

Cabinet

Tuesday, 7 November 2023

Decisions

Set out below is a summary of the decisions taken at the meeting of the Cabinet held on Tuesday, 7 November 2023. Decisions made by the Cabinet will be subject to call-in. Recommendations made to the Council are not subject to call-in. The wording used does not necessarily reflect the actual wording that will appear in the minutes.

If you have any queries about any matters referred to in this decision sheet please contact Pippa Turvey.

1. Local Impact Report for the Cambridge Waste Water Treatment Plant Relocation Development Consent Order

Cabinet:

1. agreed the content of the Cambridge Waste Water Treatment Plant Relocation Project Local Impact Report in Appendix 1 to the report in respect of the Development Consent Order (DCO) application submitted by Anglian Water and delegated authority to the Director of Planning and Economic Development to submit the report to the Examining Authority for the relocation of the CWWTP on behalf of South Cambridgeshire District Council subject to any minor amendments to the Local Impact Report required in the interests of accuracy or clarity, and
2. delegated to the Director of Planning and Economic Development, the authority to take all associated action necessary in the interests of the efficient and timely conduct of the Council's compliance with the DCO procedures including but not limited to:
 1.
 - prepare the Council's responses to any written questions from Examining Authority during the DCO Examination and to submit those to the Examining Authority,
 - settle the content of and submit any Written Representations to the Examining Authority,
 - to negotiate, settle and complete any legal agreements relevant to secure the granting of a DCO pursuant to the application,
 - settling and the submission of the Statement of Common Ground to the Examining Authority,
 - the instruction of witnesses and legal advisors throughout the Examination process,
 - the discharge of DCO requirements made under any development consent order granted by Secretary of State.

Options Considered

The options available to Cabinet were: (a) to agree the findings of the LIR in Appendix 1 to the report, or (b) to not agree the findings of the review or seek changes.

Reasons for Decision

It was a requirement for local councils to submit a Local Impact Report within the specified time as part of the DCO Examination process. The report appendix had fully considered potential impacts of the development to the South Cambridgeshire District.

2. Damp, Mould and Condensation Policy

Cabinet:

1. approved the draft Damp, Mould, and Condensation Policy at Appendix A to the report, and
2. delegated authority to the Lead Member for Housing to approve minor amendments, such as correcting drafting errors, to improve clarity, and to reflect changes in legislation, guidance of good practice.

Options Considered

The Council must have a policy in place as to how it approached issues of damp, mould, and condensation to its council tenants. Without such a policy, the Council would be open to challenge and would be non-compliant with the guidance provided by the Housing Regulators. Therefore, no other option was provided, other than amendments to the draft policy presented.

Reasons for Decision

To provide direction on the prevention of damp, mould and condensation for council tenants. The policy demonstrated that the Council had a robust and transparent process in place that met legislative requirements and had taken into account tenants' views.

3. Council Tenants Disabled Adaptations Policy

Cabinet:

1. approved the draft Council Tenant Disabled Adaptations Policy at Appendix A to the report, and
2. delegated authority to the Lead Member for Housing to approve minor amendments, including the financial thresholds that differentiate types of adaptation.

Options Considered

The Council must have a policy in place as to how it would deliver disabled adaptations to its council tenants. Without such a policy, the Council would be

open to challenge and would be non-compliant with the recommendations of the Housing Ombudsman. Therefore, no other option was provided, other than amendments to the draft policy presented.

Reasons for Decision

To provide direction on the delivery of aids and adaptations to council tenants. The policy would demonstrate that the Council had a robust and transparent process in place that met legislative requirements and had taken into account tenants' views.

4. Cost of Living Support Update

Cabinet noted the report and appendices A to C to the report.

Options Considered

Cabinet was asked to note the report but had the option to provide additional feedback to officers to further shape the future of the project.

Reasons for Decision

To ensure the Council's management and Members understood the progress being made throughout the cost-of-living response programme and had an opportunity to provide feedback/suggestions for future work.

5. 2022/23 Provisional General Fund Revenue and Capital Outturn

Cabinet:

1. acknowledged the 2022/23 general fund revenue outturn position and the net underspend (after income from Taxation and Government Grants) in the year of £1.149 million as summarised in Appendix A to the report, and the explanations provided for the variances compared to the revised 2022/23 revenue budget,
2. acknowledged the consequent increase in the General Fund as at 31 March 2023 of £3.308m to around £18.4m,
3. approved the carry forwards of £0.316 million in relation to General Fund revenue projects which were not undertaken during the year as planned, and
4. in relation to the Capital Programme:
 - i. noted the 2022/23 capital outturn of £15.520 million,
 - ii. acknowledged the performance achieved in relation to the Capital Programme schemes substantially completed in 2022/2023, summarised in Appendix B to the report,

- iii. approved the carry forwards of £3.720 million in relation to General Fund capital projects due mainly to slippage, and
- iv. noted that a full review of the Capital Programme would be submitted to Cabinet at its December 2023 meeting to include re-phasing of the existing programme and new Capital bids for the next budget cycle.

Options Considered

Options involved not agreeing some or all the carry forward amounts or the additional funding for the lighting scheme. This was not recommended as delays would be introduced and unfinished works would occur.

Reasons for Decision

To advise the Cabinet of the 2022/23 revenue and capital outturn position, the impact that this would have on the General Fund and to consider the carry forward of slippage within the 2022/23 capital programme. Also, to note that a full review of the Capital Programme including new bids would be carried out and presented to Cabinet on 5 December 2023.

6. 2022/2023 Provisional Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Outturn

Cabinet:

1. acknowledged the 2022/23 revenue outturn position and the net underspend in the year of £0.343 million, and the explanations provided for the variances compared to the revised 2022/23 revenue budget,
2. acknowledged the overall decrease in the Housing Revenue Account balance as at 31 March 2023 to £3.749 million, and
3. in relation to the Capital Programme:
 - i. noted the 2022/23 capital outturn of £21.405 million,
 - ii. acknowledged the performance achieved in relation to the Capital Programme schemes substantially completed in 2022/2023, summarised in Appendix A to the report, and
 - iii. approved the carry forward amounts of £3.034 million to 2023/24 in relation to HRA housebuilding during 2022/23, due to slippage.

Options Considered

Other options involved not agreeing some or all of the carry forward amounts but this could lead to delays and unfinished works.

Reasons for Decision

To advise the Cabinet of the 2022/23 revenue and capital outturn, the impact that this would have on the Housing Revenue Account and to consider the necessary amendments to the Capital Programme. To note that a further review of the Capital Programme would be presented to Cabinet at its meeting on 5 December 2023.

7. General Fund Medium Term Financial Strategy

Cabinet:

1. acknowledged the projected changes in service spending and the overall resources available to the Council over the medium term to 2028/2029, and
2. recommended to Full Council the refreshed Medium Term Financial Strategy at Appendix A to the report and updated financial forecast at Appendix B to the report.

Options Considered

The option existed of not approving the new MTFS.

Reasons for Decision

To ensure that the Cabinet was aware of the financial challenges over the medium term, the key service and financial drivers of the financial forecast and the strategic response required to meet the financial challenge to ensure that the Council would be in a position over the medium term to deliver sustainable and affordable public services.

To provide Cabinet with an update of the financial position and forecasts for the General Fund over the medium term following a review of financial assumptions.

To enable the Cabinet to recommend the MTFS to Council for approval in order to assist in the Council's financial planning.

8. Motion Referred from Council

Cabinet noted the motion referred from Council.

Options Considered

The Cabinet considered alternative options as set out in the motion as referred from Council.

Reasons for Decision

It was considered that the Employment and Staffing Committee was the appropriate route for monitoring for the 4-day week trial and was due to receive

the latest update report on 9 November 2023.

9. Acquisition of 47 Affordable Homes, Sawston

Cabinet:

1. Approved as specified in paragraphs 5-6 of the exempt report.

Options Considered

As specified in the exempt report.

Reasons for Decision

As specified in paragraphs 22-24 of the exempt report.

10. Acquisition and Delivery of Rural Exception Site, Cottenham

Cabinet:

1. Approved as specified in paragraphs 4-5 of the exempt report.

Options Considered

As specified in paragraphs 22-23 of the exempt report.

Reasons for Decision

As specified in paragraphs 19-21 of the exempt report.