

MINUTE
of
CABINET

Minute of virtual meeting held at 10.00am on 1 April 2021.

Present:

Councillor Tony Buchanan (Leader)
Councillor Caroline Bamforth

Councillor Alan Lafferty
Councillor Paul O’Kane

Councillor Buchanan, Leader, in the Chair

Attending:

Lorraine McMillan, Chief Executive; Andy Cahill, Director of Environment; Margaret McCrossan, Head of Accountancy (Chief Financial Officer); Eamonn Daly, Democratic Services Manager; Sharon McIntyre, Committee Services Officer and Liona Allison, Assistant Committee Services Officer.

Apologies:

Councillors Danny Devlin and Colm Merrick.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1596. There were no declarations of interest intimated.

CABINET WORK PLAN 2020-21 PROGRESS AND CABINET WORK PLAN 2021-22

1597. The Cabinet considered a report by the Chief Executive, providing an update on progress made against the 2020/21 Cabinet work plan and presenting a draft work plan for 2021/22.

It was noted that overall, good progress had been made against the plan with 81% of business considered within the stated timescales or the following month. Due to conflicting operational pressures as a result of the pandemic 19% of business had been delayed but all delayed reports had been included on the 2021/22 draft workplan.

The Cabinet:-

- (a) noted performance against the work plan for 2020/21;
- (b) approved the content of the draft work plan for 2021/22; and
- (c) agreed that the plan be reviewed after the local government elections in May 2022.

ESTIMATED REVENUE BUDGET OUTTURN 2020/21 AS AT 31 JANUARY 2021

1598. The Cabinet considered a report by the Head of Accountancy (Chief Financial Officer), detailing the estimated projected revenue out-turn for 2020/21. The report provided details of expected year end variances for each department at period 10 and was based on the financial position as at 31 January 2021 and subsequent assessment of pressures arising from COVID-19: Approval for a series of budget virements was also sought.

- (i) Education Department;
- (ii) Environment Department;
- (iii) Environment Department – Support;
- (iv) Corporate and Community Services Department – Community Resources;
- (v) Corporate and Community Services Department – Support;
- (vi) Chief Executive's Office;
- (vii) Other Expenditure;
- (viii) Integration Joint Board (IJB) Contribution/ Health & Social Care Partnership (HSCP);
- (ix) HRA.

The report outlined that on the basis of the latest information, a year end underspend of £3.723m or 1.4% of the annual budget was forecast with the reasons for departmental variances being set out. The overall improvement related mainly to increased government grant support to compensate for loss of Council and Trust income and to further reductions in spend forecast by the Education and Environment departments.

It was explained that the forecast outlined in the report reflected confirmed government funding to address COVID pressures, however further funding had been announced since the report was compiled and this would be carried forward to assist in addressing COVID pressures in the next financial year.

The report noted that directors had already taken action to stop all non-essential expenditure, however as the increased level of grant to cover COVID costs was now expected to be provided in 2020/21, any underspend at year end on mainstream Council services could be applied to reserves to aid the Council's future budget planning. Any unspent COVID grant would be carried forward to help address COVID pressures in 2021/22.

In response to questions from Councillor Bamforth on the additional expenditure required for COVID safe measures in preparation for the election on 6 May 2021. The Democratic Services Manager explained the funding mechanism for parliamentary elections confirming that election costs would be covered by government funding whilst the Head of Accountancy (Chief Financial Officer) outlined the accounting procedures in place for recording election related expenditure.

The Cabinet, having noted the probable out-turn position:-

- (a) Approved service virements and operational adjustments as set out in the report and noted the significant reported improvement in the probable out-turn position;
- (b) instructed departments to continue to avoid all non-essential spending;
- (c) agreed management action is taken to remedy any avoidable forecast overspends; and

- (d) agreed all departments continue to closely monitor their probable out-turn position.

**THE EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL (BALGRAYSTONE ROAD, BARRHEAD)
(STOPPING UP) ORDER 2021**

1599. The Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Environment, seeking approval for the making and confirmation of "The East Renfrewshire Council (Balgraystone Road, Barrhead) (Stopping Up) Order 2021".

In response to Councillor Bamforth, the Director of Environment explained that this process was to ensure the safe flow of traffic by closing a section of Balgraystone Road which was subsequently no longer required for public access following the realignment and construction of a new section of road.

The Cabinet: -

- (a) approved the making and confirmation of the Order and;
- (b) delegated to the Director of Environment to implement the Order in accordance with the associated statutory procedures.

CHAIR

