocation and spend approval for the 2023/24 capital programme and Tariff Programme as detailed in the report be approved.