

CABINET

Meeting held on Tuesday, 4th July, 2023 at the Council Offices, Farnborough at 7.00 pm.

Voting Members

Cllr D.E. Clifford, Leader of the Council
Cllr M.L. Sheehan, Deputy Leader and Operational Services Portfolio Holder
Cllr M.J. Tennant, Deputy Leader and Major Projects and Property Portfolio Holder

Cllr Sue Carter, Democracy, Strategy and Partnerships Portfolio Holder
Cllr G.B. Lyon, Planning and Economy Portfolio Holder

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Cllrs J.B. Canty and P.G. Taylor.

The Cabinet considered the following matters at the above-mentioned meeting. All executive decisions of the Cabinet shall become effective, subject to the call-in procedure, from **17th July, 2023**.

8. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

Having regard to the Council's Code of Conduct for Councillors, no declarations of interest were made.

9. MINUTES –

The Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 6th June, 2023 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

10. Q4 REVENUE BUDGET AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING AND FINAL OUTTURN REPORT 2022/23 –

(Cllr Paul Taylor, Finance Portfolio Holder)

The Cabinet considered Report No. FIN2311, which set out the financial position for 2022/23, based on the budget monitoring exercise carried out with budget officers during March 2023, along with the anticipated outturn position for 2022/23. Members were informed that the Council had faced a number of challenges that had restricted the ability to financially plan for the medium to long term. These had included a high inflation rate, interest rates and the cost of living crisis. It was reported that, despite the pressures that, despite these factors, the Council had managed to deliver services within the overall budget set. Members heard that, following the approval of specific carry forwards of budgets, grants and earmarked reserves, the net adverse variation was £0.075 million, after taking into account the delivery of savings and the movements in other corporate reserves. The Cabinet expressed appreciation to all that contributed to the Council being able to continue to operate efficiently and to deliver high-quality services, despite these difficult financial conditions.

The Cabinet RESOLVED that

- (i) the final unaudited outturn report and anticipated financial position for the 2022/23 financial year, with regards to the risks highlighted, the latest revenue forecasts and the impact on reserve balances, as set out in Report No. FIN2311, be noted;
- (ii) the update on the in-year savings achieved, as set out in Section 5 of the Report, be noted;
- (iii) the carrying forward of any requested underspent budgets, due to ringfenced grants being received but not spent in full in 2022/23, identified as part of closing the accounts for the year and transferred to reserves that will fund expenditure in 2023/24 related to those grants, as set out in the Report, be noted;
- (iv) the addition to the MTFs Equalisation Reserve of any unspent budgets from 2022/23 that contributed positively to the Council's General Fund, as set out in the Report, be approved, in order to improve the Council's financial stability; and
- (v) the latest Capital Programme position, as set out in Section 8 of the Report, be noted.

11. **CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN 2023-26 –**

(Cllr Martin Tennant, Major Projects and Property Portfolio Holder)

The Cabinet considered Report No. ACE2306, which set out an update to the action plan in support of the Council's Climate Change Strategy Statement 2020-2030.

Members were reminded that, following the Council's declaration of a climate emergency in June 2019, the Cabinet had approved a Climate Change Action Plan at its meeting in November 2020. Since that time, the Council had been delivering a number of projects and programmes that had sought to mitigate the impact of climate change. The Cabinet was informed that the Report provided details of actions taken to date and presented the Council's carbon footprint for the period 2021/22. Work had been carried out to develop a revised action plan that would cover the period 2023-26 and would focus on twelve priority actions.

In discussing this, Members stressed the importance of engagement with younger people in progressing the Council's climate change response. Thanks were conveyed to both the former Climate Change Cabinet Champion and the cross party Cabinet Working Group for the significant work that had been undertaken in this area to date.

The Cabinet RESOLVED that

- (i) the progress in delivering the actions in the climate change action plan that had been agreed in November 2020, as set out in Report No. ACE2306, be noted;
- (ii) the Council's carbon footprint for 2021/22 and the carbon footprint target setting report, as set out in Annex A of the Report, be noted; and

- (iii) the Climate Change Action Plan 2023-26, as set out in section 4 of the Report, be approved.

The Meeting closed at 7.20 pm.

CLLR D.E. CLIFFORD, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL
