



Cabinet decision notice

The following decision(s) were taken by Cabinet at its meeting held on **13 June 2023**. Decisions will (unless called-in) become effective at 5pm on 20 June 2023.

Agenda item no. 7

Budget Monitoring - Outturn 2022-23

(a) Decisions

The report set out the Revenue and Capital outturn position for Buckinghamshire Council for the financial year 2022/23.

The Council was continuing to experience significant financial pressures due to high levels of inflation and continued increase in demand and complexity in key services, such as Adults Social Care and Children's Social Care. Portfolio budgets had seen unavoidable pressures in areas such as energy inflation, in the cost of placements for looked after children, in Adult Social Care, Temporary Accommodation and provision of Home to School Transport, with an adverse variance of £9.8m across portfolio budgets at financial year end. Despite these pressures, the Council had managed to achieve a balanced revenue position overall, due to the effective processes in place for managing financial risk; pressures in portfolio budgets had been managed overall and mitigated by a favourable variance in corporate budgets.

One of the recommendations proposed the following transfer to reserves:- (paragraph 2.4 (b)(vii))

- a transfer of £0.5m to the Collection Fund reserve from additional grant income from Business Rates levy surplus;
- a transfer to the Highways Reserve of £0.5m to fund Highways lining;
- a transfer of £4.7m to the Mitigating Future Financial Risks reserve.

The final year end position on capital was spend of £107.5m against a budget of £151.9m, and against total released budget of £129.9m, equating to 17% variance against released budgets. Capital projects which were successfully completed this year included Kingsbrook Secondary School, Brunel Shed in Wycombe (which had now been leased out), the £1.8m DEFRA-funded Rural Broadband installation programme, the Berryfields and Haydon Hill Cycleways, upgrades to the Southern Waste Depot, a roof replacement on Bedgrove Community Centre, 7 School toilet projects, and SEN placement projects in Shortenhills, Holmer Green Senior School, Westfield and Princes Risborough Upper School.

Many capital projects had been impacted by the current challenging economic situation, with high levels of construction inflation, pressures in the labour market, supply shortages and delays to acquisitions causing slippage in the programme. This was reflected in the relatively high levels of slippage, but low level of overspends. Where necessary, projects were being reviewed and re-scoped and funding implications were being considered.

The final outturn variance of £44.3m consisted of slippage into future years of £53.8m, accelerated spend ahead of profile of £16.3m, overspends of £4.0m, and underspends of £10.9m which would be released for other purposes. Cabinet was requested to approve the carry forward of slippage to future years and accelerated spend as detailed in the Cabinet report.

RESOLVED:

- 1) That the report and success in achieving an overall balanced revenue outturn position for 2022-23 be NOTED.
- 2) That an increase to the Revenue Contribution to Capital Reserves (RCCR) of £0.6m be APPROVED to fund an update to the CCTV Control Room.
- 3) That the transfer to reserves as set out in paragraph 2.4 (b)(vii) of the Cabinet report be APPROVED.
- 4) That the overall Capital outturn position of £107.5m of investment in Council capital priorities be NOTED.
- 5) That the carry-forward of slippage and accelerated spend be APPROVED, as detailed in the Cabinet report.

(b) Reasons for decisions

To understand the financial position of the Council in respect of 2022-23 Budgets.

(c) Alternative options considered

None.

(d) Conflicts of interest/ dispensations

None

Agenda item no. 8

Q4 Performance Report 2022-23

(a) Decisions

Cabinet received a performance report, which detailed the key performance measures

reported through the Corporate Performance Framework for 2022/23. Cabinet also received the performance scorecard, which provided information on four key elements of performance for the Council covering Finance, Customer Service, Performance and Human Resources indicators. Within the performance report and performance scorecard, outturns which were performing at or better than target were classified as Green, those which were within 5% of the target were Amber and those which were more than 5% of the target were Red. At the end of Quarter 4, 116 indicators had outturns reported with a Red, Amber or Green status. Of these, 63 were Green (54%), 11 were Amber (9%) and 26 were Red (22%)

RESOLVED -

- 1) That the Council's performance for the Quarter 4 period 2022-23 be NOTED.**
- 2) That the actions being taken to improve future performance, where required, be NOTED.**

(b) Reasons for decisions

The Corporate Performance Framework was reported on a quarterly basis to Cabinet to ensure there was understanding, ownership and accountability for performance outturns, including actions to improve performance where appropriate.

(c) Alternative options considered

Not applicable.

(d) Conflicts of interest/ dispensations

None

Agenda item no. 9

Freehold Acquisition of the High Wycombe Social Club Building

(a) Decisions

The Cabinet received a report which sought approval to exercise an Option to Purchase the freehold of the High Wycombe Social Club building on Queen Victoria Road, High Wycombe; lease back space to the Club and also for storage for the town's Chair Collection; refurbish and improve the building in the process, as part of the Future High Streets funded 'Southern Gateway' area improvement. Cabinet Members suggested that other options for development should be considered which would still meet the requirements of the Government funding.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That the Council exercise the Option to Purchase the freehold interest in the High**

Wycombe Social Club ('HWSC') on Queen Victoria Road, High Wycombe

- 2) That authority be delegated to the Service Director – Property and Assets, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Accessible Housing and Resources, to agree the terms of the purchase and further to agree the terms of entering into a lease for HWSC; and to consider other development options as appropriate on condition that this would not have any adverse impact on the Future High Streets funding from Government.**

(b) Reasons for decisions

A July 2021 Cabinet report approved the then overall Future High Streets regeneration programme budget but required individual acquisitions to be approved by Cabinet. Since then, there had been changes to the Future High Streets programme and a revised overall budget required approval.

(c) Alternative options considered

The proposed acquisition/refurbishment was included in the DLUHC approved Future High Streets regeneration programme. Not proceeding would put at risk the grant received for the project.

(d) Conflicts of interest/ dispensations

None

For further information please contact: Ian Hunt on , email democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk.

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