

## **Cabinet – Meeting held on Monday, 17th December, 2018.**

**Present:-** Councillors Swindlehurst (Chair), Hussain (Vice-Chair), Anderson, Carter, Mann, Nazir, Pantelic and Sadiq (from 7.08pm)

**Also present under Rule 30:-** Councillors Strutton and Wright

### **PART 1**

#### **74. Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Nazir declared a personal interest in item 12: Disposal of Former Chalvey Youth and Community Centre, Darvills Lane, Slough in that he was a former member of the proposed purchaser.

#### **75. Minutes of the Meeting held on 19th November 2018**

**Resolved –** That the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2018 be approved as a correct record.

#### **76. 2019/20 Medium Term Financial Strategy - Tranche 1 Savings Proposals**

The Service Lead Finance introduced a report that updated Lead Members on the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2019/20 to 2022/23.

The revenue budget gap for next year had been reduced from £3.2m to £1.7m since the previous report to Cabinet in October 2018 and further work was underway to close the gap to enable to Council to set a balanced budget in February 2019. The Cabinet considered the proposed savings in Appendix A to the report. Each saving was being rigorously assessed through the 'Star Chamber' process to ensure they were realistic and achievable. There were significant pressures on the Council's budget including temporary accommodation, Schools PFI and home to school transport and provision would be made for these in the budget.

The key announcements from the recent Local Government Finance Settlement were summarised and it was noted that this would result in some additional income to the Council such as through the Berkshire wide Business Rates pilot and New Homes Bonus. Members also highlighted the potential impact of the NHS 10-year plan and adult social care Green Paper which were both due to be published imminently.

The Cabinet noted the update and agreed to include the proposed savings in the budget to be recommended to full Council in February 2019.

#### **Resolved –**

- (a) The Medium Term Financial Strategy and the associated figures and projections contained within the report be noted.

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- (b) The savings listed in Appendix A to the report be approved in principle, to allow officers sufficient time to plan and ensure they are able to be implemented, if agreed at Full Council on 21 February 2019, from the start of the next financial year.

### **77. Council Taxbases for 2019/20**

The Service Lead, Finance introduced a report setting out the Council taxbase for 2019-20 which the Council was required to set by 31st January.

The taxbase had been steadily increasing by approximately 1% annually in recent years to 2.6% in the current year projection. This was equivalent to a net increase of 1,066.4 properties. A Council Tax collection rate of 98.4% had been set for the next year, which was the same as the current year.

The Council was currently forecasting a breakeven position on the Collection Fund, which would be finalised for the budget setting period. In relation to Business Rates, the Council was yet to receive the NNDR1 form from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and it was therefore proposed and agreed that the Section 151 Officer be given delegated authority to complete and return this form, following consultation with the Lead Member for Corporate Finance & Housing. Similar delegations were also approved to adjust the taxbase, if required, to take account of any new Government guidance or property information that was received. The Cabinet also considered and agreed that the level of Council Tax discount for long-term empty properties remained at 0%.

At the conclusion of the discussion, the Cabinet agreed the recommendations as proposed.

#### **Resolved –**

- (a) That the level of Council Tax discount in respect of second homes remain at 0%.
- (b) That the level of discount in respect of long-term empty properties remain at 0%, and Slough Borough Council continued with the charge of a 100% Empty Home Premium for properties that have been empty longer than 2 years.
- (c) That the collection rate for Council Tax for 2019/20 be set at 98.4%. This was the same rate as for 2018/19.

### **78. Public Spaces Protection Orders**

The Lead Member for Regulation & Consumer Protection and the Neighbourhood Manager introduced a report that sought approval for a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) for Langley St Mary's, Foxborough and Colnbrook with Poyle to address current ongoing issues of anti-social behaviour affecting the local community.

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The Council and Thames Valley Police had received numerous complaints over the past year about the use of devices to launch missiles at members of the public, animals and property. Discussions with the Police had led to the recommendation of a PSPO to proactively seek to tackle the problem and this approach was supported by the Neighbourhood Action Group. The PSPO would create an offence to possess or fail to surrender certain specified items including catapults or slingshots in the three wards as stated in the PSPO at Appendix One to the report. Offences would carry a fixed penalty notice (FPN) of £100 or prosecution.

The Cabinet was supportive of the proactive approach being taken in response to the incidents, many of which had happened in Colnbrook. The intention of widening the PSPO to neighbouring wards was to discourage possible displacement whilst ensuring it was proportionate to the level of offences. Members discussed how the PSPO would be enforced and how the level of the FPN was set. It was noted that the £100 figure had been proposed in line with national guidance.

At the conclusion of the discussion, the Cabinet agreed to introduce the PSPO for Langley St Mary's, Foxborough and Colnbrook with Poyle.

**Resolved –** That a Public Spaces Protection Order Langley St Mary's, Foxborough and Colnbrook with Poyle wards as at Appendix 1 to the report be approved to address current ongoing issues of anti social behaviour affecting the local community for a maximum period of three years as defined by the Anti Social behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014.

### 79. Slough Cycle Hire and Hub Update

The Access Fund Project Manager introduced a report that updated the Cabinet on the progress of cycle hire and hub scheme.

There were currently seventeen docking stations in the cycle hire scheme. Changes were being made to the management model which would improve back-office operation and user experience, for example by making it easier to register and pay to use the scheme. Links to the 'Slough Card' were being explored to deliver more benefits to residents. Once the new system was in place there would be further efforts to widely promote the scheme and encourage uptake. Lead Members highlighted the importance of raising awareness of the scheme and asked how this would be done. There were plans to host a number of cycling events and promotions through the year including Bike Week.

The cycle hub on Brunel Way had closed on 31<sup>st</sup> September 2018 due to low usage. The Council was in the process of identifying a suitable alternative location in the vicinity of the station. Members discussed the location options and it was noted that there had been dialogue with GWR and Network Rail to review potential sites.

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The Cabinet recognised the importance of the cycle hire and hub schemes in promoting sustainable transport in Slough. Lead Members commented on the need to further improve the schemes and continue to put in place safe cycling routes and other infrastructure in the town to encourage more people to use bikes.

*(Councillor Sadiq joined the meeting)*

Members agreed that the links between the cycle hire and any future hub schemes with the 'Slough Card' should be maximised. The transport and public health teams at the Council should also work closely together to forge strong links given the need to increase physical activity.

The update was noted and it was agreed to receive a further update circa six months after the scheme was relaunched in March 2019.

### **Resolved –**

- (a) That the proposed improvements and cost savings to overall management of Slough Cycle Hire/ Cycle Hub be noted.
- (b) That the funding options for Slough cycle hire beyond March 2020 be reviewed.
- (c) That the opportunities to include the cycle hire scheme to the Slough Card be maximised and that stronger links be forged with the public health strategy and wellbeing referrals.

### **80. References from Overview & Scrutiny**

There were no references from Overview & Scrutiny.

### **81. Notification of Forthcoming Decisions**

The Cabinet considered and endorsed the Notification of Decisions published on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2018 which set out the key decisions expected to be taken by the Cabinet over the next three months.

**Resolved –** That the published Notification of Key Decisions for the period between December 2018 to February 2019 be endorsed.

### **82. Exclusion of Press and Public**

**Resolved –** That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the item in Part II of the agenda as it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information relating to the financial and business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) as defined in

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paragraph 3 of Part 1 the Schedule 12A the Local Government Act 1972.

Below is a summary of the matters considered during Part II of the agenda.

### **83. Redevelopment of Old Library Site**

The update on the redevelopment of the Old Library Site was noted and delegated authority was given to the Chief Executive to take the necessary decisions to progress the scheme.

### **84. Strategic Asset Purchases 2018**

The update on assets acquired in 2018 as part of the Strategic Acquisition Strategy was noted.

### **85. Disposal of Former Chalvey Youth and Community Centre, Darvills Lane, Slough, SL1 2PH**

The Cabinet agreed the sum and terms to dispose of the former Chalvey Youth & Community Centre, Darvills Lane.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 6.35 pm and closed at 7.37 pm)