

CABINET

MEETING HELD AT THE COMMITTEE ROOM, TOWN HALL, BOOTLE ON THURSDAY 4TH OCTOBER, 2018

PRESENT: Councillor Hardy (in the Chair)
Councillors Cummins, John Joseph Kelly, Lappin, Moncur and Veidman

46. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

In the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair Councillor Hardy was appointed Chair for this meeting of the Cabinet.

47. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from the Chair, Councillor Maher and Councillors Atkinson and Fairclough.

48. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of any disclosable pecuniary interests or personal interests were received.

49. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Decision Made:

That the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on 6 September 2018 be confirmed as a correct record.

50. INFORMATION, ADVICE AND GUIDANCE SERVICE FOR NOT IN EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT OR TRAINING (NEET) YOUNG PEOPLE

Further to Minute No. 80 of the meeting held on 2 November 2017 the Cabinet considered the report of the Head of Commissioning Support and Business Intelligence that sought authorisation to procure a new Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) service for a period of up to four years to deliver the Council's statutory duties in relation to Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) young people, with an additional range of preventative actions for those at risk of becoming NEET.

Decision Made:

That:-

- (1) a procurement exercise be authorised, subject to a satisfactory and compliant tender process, to vary an earlier decision to enter into a contract for two years and to enter into a longer contract of up to

four years' duration from April 2019 in relation to a new Information, Advice and Guidance service to deliver the Council's statutory duties in relation to Not in Education, Employment or Training young people: and

- (2) authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member - Regeneration and Skills, in conjunction with the Head of Corporate Resources and the Head of Commissioning Support and Business Intelligence, to finalise the structure of the contract to be procured before publication on the Chest and to award the Contract following completion of a satisfactory and compliant tender process.

Reasons for the Decisions:

The Council made an application to the Government's Life Chances Fund earlier this year which has unfortunately not been supported. The intention had been to incorporate top-up funding from this source together with other funding from social investors to create a new IAG service offer with a Social Impact Bond at its core. The decision on Life Chances Fund was taken at HM Government Cabinet level via Department for Culture Media and Sport and was made public in September 2018. Advice has been sought from social investment specialists and this has indicated that a longer contract duration, given the absence of Life Chances Fund finance, would make Sefton's scheme more viable for other social investors.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

1. Procure a contract until March 2020 in line with the decision taken by Cabinet in November 2017

There has been significant delay in the time taken to assess the Life Chances Fund which has impacted upon the Cabinet's previous decision, reducing the amount of time available for the introduction of a new service. Advice has indicated that, in the absence of government funding through Life Chances Fund, a longer contract period would increase the commercial attractiveness of our procurement opportunity and provide greater scope for suppliers to deliver innovative approaches.

2. Procure a jointly commissioned service alongside the Liverpool City Region Local Authority partners.

This option has been considered as at least four of the Merseyside LAs have been working together on IAG commissioning for some years and their approach has led to changes in the pattern of service delivery across the sub-region. In particular, NEET data tracking/reporting and engagement /support activities have been undertaken elsewhere by in-house LA staff while careers guidance has been sourced externally. In Sefton, however we have not operated these services in-house. This option has been rejected as it would require a TUPE transfer of staff from

the existing supplier into the Council, which is not deemed appropriate from a financial perspective.

51. REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET PLAN 2018/19

The Cabinet considered the report of the Head of Corporate Resources:-

- (1) seeking a review and consideration of the current forecast revenue outturn position for the Council for 2018/19 and the potential impact on the 2019/20 budget (including the achievement of approved Public Sector Reform savings);
- (2) advising of the current forecast on Council Tax and Business Rates collection for 2018/19; and
- (3) advising of the current position of the 2018/19 Capital Programme.

The Head of Corporate Resources referred to the current outturn forecast and the additional pressure that would be placed upon the 2019/20 budget (in addition to the current best estimate of £15m in respect of 2020/21; the close monitoring of services under significant budget pressure, in particular Children's and Adults Services; and that the outturn forecast could change by the end of the financial year.

Decision Made:

That:-

- (1) the forecast deficit revenue outturn position for 2018/19 and the potential impact on the budget for 2019/20, (including the achievement of approved Public Sector Reform savings) be noted;
- (2) the significant budget pressure and the urgency for service areas to bring forward new budget saving proposals for Member consideration in time to deliver a balanced budget position in 2018/19 and 2019/20 be noted;
- (3) the forecast position on the collection of Council Tax and Business Rates for 2018/19 be noted; and
- (4) the current progress in the delivery of the 2018/19 Capital Programme be noted.

Reasons for the Decisions:

To ensure Cabinet are informed of the forecast outturn position for the 2018/19 revenue and capital budgets as at the end of August 2018 and to provide an updated forecast of the outturn position with regard to the collection of Council Tax and Business Rates.

In March 2017 Council approved a three-year budget plan to March 2020. The final two years of this plan were revised in March 2018 as part of the

process of setting the 2018/19 budget. As the Council is nearly half way through the second year of this budget plan it remains confident, that its continued strategic approach to budget planning alongside good financial management and extensive community engagement, means that the plan continues to develop on solid foundations, remains flexible and will secure the future sustainability to 2020 and beyond. However, in year demand for social care services is currently resulting in the costs for these services exceeding the budget. Corrective action will be required to bring the overall budget into balance before the end of the financial year.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

Not applicable