

## **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 16 June 2022**

#### **Equality Framework**

2. I presented the report of the Director of Change and Delivery which outlined the Equality Framework to Executive Cabinet for approval. The purpose of the framework is to set out the methods of embedding equality into the processes and practices of the Council. It firmly sets the foundations for the Council, as a community leader, in proactively spearheading equality, diversity, and inclusion. An equality framework is an essential means of meeting the Council's statutory duties as, under the Equality Act 2010.
3. The equality policy was last refreshed in 2016. The proposed Equality Framework reflects the council's most up to date approach towards equality and diversity as an organisation as well as best practice for local authorities.
4. We discussed the link with the procurement strategy and recognised that this did not directly impact the Framework. An impact assessment will be undertaken as part of the procurement exercise. The council also has a Social Value Policy in place. We approved the recommendations in the report.

#### **Revenue Budget Outturn 2021/22**

5. Peter Wilson, Executive Member (Resources) presented the report of the Director of Finance which set out the provisional outturn for revenue and reserves for the Council for the year ended 31st March 2022. The accounts are still subject to external audit and adjustments may be required which will be reported in future monitoring reports.
6. In summary, there was an underspend against the budget for 2021/22 of £0.224m. Subject to the recommended £150k transfer to ear-marked reserves, there will be an increase in General Reserves of £74k. 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. The level of general fund balances as at 31st March 2022, based on the above, will be £4.131m.
7. We noted the £42k overspend in relation to Gypsy and Romany Traveller Encampments (GRTs) and recognised the high associated finance and resource costs. It was suggested that the solution to this requires a multifaceted approach which would be discussed further. We also discussed recovery of the leisure centres following Covid. We approved the recommendations in the report.

#### **Capital and Balance Sheet Outturn 2021/22**

8. 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 March 2022, highlighting key issues and explaining key variances, and providing an overview of various elements of the Council's Balance Sheet at 31 March 2022.
9. The capital budget for 2021/22 was set at £38.1m at Council in February 2021. This was increased following approval of the 2020/21 outturn to £46.2m. The monitoring report as at 31st July 2021 increased the total budget to £46.6m. This was reduced to £42.6m in

the quarter two monitoring report and reduced further to £28.6m at quarter three. Members noted that the total cost of the Council's capital investment programme for 2021/22 has decreased since the quarter 3 monitoring report approved by Cabinet, from £28.6m to £23.9m as at 31st March 2022. We approved the recommendations in the report.

#### **Quarter Four Performance Monitoring Report 2021/22**

10. Councillor Peter Wilson, Executive Member (Resources) presented the report of the Director of Change and Delivery which set out the performance against the delivery of the Corporate Strategy and key performance indicators during the fourth quarter of 2021/22, covering 1 January 2022 to 31 March 2022.
11. The overall performance of key projects was good with 71% rated as green, 21% classified as not started, and one 7% rated as amber. Action plans for those projects rated amber were set out within the report. Performance of the Corporate Strategy indicators and key service delivery measures continues to be closely monitored, with 71% of Corporate Strategy measures and 67% of key service delivery measures performing on or above target or within the 5% threshold.
12. We noted the initial scoping sessions with partners to take forward the development of a data and intelligence solution and discussed how data can be used to ascertain how public services are delivered in different urban and rural areas/wards in order to understand where the council is delivering its service and investing money. We noted the report.

#### **Allocation of CIL – Wigan Lane Playing Field**

13. Councillor Alistair Morwood, Executive Member (Planning and Development) presented the report of the Director of Planning and Development which sought approval to amend the Infrastructure Funding Statement and approve the allocation of Community Infrastructure Levy monies (CIL) funds to Wigan Lane Playing Field.
14. A procurement exercise was undertaken between April 22 and May 22 to appoint a contractor to deliver the new pavilion and associated infrastructure at the Wigan Lane Playing Field Sports Facility. The estimated cost of the build was below £500k. Nine bids were received and the lowest was £150,000 over the allocated budget.
15. We noted that the budget in place was £628,000 however the required budget following the consultation was £798,000. This leaves a deficit of £170,000. Sport England have proposed to fund an extra £50K towards the project. The overall deficit was proposed to be covered by £120,000 CIL. We approved the recommendations in the report.

#### **Streetscene Strategy 2022-2025**

16. Councillor Adrian Lowe, Executive Member (Customer, Streetscene and Environment) presented the report of the Director of Customer and Digital which presented the new Streetscene Strategy for 2022-2025.
17. The strategy builds on the previous Streetscene Modernisation Strategy from 2017-2020, which focused on improving processes and dealing with specific operational challenges as outlined in the report. The previous strategy delivered several successful outcomes for the council and improved performance and productivity. Steady progress was made across the three-year period of the strategy which means that a review of service indicators in July 2021 increased the service targets from 80% to 85%.
18. The proposed strategy presents the core principles for the Streetscene Strategy alongside a draft action plan which set out the expected service delivery work over the

next three years. This was an evolving strategy and will be reviewed annually in line with the business planning process to ensure that service delivery remains in line with council priorities and aspirations. Ongoing dialogue with local parish councils will also contribute to the delivery of the strategy as it evolves.

19. We welcomed the survey and discussed the wildflower planting and biodiversity programme which has reduced the resources required for scheduled maintenance and grass cutting. It was agreed that Members would be provided with specific information on how much the resources required have been reduced and where the savings generated from this have fallen. We also discussed the consultation extension for Parish Councils and expressed concerns regarding an increase in the number of weeds. We approved the recommendations in the report.

### **Levelling Up Funding Bid**

20. I presented the report of the Chief Executive which sought approval on the submission of a levelling up funding bid and the proposed levelling up funding scheme. We approved the recommendations in the report.

### **Accommodation Project Update and Procurement Approval**

21. Peter Wilson, Executive Member (Resources) presented the report of the Deputy Chief Executive which provided an update on the accommodation review project as part of the Workplace Strategy 2021-2024 and sought approval of the procurement route for architectural and interior design services consultants, delegation of award decision for architects and other design consultants. We approved the recommendations in the report.

### **Lease Approval for Strawberry Meadows**

22. Peter Wilson, Executive Member (Resources) presented the report of the Director of Commercial Services which sought approval to delegate approval of Heads of Terms to the Executive Member (Resources) and Director (Commercial Services) which will allow the legal process to flow more quickly upon officers agreeing draft terms with tenants. We approved the recommendations in the report.

### **West Way Play Area Contract Award Procedure**

23. Councillor Alistair Morwood, Executive Member (Planning and Development) presented the report of the Director of Planning and Development which sought approval for the procurement approach and evaluation criteria for the appointment of a contractor to deliver a new play area at West Way Sports Hub. Such approval was required under the High Value Procurement Procedures for contracts over £100,000. Approval was also sought to delegate the contract award to Executive Member Decision. We approved the recommendations in the report.

### **Approval for the Contract Award Procedure and Evaluation Criteria to Procure Mechanical Sweepers**

24. Councillor Adrian Lowe, Executive Member (Customer, Streetscene and Environment) presented the report of the Director of Customer and Digital which sought approval for the procurement of four replacement mechanical sweepers and for the award of contract to be delegated to the Executive Member for Resources. We approved the recommendations in the report.

### **Recommendations**

25. To note the report.

Councillor Alistair Bradley  
Executive Leader

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