

Cabinet – Meeting held on Monday, 21st March, 2022.

Present:- Councillors Swindlehurst (Chair), Mann (Vice-Chair), Akram, Anderson, Bains, Carter, Hulme and Pantelic

Also present under Rule 30:- Councillor Gahir

Apologies for Absence:- None.

PART 1

86. Declarations of Interest

None were declared.

87. Minutes of the Meeting held on 21st February and 9th March 2022

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 21st February and 9th March 2022 be approved as a correct record.

88. Slough Library Service Plan and new delivery model

The Cabinet considered a report that set out the results of the public consultation into the future of statutory library services in Slough and taken together with the existing Needs Assessment, made recommendations about the future delivery model of the library service in Slough.

The Council had a duty to provide a comprehensive and efficient library service and the report set out the review process that had been undertaken. The Cabinet noted the equalities impact assessment; consultation results; petition on Langley library which had 1,348 signatures; and the discussion at the Customer & Community Scrutiny Panel. The main proposals were to approve the strategic service plan for Slough library services 2022 to 2027 as at Appendix C to the report; and agree that for a minimum period of 12 months the library service operate from the current buildings (Langley library, Cippenham library, Britwell hub and The Curve), with a reduction in opening hours. Reduced hours from current locations was the preferred option from the consultation results.

Lead Members asked a range of questions and discussed various aspects of the report which are summarised as follows

- In response to a question on the responses received from the consultation, the Officer explained that there was around 2,500 responses to the initial consultation and an additional 2,500 responses from young people who provided comments that are captured in Appendix F to the report. Lead Members welcomed the extensive consultation and engagement that had taken place, including with non-

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library users and residents for whom English was not their first language. The Cabinet was satisfied that the consultation was a sound basis to inform decisions.

- In relation to the future co-location opportunities with other council services and public sector partners. It was noted that these issues regarding individual sites would be considered as part of the Asset Disposal Programme.
- Members supported the role of volunteers but commented on the importance of ensuring they were adequately trained and organised. The consultation and engagement process had led to a significant level of additional interest in people becoming volunteers which was welcomed.

After due consideration, the Cabinet agreed the recommendations but also requested that in addition to the report in 12 months, a further update report in the Autumn of 2022 to inform the budget process.

Resolved –

- (a) That the strategic service plan for Slough library services (2022 to 2027) (Appendix C to the report) be agreed.
- (b) That it be agreed to reduce the current library publication budget from £220,500 to £90,000 per annum to align our spend just within the CIPFA most similar group rather than towards the top of it.
- (c) That it be agreed that for a minimum period of 12 months the library service operates from the current buildings in which libraries are accommodated (Langley Library, Cippenham Library, Britwell Hub and The Curve) with a reduction in the opening hours and hours when specialist library staff will be in attendance as described in paragraph 2.19 of the report.
- (d) Agreed that an interim report be brought back to Cabinet by December 2022 and a full report in 12 months to provide an update and make recommendations for future options to deliver library services within the Council's current constrained financial position.

89. Re-procurement of Adult Social Care Domiciliary Care Contracts

The Lead Member for Social Care & Public Health and the Associate Director for People Strategy and Commissioning introduced the report on the re-procurement of Adult Social Care Domiciliary Care Contracts which sought approval to tender for two tranches of domiciliary care contracts via the Council's Adult Social Care Dynamic Purchasing System. The two existing tranches of contracts expired in June 2022 and December 2022 respectively.

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Appendices 1 and 2, which contained exempt information, were noted during consideration of the Part I report.

The Cabinet recognised that good quality domiciliary care enabled people with assessed care and support needs to remain living at home, which promoted their independence and reduced the need for more expensive residential care. The Officer explained that the domiciliary care market was subject to a number of different current pressures including inflation, the National Insurance increases and wage competition from other sectors.

Lead Members raised a number of issues during the course of the discussion which included the importance of good communication and information between providers and their clients. The Cabinet welcomed the fact the suppliers paid staff travel time and wages at or above the National Living Wage and asked that this be monitored to ensure providers were complying. In response to a question about how the Council monitored the safety and welfare of care workers it was explained that it is ensured that providers were providing adequate training and that it encouraged for staff to share any concerns in the workplace through their management structure. Members also requested that opportunities for clients to provide feedback on the care they received to be sufficiently robust and responsive.

At the conclusion of the discussion the recommendations were agreed.

Resolved –

- (a) That the retendering of two tranches of domiciliary care contracts via the Council's Adult Social Care Dynamic Purchasing System, on a three year basis with scope for two extensions of one year each be agreed.
- (b) That delegated authority be given to the Executive Director for People (Adults), in consultation with the Lead Member for Social Care and Public Health, to have oversight of the procurement process.
- (c) That it be agreed that contract award for the first tranche of contracts will be presented to Cabinet in June 2022 and that contract award for the second tranche of contacts will be presented to Cabinet in November 2022.
- (d) That it be noted that a report concerning the proposed model would be presented to People Scrutiny Panel in March 2022.

90. Adult Social Care Transformation Update and Procurement

The Lead Member for Social Care & Public Health and the Executive Director for People (Adults) presented an report on Adult Social Care Transformation Programme and procurement. The report set out the progress in the delivery of the Adult Social Care (ASC) transformation programme and to sought

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approval to procure external support to ensure the continued delivery of phase 2.

The Lead Member highlighted that the programme aimed to deliver savings of £9.1m to adult social care over the entirety of the programme, with the majority being delivered in the coming year. As at the end of year 1 of the programme the planned £2.1m in savings had been achieved. The programme aimed improve social work practice and outcomes as well as savings. The support of the external provider, Peopletoo, was important in delivering the programme and it was proposed that the contract be extended to the end of March 2023.

The Cabinet noted the significant challenges facing adult social care including workforce pressures, rising demand, cost inflation, social care reform and the ongoing impacts of the Covid pandemic. The transformation programme was central in addressing these challenges and needed to be well managed. The Lead Member highlighted the significant contribution the co-production network was making in re-shaping services.

An update report on the impact of the external support and the business case and procurement of future external support would come to the Cabinet in the summer of 2022. The recommendations were agreed.

Resolved –

- (a) That the good progress on the delivery of phase 2 of the ASC transformation programme be noted.
- (b) That the procurement of external support to continue to deliver phase 2 of the ASC transformation programme be approved.
- (c) That the award of a contract to Peopletoo Limited for 12 months from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 at a maximum cost of £350,000 be approved.
- (d) That delegated authority be given to the Executive Director for People (Adults), in consultation with the Lead Member for Social Care and Public Health, to commence formal procedures to procure this support and award the contract to commence on the 1st of April 2022.
- (e) Receive a further report in the Summer 2022 on the progress being made on the delivery of the ASC transformation programme and the impact of the contract with Peopletoo.

91. Procurement of health visiting school nursing (0-19 Service)

The Public Health Programme Manager introduced the report which set out the context, key issues and suggested approaches to deliver a re-procurement of the Slough health visiting and school nursing 0-19 service

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offer before the expiration of the existing contract on the 30th September 2022.

The current contract was with Solutions for Health and the report proposed a contract extension to September 2023 with further work on the future model. The Officer highlighted that the 18-month period would be used to engage with Members, partners and crucially children and young people. The recommendations were agreed.

Resolved –

1. That a contract extension running from October 2022 to September 2023 be authorised.
2. That it be agreed that further work be undertaken to determine the procurement methodology, including the option of an East Berkshire joint service, with joint procurement.
3. Noted that a briefing to Lead members and Directors, on progress to date in June 2022, will precede a report to be presented in July 2022 requesting a decision on future procurement of the services from September 2023.

92. Adult Social Care - Closure of directly provided services update

The Cabinet had agreed on 20th September 2021 to close the remaining adult social care directly provided services consisting of Lavender Court, Respond and Priors, Phoenix and The Pines day centres. The Lead Member for Social Care and Public Health and the Executive Director of People (Adults) introduced an information report on the progress of closure.

The report set out in detail the progress made on the three workstreams of re-assessing client needs and identifying alternative provision; staff consultation regarding proposed closures; and service de-registration and premises hand back. Good progress had been made regarding client re-assessment and alternative provision. It was noted for example that of the seven residents of Lavender Court, three had moved in supporting living placements and four into alternative residential provision. All but one continued to live in Slough, and the other individual had moved out of the area to be closer to family.

In relation to day care clients, forty-three people had alternative services put in place following their re-assessments and the remaining individuals either no longer wanted traditional day care or no longer required support from the Council. The details of the staff consultation were summarised and it was noted that eleven staff had applied for alternative roles within the Council and six had been successful. Thirty-seven staff had been made redundant.

The report set out the lesson learned, which included early communication and engagement; robust audit trails; and the value of pre-decision scrutiny.

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Lead Members welcomed the approach that was taken and commended the Officers involved. The report was noted.

Resolved – That the update report and that the affected services were now closed be noted.

93. References from Overview & Scrutiny

There were no references from Overview & Scrutiny.

94. Notification of Key Decisions

The Cabinet considered and endorsed the Notification of Key Decisions published on 20th February 2022 which set out the key decisions expected to be taken by Cabinet over the next three months.

Resolved – That the published Notification of Decisions be endorsed.

95. Microsoft Licencing Enterprise Agreement - Three-year Contract

The Cabinet agreed to consider an urgent report on the renewal of the Council's Microsoft licences which were due to expire on 31st March 2022.

The details of the licences were explained by the Director of Finance. The proposal had been through the Council's procurement processes and were within budget.

The Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee addressed the Cabinet and expressed concern about the need to take this decision urgently. In response it was noted that the report had been brought forward from the wider ICT Modernisation Programme report coming to Cabinet on 29th March 2022 to ensure the licences could be renewed before 25th March 2022 and therefore avoid any disruption to the services.

The Cabinet agreed the recommendations and agreed they could be implemented urgently to ensure the licences could be renewed before expiry.

Resolved –

- (a) That the matters contained in the report be considered urgently to enable the licences to be renewed before the end of March 2022.
- (b) That the award of a new three-year agreement for Microsoft licences with Dell to run from 01.04.22 – 31.03.25 via the government crown commercial framework at a three-year cost of £1.633m as provided for in the revenue budget be approved.
- (c) That the decision (b) be implemented urgently as any delay that could be caused by the call-in process would seriously prejudice the Council's interests.

96. Exclusion of the Press and Public

The Cabinet was able to conduct all business during Part I of the meeting therefore the press and public were not excluded from the meeting.

97. Re-procurement of Adult Social Care Domiciliary Care Contracts - Appendices 1 and 2

The Part II appendices were considered and noted in resolving the matters contained in the Part I report.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 6.30 pm and closed at 8.15 pm)