

EXECUTIVE

Minutes of a meeting of the Executive of the Bolsover District Council held in the Council Chamber, The Arc, Clowne on Monday 24th June 2019 at 1000 hours.

PRESENT:-

Members:-

Councillor Steve Fritchley in the Chair

Councillors Nick Clarke, Mary Dooley, Clive Moesby, Liz Smyth and Deborah Watson.

Officers:- Karen Hanson (Strategic Director – Place), Kath Drury (Information, Engagement and Performance Manager), Pam Brown (Partnerships, Strategy and Policy Manager), Laura Khella (Partnership Consultant Programme Manager), Jessica Clayton (Partnership Strategy and Policy Officer), Victoria Dawson (Team Manager Solicitor – Contentious) and Donna Cairns (Senior Governance Officer).

0084. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Sandra Peake.

0085. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were requested to declare the existence and nature of any disclosable pecuniary interests and/or other interests, not already on their register of interests, in any item on the agenda and withdraw from the meeting at the appropriate time.

No declarations of interest were made at this meeting.

0086. MINUTES – 10TH JUNE 2019

Moved by Councillor Mary Dooley and seconded by Councillor Duncan McGregor
RESOLVED that the minutes of a meeting of the Executive held on 10th June 2019 be approved as a true and correct record and duly be signed by the Chair.

0087. ITEMS RECOMMENDED BY SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

No items were recommended to this meeting by the Scrutiny Committees.

0088. BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK ITEMS

There were no budget and policy framework items.

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NON KEY DECISIONS

0089. FINANCIAL OUTTURN 2018-19

Executive considered the report of the Portfolio Holder - Finance and Resources which informed Members of the outturn position of the Council for the 2018/19 financial year. The Chief Accountant and Section 151 Officer gave a presentation setting out details of the report.

It was noted that the draft statement of accounts had been prepared in line with the statutory deadline of the 31st May 2019. The draft statement of accounts were subject to the independent audit from the Council's external auditors, Mazars.

Contribution of £3.029m had been made to the Transformation Reserve leaving the balance of the fund at the end of year at £8.35m. Commitments had already been made against this reserve for 2019/20 and future years amounting to £2.356m leaving £5.998m uncommitted. The Transformation Reserve could be used for future schemes of transformation to reduce future deficits faced by the Council in the Medium Term Financial Plan.

The outturn position of the Housing Revenue account and the position of the Capital Programme was detailed in the report. Carry forward amounts in relation to the General Fund Capital Investment Programme were proposed due to individual schemes that were still in progress, where there were outstanding commitments, or where the schemes had been delayed. The proposed carry forward amount was £3.91m.

The Council's treasury management activity for 2018/19 was also summarised in the report.

Moved by Councillor Clive Moesby and seconded by Councillor Duncan McGregor

RESOLVED – That Executive -

1. note the outturn position in respect of the 2018/19 financial year; and
2. approve the proposed carry forward of capital budgets detailed in Appendix 4 to the report totalling £3.910m.

REASON FOR DECISION:

To consider the financial outturn position of the Council for 2018/19 and its implications for future years' budgets.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED:

As the financial outturn report was fundamentally a factual report giving details of the outcome of previously approved budgets there were no alternative options that were considered.

(Chief Accountant and Section 151 Officer)

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0090. CORPORATE DEBT – QUARTER 4

Executive considered a report of the Portfolio Holder - Finance and Resources in relation to the Council's Corporate Debt position at the end of quarter four of 2018/19. The Chief Accountant and Section 151 Officer gave a presentation to Members to provide further context to the report.

The corporate debt position was broken down into Business Rates, Council Tax, Housing Rents, Overpaid Housing Benefits and Sundry Debtors.

Members discussed concerns about the impact of Universal Credit for the recoverability of Housing Benefit overpayments and also the potential for rent arrears to increase. The provision of budgeting and financial advice through Citizens Advice was discussed and the Council was actively monitoring the situation.

Moved by Councillor Clive Moesby and seconded by Councillor Duncan McGregor.

RESOLVED – That Executive note the report concerning the Council's Corporate Debt as at 31st March 2019.

REASON FOR DECISION:

To ensure that Executive are informed of the latest position concerning the Council's debt.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED:

Not applicable as this report was for information only.

(Chief Accountant and Section 151 Officer)

0091. CORPORATE PLAN TARGETS PERFORMANCE UPDATE – JANUARY TO MARCH 2019. (QUARTER 4 – 2018/19)

Executive considered a report of the Portfolio Holder - Finance and Resources in relation to the quarter four outturns of the Corporate Plan 2015-19 targets. The Information, Engagement and Performance Manager presented the detail of the report setting out progress on all key tasks and performance indicators that contributed directly to the priority within the Council's Corporate Plan.

For the period of the review out of the 61 targets, 1 was on track, 46 had been achieved (25 in this period and 19 previously), 5 had been withdrawn, 8 had not met their targets and 1 was currently suspended.

It was noted that this was the final outturn for the Corporate Plan targets 2015-19. Arrangements were in place to monitor a suite of targets that were carried forward from the Corporate Plan for 2019-20 during the development of the Council's new Corporate Plan.

Members commented on the influence and impact of external factors on the delivery of the Corporate Plan priorities and achieving the performance targets however,

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where internal factors could be controlled the Council must address these issues to maintain and improve performance.

Moved by Councillor Duncan McGregor and seconded by Councillor Steve Fritchley
RESOLVED – That progress against the Corporate Plan 2015-2019 targets be noted.

REASON FOR DECISION:

This report was to keep Members informed of progress against the corporate plan targets, noting achievements and any areas of concern.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED:

Not applicable to this report as it is to provide an overview of performance against agreed targets.

(Information, Engagement and Performance Manager)

KEY DECISIONS

0092. **BOLSOVER PARTNERSHIP FUNDING AND PERFORMANCE MONITORING 2018/19 (INCLUDING DECISION IN RESPECT OF TENDER FOR 'BOLSOVER VOLUNTARY COMMUNITY SECTOR INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT')**

Executive considered the report of the Portfolio Holder - Partnerships and Transformation which provided a comprehensive overview of the various programmes, initiatives and activities that the Partnership Team had been involved in over the last 12 months and also recommended the award of a contract for Bolsover Voluntary Community Sector Infrastructure Support.

Key achievements that were highlighted in the report and other achievements made subsequently included:

- The award of funds from a second branch of the Controlling Migration Fund from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government;
- Successful application from the Economic Development Team to the Business Rates Retention Pilot to increase the funding allocated to shop front improvements in Shirebrook through the Building Resilience Programme;
- Award of funding to Bolsover Partnership for Public Health localities and place based programme for a 2 year Derbyshire raising aspirations programme;
- Social value outcomes valued at £2.5m from the Councils investment in the grants Voluntary Organisation programme; and
- 7% job growth between 2012 and 2017.

The Portfolio Holder - Partnerships and Transformation informed Members of the restructure of the Partnership Team which had recently been completed and praised the support provided by the team to Members.

Executive commented that the successes and achievements contained in this report should be publicised particularly highlighting the 7% job growth.

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Moved by Councillor Mary Dooley and seconded by Councillor Steve Fritchley

RESOLVED – That Executive

1. note the contents of this report; and
2. approve the appointment of Bassetlaw CVS to deliver Bolsover Infrastructure support to the voluntary and community sector across Bolsover district for the period July 2019 to August 2020, with an option to extend for a further two years.

REASON FOR DECISION:

To receive a comprehensive overview of projects, funding and initiatives that the Partnership Team was involved with and to ensure Partnership funding is targeted to best effect.

The appointment of Bassetlaw CVS to deliver Bolsover Infrastructure support to the voluntary and community sector across Bolsover district achieved the highest evaluation score following the tender process.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED:

Options were considered as an integral element of all commissioning processes.

Alternative options for the delivery of infrastructure support to the voluntary and community sector were considered by Executive at its meeting on 18th February 2019.

(Partnership, Strategy and Policy Manager)

0093. PROPOSAL FOR A SECOND PHASE OF THE BUSINESS GROWTH FUND

Executive considered the report of the Portfolio Holder for Partnerships and Transformation which outlined the proposed criteria and delivery arrangements for a Bolsover Business Growth Fund Phase 2 programme following approval from Executive in March 2019 to extend the scheme.

The report provided an overview of the scheme including the scheme attributes, output measure, new businesses targeted, the value of the fund and monitoring and evaluation. It was proposed that the fund total £200,000. £15,000 underspend had been brought forward from the previous scheme and an additional £185,000 was proposed to be allocated from the Transformation Reserve.

A new element to the scheme would be a small allocation of funds for business start-ups with grants of up to £500. It was noted that applicants and businesses would still be eligible for grants even if entitled to business rates relief.

The Partnership Consultant Programme Manager set out details of how phase 2 of the scheme would be promoted including the possibility of targeting of specific areas within the District where appropriate.

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Moved by Councillor Mary Dooley and seconded by Councillor Duncan McGregor

RESOLVED –

1. That Executive agree to launch a new Business Growth Fund scheme based upon parameters outlined in the report.
2. That £185,000 is allocated from Transformation Reserves to support Business Growth Fund Phase 2 alongside the £15,000 underspend carried over from the previous Business Growth Fund programme.
3. That a review of the scheme setting out its impact and outputs be provided to Executive after 12 months.

REASON FOR DECISION:

The continuation scheme was designed to achieve maximum impact and providing grants to support small and medium sized businesses contributes to the Council's Growth Strategy through potential additional revenues, as well as potential contributions to the Council's carbon reduction strategy.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED:

The options to do nothing or to reduce the scale of the fund were rejected as these options would not have provided the intended financial support to small and medium sized businesses or would have reduced the overall economic impact of the scheme.

(Partnership, Strategy and Policy Manager)

The meeting concluded at 11:10 hours.