



Committee and Date

Cabinet

16 December 2019

CABINET

Minutes of the meeting held on 18 November 2019

In the Shrewsbury Room, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY2 6ND

1.30 - 2.25 pm

Responsible Officer: Amanda Holyoak

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Present

Councillor Peter Nutting (Chairman)

Councillors Steve Charmley (Deputy Leader), Dean Carroll, Lee Chapman, Robert Macey, David Minnery, Lezley Picton and Ed Potter

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor G Butler and Councillor S Davenport.

2 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

None were declared.

3 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 16 October 2019 be approved and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

4 Public Question Time

Mr Mark Fermor had submitted questions in relation to the target date for net zero carbon Shropshire; net zero carbon Shropshire Council and the car projection to be relied on for future transport planning. The full text of his questions and the response provided by the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Services and Climate Change are attached to the signed minutes and available on the web pages for this meeting.

5 Member Question Time

There were no member questions.

6 Scrutiny Items

There were no items from Scrutiny.

7 Draft Marches Local Industrial Strategy

The Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Assets, Economic Growth and Regeneration presented a report seeking endorsement for the Marches Local Enterprise Partnership's draft Local Industrial Strategy. The Strategy was closely aligned with the Council's Corporate Plan Key Priorities and would deliver within the framework of the five foundations of productivity as set out in the Government's national Industrial Strategy.

In response to questions about the emphasis on transport infrastructure it was clarified that the LEP had a key role in developing strategic networks and it was the Council which had a role in promoting investment in local public transport, working with Midlands Connect. The Leader reported that the carbon neutral agenda was discussed at all LEP meetings and that the current prominent projects were linked to roads but that in future other projects may include rail.

RESOLVED:

That, in response to the formal consultation by the Marches LEP, the draft LIS is endorsed.

That Shropshire Council will continue to work with the Marches LEP to produce a final LIS which will be presented to and negotiated with the UK government.

8 Oswestry High Streets Heritage Action Zone

The Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Assets, Economic Growth and Regeneration, presented a report seeking delegated authority for officers to work with the Oswestry High Streets Heritage Action Zone core partners, to develop a full programme submission for the deadline of

3 December 2019. This would include finalising the scheme budget and facilitating local community groups to form a consortium for the High Streets Heritage Action Zone cultural programme. The match funding required had already been secured.

RESOLVED:

That Cabinet agrees to support the Oswestry HSHAZ proposals to be fully worked up through the programme design stage.

That delegated authority be given to the Executive Director of Place and Director of Finance, Governance and Assurance, in consultation with the Portfolio Holders to negotiate and submit a full funding bid to Historic England for the 3rd December 2019 deadline.

9 River Severn Partnership

The Portfolio Holder for Housing and Strategic Planning introduced a report seeking approval for the Council's involvement in a proposed strategic approach to future partnership and collaboration in taking a strategic view, modelling and developing options for flood and water resource management along the River Severn.

In response to a question, the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Services and Climate Change confirmed that energy generation opportunities on the river would have a high profile in the Council's emerging Climate Action Plan.

RESOLVED:

To support Shropshire Council's involvement in the River Severn Partnership

That the Executive Director of Place enters into a Memorandum of Understanding for the River Severn Partnership.

To support a submission to the One Public Estate Programme for £500k support towards feasibility studies and modelling.

10 Application by Sheriffhales Parish Council to be considered as Neighbourhood Area

The Portfolio Holder for Housing and Strategic Planning presented a report seeking approval for the application by Sherrifhales Parish Council for the Parish area of Sheriffhales to be considered as a Neighbourhood Area for the purposes of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan.

RESOLVED:

That Cabinet agrees the proposed Neighbourhood Area identified on the map in Appendix 2, covering the Parish of Sheriffhales as an appropriate basis for the development of a Neighbourhood Plan and notifies Sheriffhales Parish Council accordingly.

That if the proposed Neighbourhood Area is approved, Sheriffhales Parish Council will be able, but not obligated to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan for that area, which will be subject to public consultation, examination and local referendum as set out in Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012 as amended. Assuming any subsequent local referendum is successful, Shropshire Council will then be asked to adopt the final version of the Neighbourhood Plan.

11 Financial Monitoring 2019/20 Quarter 2

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Corporate Support introduced the report, setting out the projected revenue expenditure for the whole of 2019/20 as at Quarter 2, and for capital up to the end of Q2. Although the figure had improved on the previous quarter, the projected revenue outturn was an overspend of £5.987m. A number of red rated savings would not be deliverable within the course of the year due to timing but would be deliverable in the medium term. There were ongoing service pressures relating to Home to School Transport and Children's Services staffing and agency costs. Decisions to remove savings from the 2019/2020 Financial Strategy in relation to Waste Services, Bus Subsidies, Passenger Transport Commissioning Savings and CCTV monitoring service

totalled approximately £1.3m. Management action had been identified to deal with the issues and contribute towards eliminating the projected overspend.

In seconding the report, the Leader of the Council said that the Chief Executive was about to implement a spending freeze and all recruitment would be very closely controlled on a case by case basis. Every effort would be made to achieve a neutral position but this was getting progressively harder and it was not known if it would be possible this year. The huge demands on Adult Social Care and Children's Services were continuous and this would be raised once a new government was in place and pressure maintained. If it was not possible to break even, it would be necessary to use General Reserves which was not desirable.

Following questions from Group representatives, it was confirmed that the projected shortfall figure took all eventualities into consideration. It was also confirmed that a lower income from the shopping centres had been anticipated at this stage and that a healthy return had been projected long term.

The Leader felt it was important to recognise savings made to date and the attempts to avoid an impact on the public when making any savings. There was still plenty of money in reserves and both Children's and Adult services performed well, and were well regarded by Central Government.

Responding to further questions, the Director of Finance explained that paying the employer's pension fund contribution up front on 1 April rather than throughout the year meant resulted in a discount to the Council.

The Chief Executive said that all staff recruitment would be considered by himself on a case by case basis.

RESOLVED:

To note that at the end of Quarter 2 (30 September 2019), the full year revenue forecast is a potential overspend of £5.987m;

To consider the impact of this on the Council's General Fund balance.

To approve the Better Care Fund virement detailed in Appendix 2.

12 Treasury Strategy 2019/20 Mid Year Review

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Corporate support presented the report drawing attention to a performance that exceeded target, at 0.25m ahead of the expected position. He congratulated the Treasury Management Team for this achievement.

RESOLVED:

To accept the position as set out in the report.

To note that any changes required to the Treasury Strategy including the Annual Investment Strategy or prudential and treasury indicators as a result of decisions made by

the Capital Investment Board will be reported to Council for approval.

13 Q2 Performance Report

The Portfolio Holder for Organisational Transformation and Digital Infrastructure presented the report highlighting the contribution of Theatre Severn to the economy of Shropshire, with 32% of ticket sales outside of the county. There were now over 40 solar arrays which had saved 80 tonnes of carbon over the last quarter. Composting was already above the target set for England for the end of 2020.

He was also pleased to report that the Social Care users survey had placed Shropshire third out of all authorities in England for the measure related to how long people stayed in their own home following rehabilitation after a hospital stay. This measure had gone by 6% since last year and demonstrated how the Council supported people to stay independent for longer. He also reported that some aspects of monitoring would be refreshed for next year, to better reflect meaningful measures for Shropshire.

In response to a question about highways and potholes he explained that the number of complaints for highways was larger than every other area as it impacted on so many users. He reported on a specific piece of technology which would inform elected members of work both planned and underway and would enable global metrics to become part of a global system.

RESOLVED:

To consider the emerging issues in this report

To review the performance portal and identify any performance areas to consider in greater detail or refer to the appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

14 Transit Site Provision in Shropshire

This item was deferred to the 16 December 2019 Cabinet meeting.

15 Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLVED

That in accordance with the provisions of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and Paragraph 10.4 (3) of the Council's Access to Information Rules, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item.

16 Lease of the Gateway

RESOLVED:

That the recommendations set out in the report be approved.

Signed (Chairman)

Date: