

Executive Cabinet

1. Any Executive Cabinet recommendations on the reports that require Council decisions appear as separate items on the agenda.

General Report of the Meeting Held on 13 September 2023

Revenue Budget Monitoring Q1

2. Councillor Peter Wilson, Executive Member for Resources presented the report of the Director of Finance which set out the revenue and reserves forecast for 2023/24 for the Council, based on the position as at 31 July 2023.
3. In summary, there was a forecast overspend of £0.542m however based on the current position of the 2023/24 pay award negotiations, an unfunded budget pressure was anticipated of £0.146m; this had been built into the figures presented in the report and as such the revised forecast outturn was for an overspend of £0.688m. The Council's Medium-Term Financial Strategy reported that the minimum level of general fund reserves should be maintained at £4.0m to cushion against any potential, future financial risks that may face the Council. Based on the above forecast overspend, the level of general fund balances as at 31 March 2024 would be £3.583m.
4. We noted the challenges the council faced in relation to the 50% increase in utility costs and the overall implications of the pay award for 2023/24. The impact that the additional support for Leisure Services could have on the general fund reserve if agreed at Council was queried. It was agreed that this information would be provided to Members. We approved the recommendations within the report.

Capital and Balance Sheet Monitoring Report Q1

5. Councillor Peter Wilson, Executive Member for Resources presented the report of the Director of Finance which outlined the outturn financial position of the Council in respect of the capital programme at 31 July 2023, highlighting key issues and explaining key variances, and provided an overview of various elements of the Council's Balance Sheet at 31 July 2023.
6. The capital budget for 2023/24 was set at £21.103m at Council in February 2023. This was increased following approval of the 2022/23 outturn to £22.998m. We noted that the total cost of the Council's capital investment programme for 2023/24 had decreased since the 2022/23 outturn report approved by Executive Cabinet, from £22.998m to £18.191m as at 31 July 2023. Budgets variations approved since the last monitoring report had resulted in a total increase of £5.580m to the capital programme. We approved the recommendations within the report.

Chorley Quarter One Performance Monitoring Report 2023-24

7. Councillor Peter Wilson, Executive Member for Resources presented the report of the Chief Executive which set out the performance against the delivery of the Corporate Strategy and key performance indicators during the first quarter of 2023/24, covering 1 April 2023 to 30 June 2023.
8. The overall performance of the Corporate Strategy projects was excellent with 95% (18) classified as complete or green, meaning they were progressing according to schedule. One project (5%) had been rated amber, which provided an early warning sign of potential delays. An action plan for this project was contained within the report. Performance of the Corporate Strategy indicators and key service delivery measures

continued to be closely monitored with 75% of Corporate Strategy measures and 100% of key service delivery measure performing on or above target within the 5% threshold.

9. With regards to the Leisure Centres, we recognised the work achieved by the council so far and were advised that the five-year plan was being reviewed given the significant challenges faced. We welcomed proposals for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider the Leisure Centres to ensure they were accessible and affordable for residents.
10. We also recognised the need to address issues with the number of young people not in education, employment, or training, which included working with partners. We noted the report.

Queens Road Car Park Enhancement Scheme - Procurement Strategy

11. Councillor Peter Wilson, Executive Member for Resources presented the report of the Interim Deputy Chief Executive which sought approval for the procurement strategy and delegation of the contract award for the Queens Road car park enhancement scheme.
12. We noted that the procurement of the contract was being undertaken in accordance with Chorley Councils procurement regulations for high value contracts. The procurement and evaluation criteria proposed, comprised a single stage open tender with suitability questionnaire 60% cost, 25% quality and 15% Social Value split.
13. We welcomed the proposals and recognised the need for the improvement works to the car park, as well as protecting the local environment and enhancing the green space. We approved the recommendations within the report.

Climate Change Business Accreditation

14. Councillor Adrian Lowe, Executive Member for Customer, Streetscene and Environment presented the report of the Interim Deputy Chief Executive which provided an overview of the proposed climate change business accreditation scheme, including information on the financial costs and the feedback provided by the Climate Change Working Group. The report also sought approval of the climate change business and accreditation scheme for publication and execution.
15. We noted that the formation of a Climate Change Business Accreditation Scheme was an original action from Overview and Scrutiny Task Group. The accreditation scheme, to be titled 'Chorley Business Pathway to Net-Zero Accreditation' had been devised to allow all businesses to enter without focus on specific sectors or business size.
16. To ensure the scheme remained competitive and meaningful, only ten accreditations would be awarded per year. These would be awarded by an independent panel of five judges from different sectors and locations of employment. The current proposal for the scheme would allow for annual release and was currently estimated to have a low expenditure cost of ~£2000 per scheme run. We welcomed the proposals.

Bengal St Depot Relocation - Procurement Strategy

17. Councillor Peter Wilson, Executive Member for resources presented the confidential report of the Interim Deputy Chief Executive which provided an overview on the procurement requirements for enabling the progression of the Bengal Street Depot Relocation Project. The report also sought approval of the procurement strategy and evaluation criteria as well as delegation of the contract awards to the Executive Member for approval. We approved the recommendations within the report.

Recommendations

18. To note the report.

Councillor Alistair Bradley
Executive Leader

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