

EXECUTIVE DECISION RECORD

CABINET

13 DECEMBER 2023

Cabinet Members:

Councillors: S.K.Hunt (Chairperson), S.A.Knoyle, N.Jenkins, J.Hurley, S.Harris, J.Hale, A.Llewelyn, W.F.Griffiths, S.Jones and C.Phillips

Officers in Attendance:

K.Jones, C.Griffiths, N.Daniel, H.Jones, A.Thomas, D.Griffiths, C.Saunders, C.Howard, N.Blackmore, A.Thomas and T.Davies

Scrutiny Chair and Vice Chair: Councillors P.Rogers and C.Jordan

1. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSON**

Agreed that Councillor S.K.Hunt be appointed Chairperson for the meeting.

2. **CHAIRPERSONS ANNOUNCEMENT/S**

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting, and advised Cabinet that Item 20 – Home Office Consultation on Safe and Legal Routes had been withdrawn from consideration at today's meeting.

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following Member made a declaration of interest at the start of the meeting:

Councill S.Jones Minute No 19 – Adult Services Strategic Investment – as he is the director of Gentle Care

Services, a domiciliary care provider, who are contracted to Neath Port Talbot Council.

4. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:**

That the minutes of the previous meetings of Cabinet, held on the following dates, be agreed as an accurate record:

- 8 November 2023
- 20 November 2023 (Special)
- 28 November 2023 (Special)

5. **FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2023/24**

The Forward Work Programme was noted.

6. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

No public questions were received.

7. **QUARTER 2 - REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2023/24**

Decisions:

1. That the contents of the circulated report be noted, in relation to the current projected budget outturn and reserves position, including the repurposing of reserves detailed in the main body of the report.
2. That the virements set out in the main body of the circulated report, be approved.
3. That the progress against the agreed savings be noted.
4. That it be noted that Officers will look to implement additional cost saving and income generation measures in year, in order to reduce the current overspend position. These measures will only be taken where they can be delivered within existing policy frameworks.

Reason for Decisions:

To comply with the Council's constitution in relation to budget for virements.

Implementation of Decision:

The Decision will be implemented after the three day call in period.

8. **QUARTER 2 - CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING 2023/24**

Decisions:

1. That the updated proposed 2023/24 budget, totalling £64.0m, be approved and commended to Council.
2. That the position in relation to expenditure, as at 30th September 2023, as detailed in the circulated report, be noted.

Reason for Decisions:

To comply with the Councils constitution in relation to budget virement, re-profiling between financial years and to update the Council's Budget projections for 2023/24.

Implementation of Decisions:

The decision will be implemented after the three day call in period.

9. **QUARTER 2 - TREASURY MANAGEMENT MONITORING 2023/24**

Decision:

That the monitoring report be noted.

10. **TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID YEAR REVIEW - 2023/24**

Decision:

That the monitoring report be noted.

11. **QUARTER 2 PERFORMANCE MONITORING**

Decision:

That the monitoring report be noted.

12. **URGENT ITEMS**

Decision:

Because of the need to deal now with the matter contained in Minute No 14 below, the Chairperson agreed that this could be raised at today's meeting as an urgent item pursuant to Section 100B (4) (b) of the Local Government Act 1972.

Reason:

Due to time element.

13. **ACCESS TO MEETINGS - EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

Decision:

That pursuant to Regulation 4 (3) and (5) of Statutory Instrument 2001 No 2290, the public be excluded for the following items of business which involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

14. **COMMISSIONING OF A REGIONAL PARENT PEER ADVOCACY AND SUPPORT SERVICE**

Decisions:

That having had due regard to the Integrated Impact Assessment:

1. A procurement exercise be undertaken, to commission a Parent Peer Advocacy and Support Service, on behalf of the region.
2. Following the procurement process, the Head Children and Young Peoples Services be granted delegated authority to enter into a

contract with the bidder evaluated as offering the most economically advantageous tender (taking into account the quality and cost of the bids).

Reason for Decisions:

To ensure that there is continuation of the development of services addressing the deficit of early intervention and prevention services, and to ensure a legally binding contract between the Council and Service Providers.

15. **CHANGE OF OPERATIONAL PROVISION FOR THE VEHICLE AND PLANT FLEET**

Decision:

That having had due regard to the Integrated Impact Assessment, delegated authority be granted to the Director of Environment and Regeneration, in consultation with the Leader of Council, the relevant Cabinet Member and Chair of the relevant Scrutiny Committee, to directly award fleet management and telematics contracts via the Crown Commercial Services framework.

Reason for Decision:

To ensure the urgent procurement via the Crown Commercial Service framework to secure suitable new systems that will maintain fleet and frontline service delivery, and also to provide the council with an immediate solution to the provision of a modern cloud-based system with add functionality whilst relieving the pressures on internal resources.

Implementation of Decision:

The decision will be implemented after the three day call in period.

16. **LOCAL BUS TENDERING - DE MINIMIS SUBSIDY AWARD**

Decisions:

That having had due regard to the Integrated Impact Assessment:

1. Delegated Authority be given to Director of Environment and Regeneration and the Head of Engineering and Transport, to use the De Minimis arrangement to directly award passenger service commissions/contracts, in order to assist in the tendering of non-commercial bus routes in the County Borough from April 2024.
2. It be agreed to exclude the requirements for competition contained within the Council's Contract Procedure Rules, in accordance with Rule 5 therein, for such contracts awarded via De Minimis in accordance with the 2002 Regulations.
3. It be agreed for the Head of Engineering and Transport to directly award De Minimis contracts to bus operators in order to protect socially necessary journeys, as and when funding allows and in accordance with the requirements of the 2002 Regulations.

Reasons for Decisions:

1. To ensure that the Council has at its disposal tools that allows it to save as many local bus services as possible.
2. To allow the Council to react quickly to replace existing local bus services that are withdrawn if funding allows.
3. To assist with the tendering process by reducing the number of tenders/routes that need to be managed.

Implementation of Decisions:

The decisions will be implemented after the three day call in period.

17. **PONTARDAWE ARTS CENTRE**

Decision:

That having had due regard to the Integrated Impact Screening Assessment, the preferred option, relating to Pontardawe Arts Centre, as detailed within the Private, circulated report be agreed.

Reason for Decision:

To enable the Council to proceed with the scheme subject to the final tenders being accepted.

Implementation of Decision:

The decision will be implemented after the three day call in period.

18. **FUNDING TO ENHANCE THE HOMELESSNESS AND STRATEGIC HOUSING FUNCTION**

Cabinet was advised of updated wording to the recommendation, which was agreed, and is recorded as the Decision below:

Decision:

Having had due regard to the integrated impact assessment, the use of reserves to fund the strategic change needed in the homelessness and strategic housing Services, as set out in the Private, circulated report, be endorsed.

Reasons for Decision:

1. To stabilise the Council's finances with regards to the current and projected levels of uncontrolled overspend linked to the rising numbers of people becoming homeless.
2. To ensure that there are better responses for those that are at risk or experience homelessness.
3. To help ensure that there is sustainable housing within Neath Port Talbot in line with population needs.

Implementation of Decision:

The decision will be implemented after the three day call in period.

19. **ADULT SERVICES STRATEGIC INVESTMENT**

Cabinet was advised of updated wording to the recommendation, which was agreed, and is recorded as the Decision below:

Decision:

Having had due regard to the integrated impact assessment, the use of reserves to fund the strategic change needed in the Adult Services, as set out in the Private, circulated report, be endorsed.

Reasons for Decision:

1. To take into account the social care resources available when undertaking an assessment or reassessment of individuals' needs.
2. To ensure a sustainable range of good quality adult social care services are available to meet the needs of the most vulnerable citizens of Neath Port Talbot
3. To contribute towards the budgetary savings identified in the Council's Forward Financial Plan.
4. To contribute to Welsh Government's aim to rebalance the social care market by moving services away from for-profit organisations.

Consultation:

Where appropriate, individual consultation exercises for the developments outlined in the Private, circulated report be undertaken over a period of 90 days, to positively engage with stakeholders and seek their views.

20. **HOME OFFICE CONSULTATION ON SAFE AND LEGAL ROUTES**

Decision:

This report was withdrawn from consideration at today's meeting.

CHAIRPERSON