

CABINET

RECORD OF DECISIONS of the meeting of the Cabinet held on Tuesday, 30 November 2021 at 12 noon at the Guildhall, Portsmouth

Present

Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE
Suzy Horton
Ben Dowling
Jason Fazackarley
Hugh Mason
Darren Sanders
Lynne Stagg

98. Apologies for Absence (AI 1)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Dave Ashmore, Chris Attwell and Kimberly Barrett. Councillor Suzy Horton gave apologies for late arrival due to an earlier commitment.

99. Declarations of Interests (AI 2)

There were no declarations of interest.

100. Record of Previous Decision Meeting held on 26 October 2021 (AI 3)

The record of decisions from the previous Cabinet meeting held on 26 October 2021 was approved as a correct record.

101. Update on Economic Development Strategy 2019-2036 & Summary of the Economic Development Covid response and plans for recovery (AI 4)

Ian Maguire, Assistant Director of Planning and Economic Growth, introduced the report.

Members noted targets were being exceeded despite the challenges of Covid. The report showed the good work done with partners and the private sector to boost economic development. Driving up wages enables families to have a decent amount to live on. Increasing the number of people with good qualifications is important in the new economy. There is still work to do but a positive start and a move in the right direction have been made. Members thanked those involved in the report.

The Cabinet noted the report.

102. Support for People in Financial Hardship (AI 5)

Mark Sage, Tackling Poverty Co-ordinator, introduced the report.

Members were proud that the council had followed its own practices in tackling hardship and of the help it has provided. They were concerned the £20 reduction in Universal Credit would affect families very badly despite the taper. Central government needs to set the correct baseline so families can raise their children.

The Cabinet noted the report.

103. Plan for the next Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy (AI 6)

Paul Fielding, Assistant Director of Housing, introduced the report.

Members welcomed the integration of the rough sleeping and homelessness strategies. They noted the approach towards rough sleeping is support rather than enforcement and is very different from a few years ago. The support is integrated with financial hardship and health assistance with the aim of preventing homelessness and rough sleeping. Finding accommodation for rough sleepers was a success story of Covid. There is now less need to sleep rough but it is acknowledged that mental health and substance misuse can make life very difficult. The council has just been offered a fourth student block to provide accommodation for rough sleepers which might indicate that developers are building too much of this type of accommodation.

DECISIONS

Cabinet

- 1. Approved the plan for the creation of the new Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023-2028, as outlined in section 5.2 of this report.**
- 2. Approved the option to update the operational elements of The Street Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Partnership Strategy by the end of the 2021/22 financial year, as outlined in section 6 of this report.**

104. (SEHRT) Improvements to Rudmore, Portsbridge and Spur Road roundabouts (AI 7)

Fernando Lopes, Principal Engineer, introduced the report.

Members noted that the council had submitted a bid for £2m to improve bus reliability on routes coming from outside the city in order to provide a network of direct bus priority routes. As well as making bus travel easier and safer it will also benefit cyclists and pedestrians. The proposals will hopefully reduce congestion at the roundabouts which are key junctions in the city. Members thanked the team for their work and looked forward to seeing the next steps.

The Cabinet noted the report.

105. LTP Safer Routes to School (AI 8)

Joanna Hamment, Senior Road Safety Officer, introduced the report.

Members welcomed the report and agreed that changing behaviour is needed to improve safety. Several members had witnessed inappropriate driving and parking near schools. They noted that primary school children, because of their height, were more at risk of being affected by air pollution from vehicle emissions, and also that children are at risk even when they are in cars. It is important to work with parents and reinforce messages. Officers explained that "give way" markings could be introduced in Burrfields Road (Admiral Lord

Nelson School) once all proposed measures have been thoroughly investigated.

DECISIONS

Cabinet approved the spend from the Local Transport Plan 3 - Safer Routes to School budget to be spent at the following locations:

- **Burrfields Road (£30,000)**
- **New Road (£60,000)**
- **Multiple locations - visibility and awareness treatments (£60,000)**

106. Decision to Opt into the National Scheme for Auditor Appointments Managed by Public Sector Audit Appointments (AI 9)

Chris Ward, Director of Finance & Resources (S151 Officer), introduced the report.

Members commended opting into the National Scheme for Auditor Appointments as it saves money and provides the services of skilled auditors. They suggested writing to the Local Government Association, who had devised the scheme.

DECISIONS

Cabinet agreed that the Council accepts Public Sector Audit Appointments' (PSAA) invitation to opt into the sector-led option for the appointment of external auditors to principal local government and police bodies for five financial years from 01 April 2023.

107. Treasury Management Mid-Year Review 2021/22 (AI 10)

Chris Ward, Director of Finance & Resources (S151 Officer), introduced the report.

Members commended the prudent measures outlined in the report, particularly in view of the current period of uncertainty.

DECISIONS

Cabinet agreed to note

- 1. That the Council's Treasury Management activities have remained within the Treasury Management Policy 2021/22 in the period up to 30 September 2021.**
- 2. That the actual Treasury Management indicators as at 30 September 2021 set out in Appendix A be noted.**
- 3. That the report goes to Full Council on 7 December 2021.**

108. Revenue Budget Monitoring 2021/22 (Second Quarter) to end September 2021 (AI 11)

Chris Ward, Director of Finance & Resources (S151 Officer), introduced the report, noting that Covid still has a significant impact on the Council's finances.

Councillor Vernon-Jackson reminded members that portfolio holders were responsible for addressing overspends in their portfolios.

DECISIONS

Cabinet agreed that

1. The General Fund Forecast Outturn for 2021/22 (as at 30th September 2021) of an overall net overspend of £1,029,500 be noted; this is analysed as follows

FORECAST OUTTURN 2021/22		£000
Forecast Net Overspend (before transfers to/from) Reserves		15,165.9
Less Expenditure funded from Corporate Contingency:		
	Covid-19 Costs	(10,637.0)
	Windfall Costs	(1,968.8)
Less Transfers From Portfolio / Cabinet Reserve:		
	Overspendings (in accordance with approved Council resolutions)	(2,195.1)
Add Transfers to Portfolio and Other Reserves:		
	Underspendings (in accordance with approved Council resolutions)	664.5
Overall Forecast Net Overspend 2021/22		1,029.5

2. The forecast additional spending and forgone income as consequence of the Covid-19 Pandemic totalling £10.64m be noted
3. Members note that the financial consequences arising during 2021/22 from the Covid-19 pandemic will be met from the provision held within the Council's Corporate Contingency which was set aside specifically for this purpose as approved by City Council on 9th February 2021.
4. Members note that in accordance with approved policy as described in Section 8, any actual non Covid-19 overspend at year end will in the first instance be deducted from any Portfolio Reserve balance and once depleted then be deducted from the 2022/23 Cash Limit.
5. In accordance with (iv) above and the requirement that in the first instance any Portfolio overspending must be met from the Portfolio Reserve, that £1,354,400 has been withdrawn from the Cabinet Portfolio Reserve to fund current forecast overspendings, leaving a nil balance.
6. Directors, in consultation with the appropriate Cabinet Member, consider options that seek to minimise any forecast non Covid-19 overspending presently being reported and prepare strategies

outlining how any consequent reduction to the 2022/23 Portfolio cash limit will be managed to avoid further overspending during 2022/23.

The meeting concluded at 12:36 pm

Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE
Leader of the Council