

Council

Tuesday, 18th July 2023, 6.30 pm

Council Chamber, Town Hall, Chorley and YouTube

I am now able to enclose, for consideration at the above meeting of the Council, the following reports that were unavailable when the agenda was published.

Agenda No	Item	
5	Executive Cabinet	(Pages 131 - 134)
	To receive and consider the general report of the Executive Cabinet held on 15 June and 13 July 2023.	

Chris Sinnott
Chief Executive

Electronic agendas sent to Members of the Council

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Executive Cabinet

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

General Report of the Meeting Held on 15 June 2023

Revenue Budget Outturn 2022/23

2. Councillor Peter Wilson, Executive Member for Resources presented the report of the Director of Finance which set out the revenue and reserves provisional outturn for 2022/23 for the Council, based on the position as at 31 March 2023.
3. In summary, the provisional outturn would have been an underspend of £0.728m however as previously reported, the £0.597m unfunded cost pressure in respect of the 22/23 pay award, i.e. the cost over and above the 2% budgeted pay award, resulted in a provisional underspend of £0.131m. The Council's Medium-Term Financial Strategy recommended that General Reserves were maintained at a minimum of £4.0m to mitigate against any unforeseen financial risks that may present in the future. Based on the above and the amalgamation of reserves, the level of general fund balance was £4.271m at 31st March 2023.
4. We discussed staffing costs and were provided with an update on current vacancies and the impact of not filling those vacancies. It was recognised that the staffing overspend was based on the above anticipated pay increase and a national shortage in certain professions which had led to the increased appointment of agency staff over the last year. We noted the increased cost of agency staff but also recognised the need for this, particularly in regards to ensuring the progression of the Local Plan. Although the use of agency staff was likely to continue the council was moving in the right direction and would continue to try and recruit but also consider other options if required. We approved the recommendations within the report.

Capital and Balance Sheet Outturn 2022/23

5. Councillor Peter Wilson, Executive Member for Resources presented the report of the Director of Finance which outlined the financial position of the Council in respect of the capital programme at 31 March 2023, highlighted key issues and explained key variances, and provided an overview of various elements of the Council's Balance Sheet at 31 March 2023.
6. The capital budget for 2022/23 was set at £24.2m at Council in February 2022. This was increased following approval of the 2021/22 outturn to £32.2m, then further amended in subsequent quarterly Capital Monitoring Reports through to Quarter 3 at 31 December 2022 to £15.8m. Following the changes detailed in the report, the total programme for 22/23 stood at £13.5m. We noted that the total cost of the Council's capital investment programme for 2022/23 had decreased since the Quarter 3 report approved by Executive Cabinet, from £15.8m to £13.5m as at 31 March 2023.
7. We requested an update on progress at Brinscall Baths, including when it was likely to be fully open and the potential impact on the capital programme. We were advised that the required structural improvement works were not as significant as initially anticipated following a further assessment on the structure of the pool. It was therefore being proposed that some of the surplus budget be used to improve the user experience at the site. Following commissioning of the work and going out to tender it was hoped that the works will be completed later this year. We approved the recommendations within the report.

Quarter Four Performance Report 2022/23

8. Councillor Peter Wilson, Executive Member for Resources presented the report of the Director of Change and Delivery which set out the performance against the delivery of the Corporate Strategy during the fourth quarter of 2022/23, covering 1st January 2023 to 31 March 2023.
9. The overall performance of the Corporate Strategy projects was good with 11% (2) classified as complete and 84% (16) of projects rated 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 four (67%) performing on or above target, one (17%) was performing below target but within the 5% threshold, and one (17%) was performing below target and outside of threshold.
10. We discussed the five key projects in relation to the green and sustainable borough corporate priority and the progress in the council's commitment to Chorley becoming carbon neutral by 2030. We noted the report.

General Report of the Meeting Held on 13 July 2023**Key Partnerships Update**

11. Councillor Peter Wilson, Executive Member for Resources presented the report of the Director of Change and Delivery which provided an update on the performance of the council's key partnership arrangements.
12. The key partnerships performance report was produced in accordance with the requirements of the council's key contracts and partnership framework. We noted that overall, the performance of all key partnerships was strong, and the financial assessment of the partnerships were positive with the financial standing of all key partnerships monitored.
13. New contracts were included in the reporting for the Key Contracts and Partnerships framework for the first time in 2023/24. Objectives were set for 2023/25 and an update on progress would be brought against these in July 2024.
14. We requested an update on Brinscall Baths and a potential opening date and discussed the reporting of council-owned limited companies going forward. We noted the report.

Content Management System

15. Councillor Peter Wilson, Executive Member for Resources presented the report of the Director of Customer and Digital which sought agreement on the future for Chorley Council's Content Management System (CMS).
16. We noted that GOSS was the CMS system that was used to manage and modify content on several council owned websites. The current contract with GOSS was a shared contract with South Ribble Council, using separate instances to manage each councils' different websites.
17. Discussions with GOSS highlighted that the council should expect a significant cost increase upon contract renewal in July 2023. However, GOSS suggested that more attractive pricing would be available if the councils had a shared iCM administrator and production environment.

18. A one-year contract extension until July 2024 with GOSS had been agreed via Executive Member Decision whilst further negotiations take place. We welcomed this approach to achieve the best value and supported that the council would undertake a full market procurement exercise if favourable commercial terms could not be achieved. We approved the recommendations within the report.

Property and Assets Management System – Contract Award

19. Councillor Peter Wilson, Executive Member for Resources presented the confidential report of the Chief Executive and Director of Customer and Digital which updated Members on the requirement for a Property and Assets Management system, sought approval to award the contract, and advised Members on the additional resourcing required to support the adoption of the system. We approved the recommendations within the report.

Grant of a Lease – Units 1 and 2 Flat Iron Parade, Market Walk

20. Councillor Peter Wilson, Executive Member for Resources presented the confidential report of the Chief Executive which sought Members authorisation for the grant of a new lease of Units 1 and 2 Flat Iron Parade to a new Tenant, Domino's Pizza UK & Ireland Limited subject to terms provisionally agreed by the Council's Consultant Surveyor. We approved the recommendations within the report.

Recommendations

21. To note the report.

Councillor Alistair Bradley
Executive Leader

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