

CABINET

WEDNESDAY, 4 DECEMBER 2019

DECISIONS

Set out below is a summary of the decisions taken at the meeting of the Cabinet held on Wednesday, 4 December 2019. 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 Ian Senior.

1. **SERVICE TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME: SAVINGS PROPOSALS**
Cabinet considered the proposed objectives and intentions in relation to the review of Council services as part of a coordinated Council-wide transformation programme, and
 - (a) Noted the considerable challenges facing the Council given the financial outlook, including Government announcements in respect of local government funding, and the expectation that future cost pressures will exceed the resources available;
 - (b) Noted the revenue budget guiding principles, outlined at paragraph 21 of the Chief Executive's report, providing the context for the planning of the 2020 / 2021 revenue budget and the formulation of proposals to achieve service efficiency savings;
 - (c) Noted the growth bids, detailed at Appendix A to the Chief Executive's report, for inclusion in the Budget Setting Report in February 2020;
 - (d) Noted the proposed range of service efficiency savings / policy options detailed in Appendix B of the report and that these would undergo further refinement and consultation with employees and other stakeholders prior to forming part of the Budget Setting Report in February 2020; and
 - (e) Noted that some of the savings proposals would require a detailed equality analysis.

Options Considered: The option of not undertaking a structured review of services and the allocation of scarce resources is not considered to be appropriate. The key message in the Budget Setting Report, considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 6 February 2019, was that a programme of transformation and service review would be developed to ensure that the Council is "fit for the 21st century". The Council, in considering the budget and medium-term forecasts has already tasked the Executive Management Team to identify additional cumulative savings or additional income of £3 million for the 5 years from 2019-2024.

Reason For Decision: To create a key building block of the budget for 2020/2021 and the ongoing Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS).

To ensure that an appropriate framework exists to formulate and consider areas for potential efficiency savings and service delivery variations.

To consider the actions proposed by Officers to reduce the impact that service efficiencies would have on frontline services.

2. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY

Not for call-in

Cabinet

- (a) Acknowledged the projected changes in service spending and the overall resources available to the Council over the medium term; and
- (b) Recommended to Full Council the Medium Term Financial Strategy attached as Appendix A and the updated financial forecast attached as Appendix B to the report from the Interim Director of Finance.

Options Considered: None specified

Reason For Decision: To ensure that the Cabinet is aware of the financial challenges over the medium-term and the strategy that is required to ensure that the Council will be in a position to deliver sustainable public services in the future.

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 MTF5 to Council for approval in order to assist in the Council's financial planning.

3. 2019-20 QUARTER 2 PERFORMANCE REPORT

Cabinet received and noted the Operational Key Performance Indicator (OKPI) results as detailed in the report from the Director of Corporate Services.

Options Considered: Identify any action, including redeployment of resources, required to address issues highlighted within this report and its appendices.

Request clarification from performance indicator owners on any aspects relating to performance indicators, results and comments contained within this report and its appendices.

Commission more detailed performance reports from performance indicator owners that drill-down into specific areas relating to the one or more of the performance indicators, results and comments contained within this report and its appendices.

Reason For Decision:

4. STREET LIGHTING POLICY AND LED UPGRADE PROGRAM

Cabinet approved the South Cambridgeshire District Council Streetlighting Policy document to be included on the Council's website and inform the communications plan.

Options Considered: In contrast to current sodium lamps LEDs can be programmed to varying lighting levels to suit requirements. Nationally night-time street lighting approaches vary, with some authorities opting to switch off lights, usually between 12 midnight and 6am, some applying various dimming regimes, and some choosing to maintain lights at 100% output throughout the night.

Cambridgeshire County Council operate most streetlights (around 52,000 across the

County) with South Cambridgeshire District Council's relatively small stock of streetlights (around 1800 units) distributed amongst these lights. County Council lights are set to dim down to 60% of light output between the hours of 10pm to 6am in residential areas. The lights have been dimmed to these levels since the PFI replacement program concluded in 2016, following periods of testing and consultation.

Any regime adopted by SCDC as part of the upgrade to LEDs that was visibly different to the current regime operated by the County Council would create inconsistencies in lighting within the district. Part-night lighting (switching lights off for a period), for example, would result in the same street within a parish having some lights on and some off during the night.

Alternative regimes within an acceptable range of the Cambridgeshire County Council lighting regime were modelled by way of comparison, in view of SCDC's environmental aims, and revealed that whilst further energy savings could be made from the inclusion of the County Council's dimming (an additional 6%) when compared with not dimming, minimal further savings (an additional 2%) could be achieved by decreasing dimming further to within an acceptable lighting level.

Reason For Decision: The policy will enable the commissioning of LED upgrade works in accordance with SCDC's requirements and the completion of works by March 2021. It also supports the ongoing delivery of the streetlighting service and sets out what residents and stakeholders should expect of the service.

5. SHARED PAYROLL SERVICE Cabinet

1. noted that the Payroll Shared Service Agreement had been extended and would be reviewed in line with other Greater Cambridge shared services arrangements; and
2. asked officers to explore the feasibility of appointing a payroll apprentice to support the team and invest in the future of the service.

Options Considered:

Reason For Decision: None specified

6. APPLICATIONS FOR COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION UNDER SECTION 13A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE ACT 1992 - DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY FOR DECISION MAKING Cabinet agreed to delegate Council Tax reduction decision-making to the Lead Cabinet Member for Finance, as outlined in Option 1 pending a review of the policy.

Options Considered:

OPTION 1 – delegate authority to the Lead Cabinet Member for Finance. This option would allow a decision to be reached and communicated to the applicant(s) as soon as practicable.

OPTION 2 – Continue to determine such applications at a meeting of the Cabinet.

Reason For Decision: Residents seeking support under this mechanism require a prompt decision on their applications, as there is a direct financial implication.

There is an intention to review and update the policy with a more suitable decision-

making timeline, but until that is completed it would be in the interests of residents to delegate authority to the Lead Cabinet Member in order that applications may be determined expediently.

7. **POTENTIAL PROPERTY ACQUISITION DECISION**

Cabinet approved:

- (a)** The investment outlined in the confidential report from the Interim Director of Finance as a multi-let office investment in accordance with the approved Investment Strategy; and
- (b)** The delegation of the final terms of the acquisition of the property to the Lead Member for Finance and Interim Director of Finance.

Options Considered: As set out in paragraphs 15 and 16 of the report.

Reason For Decision: As outlined in paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 of the report.

8. **COMMUNAL ROOM REVIEW PROJECT - DECISION REQUIRED REGARDING THE FUTURE USE OF THE LIMES/LIMES CLOSE SHELTERED COMMUNAL ROOM IN BASSINGBOURN**

Not for call in - After detailed debate, Cabinet deferred making a decision.

Options Considered: As outlined in the confidential report from the Leasehold Services Team Leader.

Reason For Decision: To allow more time to investigate the matters raised by Cabinet members.