

CABINET

6.00 P.M.

5TH SEPTEMBER 2017

PRESENT:- Councillors Eileen Blamire (Chairman), Janice Hanson (Vice-Chairman), Darren Clifford, Brendan Hughes, James Leyshon, Margaret Pattison, Andrew Warriner and Anne Whitehead

Officers in attendance:-

Susan Parsonage	Chief Executive
Nadine Muschamp	Chief Officer (Resources) and Section 151 Officer
Mark Davies	Chief Officer (Environment)
Kieran Keane	Assistant Chief Executive
Liz Bateson	Principal Democratic Support Officer

24 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 8th August 2017 were approved as a correct record.

25 ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS AUTHORISED BY THE LEADER

The Chairman advised that there were no items of urgent business.

26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made at this point.

27 PUBLIC SPEAKING

Members were advised that there had been no requests to speak at the meeting in accordance with Cabinet's agreed procedure.

28 DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF POLICY UPDATE - REVALUATION SUPPORT

(Cabinet Member with Special Responsibility Councillor Whitehead)

Cabinet received a report from the Chief Officer (Resources) which sought approval of a draft Discretionary Relief Scheme designed in line with DCLG guidance, and financed by Government grant, to provide financial support to those local businesses hardest hit by the recent business rate revaluation in April 2017.

The options, options analysis, including risk assessment and officer preferred option, were set out in the report as follows:

Option 1 – Agree to the proposal as recommended

This policy sets out a formal approach to distributing this new discretionary rate relief, providing guidance for officers and a consistent platform in dealing with applications. The approach adopted seeks to maximise use of the grant in an open and equitable way, drawing on Government guidance, and therefore risks associated with any challenge are considered small and manageable.

Option 2 – Suggest amendments to the proposed policy

Any such amendments would need to have regard to statutory requirements, and therefore should this option be chosen, officers are likely to need extra time to reconsider the implications prior to the re-consideration of an amended policy. There is some reputational risk associated with further delay.

Whatever the scheme design there will be some risk that the scheme will over- or underspend, but targeted assistance and the proposed allocation arrangements are designed to ensure that as far as possible, the cost of relief granted remains within budget.

The officer preferred option is that Option 1 be approved. The new policy enables a formal approach to decision making, with criteria in line with the priorities of the Council, benefiting smaller local businesses which have been hardest hit by the revaluation.

Councillor Whitehead proposed, seconded by Councillor Clifford:-

“That the recommendation, as set out in the report, be approved.”

Councillors then voted:-

Resolved unanimously:

- (1) That the Discretionary Rate Relief Scheme for Revaluation Support as set out at Appendix A to the report, be approved, effective from April 2017.

Officers responsible for effecting the decision:

Chief Officer (Resources)

Reasons for making the decision:

The proposals are considered to be fair and reasonable as a way to distribute available funds, drawing on Government guidance and the decision is consistent with the Council's priorities of Community Leadership and Sustainable Economic Growth.

29 2017 - 2018 PERFORMANCE MONITORING QUARTER 1**(Cabinet Member with Special Responsibility Councillor Blamire)**

Cabinet received a report from the Chief Officer (Environment) to inform Cabinet of the work carried out to establish a portfolio of key performance indicators that were focused on core service delivery and the achievement of corporate outcomes and priorities. The report also set out the new approach for reporting corporate performance and provided a review of performance against corporate plan priorities and outcomes in the first quarter of 2017 – 2018.

As the report was primarily for noting, no options were provided. This was work in progress and Cabinet commented on areas where clarification could be provided in future reporting, notably regarding units of measurement and timescale, and using other comparable local authorities for benchmarking where appropriate.

Councillor Blamire proposed, seconded by Councillor Pattison:-

“That the recommendations, as set out in the report, be approved.”

Councillors then voted:-

Resolved unanimously:

- (1) That Cabinet notes the work that has been done to establish a portfolio of management performance indicators and the revised reporting format for monitoring performance as recommended by the Budget and Performance Panel at its meeting of 11 July 2017.
- (2) That the performance of key indicators at the end of Quarter 1 2017 – 2018 (30 June 2017) be noted.

Officer responsible for effecting the decision:

Chief Officer (Environment)

Reasons for making the decision:

The City Council's Performance Management Framework requires the regular reporting of operational, as well as financial performance. Monitoring key indicators throughout the year will provide a meaningful overview of performance and provide Members with an opportunity to probe areas of interest and challenge areas where performance looks to be better or worse than expected in a proactive way that is more likely to draw meaningful conclusions and enhances the potential for improvement.

30 QUARTER 1 CORPORATE FINANCIAL MONITORING

(Cabinet Member with Special Responsibility Councillor Whitehead)

Cabinet received a report from the Chief Officer (Resources) which provided an overview of the Council's financial position for Quarter 1 of the 2017/18 monitoring cycle, and the supporting actions underway.

As the report was primarily for noting, no options were provided.

Resolved unanimously:

- (1) That the report be noted.

Chairman

(The meeting ended at 6.35 p.m.)

**Any queries regarding these Minutes, please contact
Liz Bateson, Democratic Services - telephone (01524) 582047 or email
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MINUTES PUBLISHED ON FRIDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER, 2017.

**EFFECTIVE DATE FOR IMPLEMENTING THE DECISIONS CONTAINED IN THESE MINUTES:
MONDAY 18th SEPTEMBER, 2017.**