

Minutes

Cabinet

Date: 13 May 2019

Venue: Mezzanine Rooms 1 & 2, County Hall, Aylesbury

Time: 10.35 am to 11.56 am

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr M Tett (in the Chair).

Mr M Appleyard, Mr N Brown, Mr W Chapple OBE, Mr J Chilver, Ms L Hazell, Mr M Shaw and Mr W Whyte

OTHER MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mrs A Cranmer

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr R Ambrose, Mrs S Ashmead, Ms R Shimmin and Ms A Williams

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were none.

Ms A Cranmer, Deputy Cabinet Member for Education and Skills was also in attendance.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

3 MINUTES

RESOLVED: The minutes of the meeting held on 25 March 2019 were **AGREED** as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

4 HOT TOPICS

Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Transportation highlighted the launch of the £15 million road resurfacing scheme. Mr Tett advised that £4 million of this would fund plane and patch work.

Cabinet Member for Children's Services highlighted "Foster Care Fortnight." Informal drop in sessions would be held at Tesco Extra in Loudwater, Buckingham and Aylesbury. An information event would be held at Buckingham Opportunities Centre on 29 May 2019.

Deputy Cabinet Member for Education and Skills reported on the success of the 'Beaconsfield Decides' Local Area Forum (LAF) vote.

Cabinet Member for Community Engagement & Public Health highlighted Mental Health Awareness week and the importance of raising awareness of mental health.

Cabinet Member for Health & Wellbeing reported that the Dignity in Care Awards were taking place the following day and acknowledged the hard work of employees and volunteers.

Cabinet Member for Planning & Environment advised that he had been appointed as the Chairman of the Aylesbury Garden Town Board.

5 QUESTION TIME

There were none.

6 FORWARD PLAN FOR CABINET AND CABINET MEMBERS

RESOLVED: Cabinet NOTED the report.

7 CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS

RESOLVED: Cabinet NOTED the report.

8 SELECT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME & INQUIRY WORK PROGRAMME

RESOLVED: Cabinet NOTED the report.

9 FINANCIAL OUTTURN 2018/19

Mr Tett introduced the item, commenting that it had been a challenging year financially due to substantial pressures from Adult Social Care and Children's Services. There had been underspend in other areas to offset this, resulting in a slight underspend in the overall budget for the year. Mr Tett commended the achievements and efforts made by members of Buckinghamshire County Council, and invited Mr J Chilver, Cabinet Member for Resources

and Mr R Ambrose, Director of Finance & Procurement to present the report in which the following points were highlighted:

- The headline figure of the revenue outturn position for 2018/19 showed an overall underspend of £227,000. This comprised of a portfolio overspend of £6.75 million, offset by an underspend of £7 million in non- portfolio costs.
- The highest overspend portfolios included Education and Skills, Health and Wellbeing and Children's Services.
- There had been a significant underspend of £1.6 million in the Planning and Environment portfolio.
- The overall slippage of Capital was £23.1 million, which was a slight increase from the previous year.
- Within capital slippage there were three main items from the Leader's portfolio, which included major infrastructure schemes funded by the local enterprise partnership. These were multi- year schemes, included in the capital budget to secure the grant.
- Some schemes had also been put on hold following the unitary decision such as the Bucks Study Centre and ICT capital spend.
- The two highest areas of capital spend were school places and highways.
- Debt had fallen from £19 million to £18 million within the last financial year.
- A corporate approach had been taken with the budget this financial year. Mitigating actions had been taken in areas that were overspending.
- The current reserves were £26.4 million and would increase to just over £30 million.
- Mr Tett highlighted a misconception that the charges implemented at the household recycling centres were due to debt, and clarified that borrowed money was invested to provide an income to protect front line services.

Following the report Cabinet raised and discussed the following points:

- Mr Appleyard highlighted that the overspend in Education and Skills was largely due to an overspend in school transport. This was due to delays in planned changes to the scheme, but the budget would be back on track in the next financial year.
- Mr Whyte praised finance teams within Children's Services for the effective identification and management of overspends mid-year. Since mid-year the overspends had been managed well and had not increased despite the increase in Looked After Children (LAC.)
- The Children's Homes were starting to have a positive financial impact, with two opening in Wycombe this financial year. In house foster carers had increased by 34 in the financial year resulting in better value for the County Council and a positive outcome for the children. The in house foster carers had meant the service had avoided a potential £2.8 million overspend.
- Mr Chapple highlighted that the underspend in Planning and Environment helped to manage the overall budget, and would not be carried forward into the next financial year.
- The Household Recycling Centres had implemented charges due to contractual pressures and budget management.

- Mr Tett highlighted that the overspent areas were not unique to Buckinghamshire County Council and reflected national issues.
- The financial reserves would be rebuilt in the next financial year, placing the unitary council in a strong financial position.
- Buckinghamshire County Council had a strong investment portfolio, bringing in investment income through diverse property investments.

RESOLVED: Cabinet NOTED the report.

10 SUPPORT FOR CARERS INDEPTH REVIEW

Mr B Roberts, Chairman of the Health and Adult Social Care (HASC) Select Committee and Mrs L Wheaton, Committee and Governance Adviser attended the meeting to present the recommendations from the Support for Carers Inquiry. (Report appended to the minutes.)

Cabinet raised and discussed the following points:

- Gratitude and respect for carers was expressed and acknowledgements were given of the importance of their work.
- There was no clear structure highlighting how carers could access help via the current system. The new digital front door to the system would co-ordinate information and help people understand what services they had access to.
- Ms Cranmer declared that she was part of the select committee.
- There were currently 50,000 carers living in Buckinghamshire, and many young carers slipped through the system. This was due to a lack of understanding that they were playing a caring role.

Cabinet responded to the recommendations as follows:

Rec	Focus	Cabinet Response
1	<p>Recommendation 1 (Communities):</p> <p>That an action plan is created with key partners which brings together the working practices of the operational and commissioning teams to ensure better sharing of information on carers and early detection of issues.</p>	Agreed
2	<p>Recommendation 2 (Health):</p> <p>That good practice with GPs is developed further and experience of undertaking the GP Award is shared with all practices through the Practice Manager Forum.</p>	Agreed
3	<p>Recommendation 3 (Health):</p>	Agreed

	That an independent review be undertaken of the GP Standard award to seek views from GP practices and use the feedback to make changes to the existing framework with the aim of increasing the take-up of the award.	
4	<p>Recommendation 4 (Public Health):</p> <p>That the costs for providing annual health checks for carers be explored and possible funding streams investigated.</p>	Agreed

6	<p>Recommendation 6 (Employment):</p> <p>That a corporate training programme be developed for BCC Managers and other partners within the ICS to help identify and support carers, to coincide with the launch of the employee health & wellbeing strategy.</p>	Agreed
7	<p>Recommendation 7 (Employment):</p> <p>That an employee carers support group be established and an annual survey be undertaken to find out the views of carers and help shape future support for carers services.</p>	Agreed
8	<p>Recommendation 8 (Employment):</p> <p>That the Employee Assistance Programme is more widely promoted amongst employees and feedback from users is obtained to ensure service quality.</p>	Agreed
5	<p>Recommendation 5 (Education):</p> <p>That the Council lobby Government to include a question about the number of young carers identified at school as part of the annual school census return.</p>	Not Agreed

Mr Appleyard advised that he would reword the response to recommendation 5 and present at the next meeting.

Mr Roberts and his inquiry team were thanked by Cabinet for their work.

RESOLVED: Cabinet responded to the recommendations as set out in the table above.

11 UNITARY PROGRAMME UPDATE

Mr Tett introduced the item and highlighted that in November 2018 the Secretary of State had made the decision to confirm the formation of a new unitary council for Buckinghamshire, which would come into effect from April 2020. The structural change order was passed in the House of Commons unanimously and was progressed to the House of Lords. A report on the progress of the unitary formation was in the public domain. Mr Tett emphasised the importance of strong engagement with Parish and Town Councils.

Mr Tett reported that Mr Arif Hussain had been named as an additional deputy member of the Shadow Executive for Buckinghamshire County Council

RESOLVED: Cabinet NOTED the proposal.

12 GRANTING OF LONG LEASEHOLD ON SITE FOR DEVELOPMENT IN THE SOUTH OF THE COUNTY

Mr Tett introduced the item highlighting that the proposal had been received but was subject to non-disclosure and details could not be placed in the public domain. This item would be discussed in more detail in a confidential session.

Mr Chilver highlighted the policy to maximise income generation in order to support front line services.

Mr Appleyard emphasised that the proposal was about ensuring that Buckinghamshire County Council could continue to deliver good services to the public, and not about making profit.

RESOLVED: Cabinet AGREED the proposal unanimously.

13 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

10 June 2019.

14 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED

That the press and public be excluded for the following item which is exempt by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12a of the Local Government Act 1972 because it contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)

15 GRANTING OF LONG LEASEHOLD ON SITE FOR DEVELOPMENT IN THE SOUTH OF THE COUNTY

**MARTIN TETT
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**