

Wednesday 16 June 2021 at 6.00 p.m.

Held in Council Chamber at the Council House Walsall

Note: This meeting was held in the Council Chamber in accordance with s.102 of the Local Government Act 1972 and the Council's Constitution. In order to comply with social distancing requirements as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, the meeting was conducted via Microsoft Teams in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders for Remote Meetings.

Present

Councillor Bird	Leader of the Council
Councillor Andrew	Deputy Leader and Regeneration
Councillor Perry	Deputy Leader and Resilient Communities
Councillor Martin	Adult Social Care
Councillor Wilson	Children's
Councillor Butler	Clean and green
Councillor Towe	Education and skills
Councillor Statham	Internal Services

In attendance – in person

Dr. H. Paterson, Chief Executive

Mr A. Cox, Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer

Mrs H. Owen, Democratic Services Officer

In attendance – remote

Mrs D. Hindson, Executive Director, Resources and Transformation

Mr S. Neilson, Executive Director, Economy Environment and Communities

Mrs K. Allward, Executive Director, Adults, Public Health and Hub

Mrs S. Rowe, Executive Director Children's and Customer

Mr S. Gunther, Director of Public Health

3728 Welcome

At this point, Councillor Bird opened the meeting by welcoming everyone, and explaining that as the emergency legislation which enabled Council meetings to meet virtually had expired, the Cabinet was meeting that evening in person with appropriate social distancing requirements. He advised that the meeting would be conducted however via Microsoft Teams to enable it to be streamed on YouTube for members of the public to view and enable officers to contribute remotely if required. He also confirmed that voting that evening would be by way of a show of hands which would be visible on YouTube. Councillor Bird directed members of the public viewing the meeting to the papers which could be found on the Council's Committee Management Information system (CMIS) webpage.

3729 Apologies

An apology for non-attendance was received from Councillor Craddock

3730 Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting were submitted.

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 21 April 2021 copies having been sent to each member of the Cabinet be approved and signed as a correct record.

3731 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3732 Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985

Resolved

That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the items set out in the private part of the agenda for the reasons set out therein and Section 100A of the Local Government Act, 1972.

3733 Petitions

No petitions were submitted.

3734 Questions

No questions were submitted

3735 Forward plan

The forward plan as at 10 May 2021 was submitted:

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the forward plan be noted.

3736 Resetting the Council through Proud

Councillor Bird presented a report which sought agreement to a Reset Action Plan aligned to the Walsall Proud Promises and Corporate Plan outcomes that builds on the new ways working expedited by the Covid-19 pandemic and guides the work of the council over the coming months.

(see annexed)

Resolved

- 1) That Cabinet notes the steps taken to respond to the impact of Covid-19.
- 2) That Cabinet agrees the approach to resetting based on the principles set out, and gives a mandate to implement the Reset Action plan.
- 3) That Cabinet notes the findings of the Residents Survey and agree that ways to regularly seek the view of residents are explored and implemented.

3737 Pre-Audit Outturn 2020/21 and Covid-19 update

Councillor Bird presented a report which informed of the pre-audit revenue and capital financial outturn position for 2020/21, and financial and treasury indicators for 2020/21, along with an updated assessment of Covid-19 funding allocations to address cost pressures and income losses. The report also sought approval to begin formal public consultation regarding future options for the continued provision of the appointeeship service to support a decision as part of the 2022/23 budget process.

(see annexed)

Resolved

That Cabinet:

- 1) Notes the pre-audit revenue outturn underspend of £453k (table 1 and Appendix 1) and the pre-audit capital outturn break even position for 2020/21 (table 4).
- 2) Notes the transfers from and to earmarked reserves as set out in section 4.3 and table 2.
- 3) Notes that the opening general reserves balance will be £17.69m as at 1 April 2021. This is considered a prudent amount for 2021/22.
- 4) Notes the additional funding allocated to Walsall as set out in sections 4.7 to 4.8 and Appendix 2 of this report, which has been broadly sufficient to cover the additional costs of supporting the council's Covid-19 response in 2020/21, as set out in sections 4.10 to 4.15 and Appendix 3.

- 5) Approves summary expenditure plans for additional grant funding to date for 2021/22 as set out in section 4.16.
- 6) Notes and approve the capital re-profiling/carry forwards from 2020/21 to 2021/22 as set out in Appendices 4 and 5.
- 7) Notes the financial health indicators for 2020/21 as summarised in Appendix 6.
- 8) Notes the 2020/21 prudential indicators in Appendix 7 of this report and Walsall's compliance with these indicators.
- 9) Approves officers to enter in to a period of formal consultation regarding the future provision of the appointeeship service, as set out within sections 4.29 to 4.42 of this report, with the outcome of this consultation reported back to Cabinet to support the 2022/23 budget process.

3738 Corporate Plan Delivery – Q4

Councillor Bird presented a report which provided an oversight of the current levels of performance in the delivery of services aligned to the council's corporate priorities and outcomes with the performance being reported against a set of key measures that were approved by Cabinet in June 2020.

(see annexed)

Resolved

That Cabinet note the performance information provided in the appendix.

3739 Street Lighting Invest to Save

Councillor Andrew presented a report which outlined proposals for the conversion of street lights to LED and CMS technology.

(see annexed)

Resolved

That Cabinet:

- 1) Approves the conversion of the existing street lighting infrastructure to modern, energy efficient LED (light emitting diodes) technology that is controlled by CMS (a central monitoring system).
- 2) Approves the use of the existing Public Lighting PFI contract entered into on 28 March 2002 and made between Walsall Council and Walsall Public Lighting Ltd as the contractual mechanism to deliver the project.

- 3) Approves the business case (Appendix A) and use of option A as being the most cost effective option for delivery of the LED and CMS project.
- 4) Approves that the capital budget of £10,593,186 required to fund costs of option A, profiled as follows: £3,353,304 (2021/2022), £6,495,608 (2022/23) and £744,274 (2023/24), is funded from the pipeline investment fund included in the Council's approved 2021/22 capital programme.
- 5) Delegates authority to the Executive Director for Economy, Environment and Communities, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, to authorise the sealing or signing of the Deed of Variation to the street lighting PFI Project Agreement to give full effect to the project

3740 Revenues and Benefits Processing System

Councillor Andrew presented a report which sought approval to extend the current contract by 12 months to mitigate the risk of a lack of systems to perform the functions of collecting Council Tax, NNDR and making benefit payments.

(see annexed)

Resolved

- 1) That Cabinet approves the extension of the existing contract for a Revenues and benefits processing system with Northgate Public Services, for a period of 12 months at an estimated additional cost of £127,000.
- 2) That Cabinet delegates authority to the Executive Director of Children's Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Customer Access Management, to enter into an extension of the contract for the provision of a Revenues and Benefits processing system (to include authorisation, sealing or signing of any contracts, deeds or other related documents for such services).

3741 Adults and Children's Case Management System

Councillors Martin and Wilson presented a report which sought approval to award a contract for an electronic case management system to enable the Council to fulfil its statutory duties; and to build on existing infrastructure to enable a partnership based way of working to support the delivery of the Council's ambitions to transform services.

(see annexed)

Resolved

- 1) That Cabinet approves the award of a call off contract to Servelec Social Care Limited, valued at up to £928,000, for the continued provision of the

Council's existing case management system for Adult Social Care and Children's Services, from 01 July 2021, for an initial period 2 years, with the option to extend for further periods of up to 3 years from 01 July 2023.

- 2) That Cabinet delegates authority to the Executive Director for Adults Social Care and the Executive Director of Children's Services, in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holders for Adult Social Care and Children's Services, to subsequently authorise the sealing of deeds and/or signing of contracts and any other related documents for the provision of such services.
- 3) That Cabinet delegates authority to the Executive Director of Adult Social Care and the Executive Director of Children's Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holders for Adult Social Care and Children's Services, to authorise any variations to the contractual arrangements or other related documents for such services should this be required throughout the term of the contract, in accordance with the Council's approved budget, Public Contract Regulations and the Council's Contract Rules.

3742 Review of internal and external day opportunities

Councillor Martin presented a report which informed of the planned reconfiguration of the internal provider workforce at Goscote as part of the continued development and reshaping of the All Age Disability Hub; and which sought permission to formally consult with existing customers and stakeholders to consider and reshape the delivery of an alternative model of day opportunities.

(see annexed)

Resolved

That Cabinet:

- 1) Notes the intention to commence formal consultation with the employees at Goscote on relevant implications at the appropriate time.
- 2) Agrees to a wider consultation exercise with all stakeholders who may be affected by the transformation of day opportunities.
- 3) Agrees to receive a progress report on the outcome of consultation and the recommendations informed by that.

3743 Walsall Carers Centre – extension of contract

Councillor Martin presented a report which sought approval to extend the existing contract to provide for compliant contractual arrangements in place

during the pandemic, which were fit for purpose to enable the review of strategic priorities.

(see annexed)

Resolved

- 1) That Cabinet approves the extension of the existing contract with Walsall Carers Centre for a period of 12 months from 1st July 2021 to 30th June 2022 at a value of £85,000.
- 2) That Cabinet delegates authority to the Executive Director for Adult Social Care, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care, to subsequently authorise the sealing of deeds and/or signing of contracts and any other related documents for the provision of such services as well as any variations to the contractual arrangements or other related documents should this be required throughout the duration of the contracts.

3744 Redesign of Children's Homes

Councillor Wilson presented a report which set out the rationale and business case for the growth in children's homes and improving outcomes for Walsall's Looked after Children.

(see annexed)

Resolved

- 1) That Cabinet approves the capital budget of up to £1,071,000 funded from the pipeline investment fund included within the Council's approved 2021/22 capital programme to allow for the acquisition, adaptation and equipping of 2 appropriate properties in Walsall.
- 2) That Cabinet delegates authority to Executive Director for Children's Services in consultation with Portfolio Holder to acquire 2 appropriate domestic residences.
- 3) That Cabinet delegates authority to the Executive Director of Children's Services to agree and commission appropriate works to deliver required adaptations to newly acquired properties to create 2 children's residential homes in Walsall.

3745 Children's Complex Care Framework

Councillor Wilson presented a report which sought approval to extend the Framework agreement to provide access to home support (commonly known as domiciliary care) to Special Educational Needs / Disabilities children with complex medical, physical and social / emotional needs.

(see annexed)

Resolved

That Cabinet:

- 1) approves the extension of the Complex Care (Children's) Services Framework Agreement from 1 August 2021 until July 31, 2022
- 2) delegates authority to the Executive Director for Children's Services, in consultation with the portfolio holder for Children's Services, to enter into a further extension, if deemed necessary, of contractual arrangements from 1 August 2022 until 31st July 2023, and subsequently authorise the sealing or signing of any associated contracts, deeds or other related documents.
- 3) delegates authority to the Executive Director for Children's Services, in consultation with the portfolio holder for Children's Services, to authorise any variations to the contractual arrangements for services identified above, should this be required at any time during the term, in line with Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and the Council's Contract Rules

Private session

3746 Exclusion of public

Resolved

That during consideration of the remaining item on the agenda, the Cabinet considers that the item for consideration is exempt information by virtue of the appropriate paragraph(s) of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972, and accordingly resolves to consider the item in private.

3747 Walsall Development Pipeline: Strategic Land Acquisition

Councillor Andrew presented a report which sought approval to acquire third party land that adjoined a Council-owned strategic pipeline site to facilitate the access required to support a future comprehensive residential development.

(see annexed)

The Cabinet considered a report which sought approval to acquire third party land that adjoins a Council-owned strategic pipeline site to facilitate the access required to support a future comprehensive residential development and associated benefits for the area.

The Cabinet approved the business case, land acquisition and associated costs which would be funded from the Pipeline Investment fund included in the Council's approved 2021/22 capital budget.

This report contains commercially sensitive information and is therefore exempt from publication.

[Exempt information under paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972 (as amended)]

3748 Darlaston Recreation Ground – Community Asset Transfer

Councillor Andrew presented a report which sought approval to the grant of a lease following a marketing process undertaken in accordance with the Council's adopted CAT Policy

(see annexed)

The Cabinet considered a report which sought approval to the grant of a lease following a marketing process undertaken in accordance with the Council's adopted Community Asset Transfer Policy. The Cabinet approved the grant of the lease.

This report contains commercially sensitive information and is therefore exempt from publication.

[Exempt information under paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972 (as amended)]

The meeting terminated at 6.49p.m.

Chair:

Date: