

## **CABINET MEMBER FOR RESOURCES**

RECORD OF DECISIONS taken by the Cabinet Member for Resources, Councillor Lee Mason, at his meeting held on Thursday, 13 October 2016 at 10.00 am at the The Executive Meeting Room - Third Floor, The Guildhall

### **Present**

Councillor Lee Mason (in the chair)

Councillor Colin Galloway  
Councillor Hugh Mason  
Councillor Yahiya Chowdhury

### **Officers Present**

Paddy May, Strategy Manager  
Victoria Cherrett, Group Accountant  
Greg Povey, Head of IT

#### **12. Apologies for Absence (AI 1)**

There were no apologies for absence.

#### **13. Declaration of Members' Interests (AI 2)**

There were no declarations of members' interests.

#### **14. CIPFA Value for Money Comparisons. (AI 3)**

(TAKE IN REPORT)

Paddy May introduced the report explaining that CIPFA (the public sector finance body) issue a "toolkit" which pulls together statutory (and some voluntary) returns on organisational costs and performance, in order to provide a high-level view on these dimensions relative to other authorities, and relative to each other. This information can be filtered in a number of ways (by performance indicator, by service, and by comparator group). This is then used to derive a judgement on the relative VFM being provided in a given service area. He went on to explain that there are significant limitations and caveats on the data and its use as outlined in paragraph 3.2 but that it still provided a useful overview as set out in paragraph 3.3. Mr May advised that page 4 of the Appendix showed that adults under 65 with mental health problems was red but in fact this should have been amber.

During discussion the following comments were made

- Members asked for more detail concerning references on page 2 of the Appendix welfare and inclusion and page 4 of the Appendix, adult

health care - both showing as high cost but low performance. Paddy May agreed to provide this information to the Cabinet Member and opposition spokespersons and would also bring an update to a future meeting of Resources portfolio.

- Members did not consider the VFM toolkit to be particularly useful as the information provided did not enable them to make like for like comparisons. There were too many caveats. Also the data was national data and did not appear to be in a specific format. Mr May said that the measures used were based on performance indicators. He said it was the best information available at present but that Finance have purchased a different system that may provide better information in future.

The Resources portfolio agreed the recommendations and asked for more detail concerning references on page 2 of the Appendix on welfare and inclusion and page 4 of the Appendix, adult health care - as neither seemed to show good value for money.

**DECISION:**

**The Cabinet Member**

**(a) Noted the information in the report and Appendix 1 and**

**(b) Considered if any further information is required.**

**15. Monitoring of the First Quarter 2016/17 Revenue Cash Limits and Capital Programme (AI 4)**

**(INFORMATION ONLY REPORT)**

Victoria Cherrett, Group Accountant, Finance introduced the report and provided an overview of its content. She explained that there were few variances. She said that this related to the first quarter and that vacancies were being held in anticipation of future savings requirements. With regard to the capital programme, Ms Cherrett advised that the expectation was that the allocated amount would be spent.

**DECISION:**

**The report was noted.**

**16. Budget Outturn 2015/16 - Revenue Cash Limits and Capital Programme (AI 5)**

**(INFORMATION ONLY REPORT)**

Victoria Cherrett provided an overview of the report which informs the Cabinet Member and Opposition Spokespersons of:

- The 2015/16 outturn revenue expenditure for the year compared with the cash limited budget.
- The 2015/16 outturn capital expenditure against the revised capital programme.

Section 5 of the report provided details of significant overspends and underspends. Excluding windfall variances gives a net underspend on the portfolio of £304,800 ie 1.54%. This amount will be added to the portfolio specific earmarked reserve.

In response to queries the following matters were clarified

- The slippage mentioned in paragraph 7.9 of the report related to an ongoing project but some elements were reliant on other things happening first - such as IT.
- Mr Greg Povey, Head of IT advised that a new strategy was being drawn up . He said much testing was occurring particular around the working anywhere/any device concepts. The Government security protocol has to be adhered to. Currently IT was looking into using the Cloud as this could be more cost effective. He was also looking at increasing the efficiency of the Data Centre as there was some spare capacity which could be used to generate income.

**DECISION: The content of the report was noted.**

The meeting concluded at 10.30 am.

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Councillor Lee Mason  
Cabinet Member for Resources