

CABINET

**REMOTE MEETING HELD
ON THURSDAY 3RD DECEMBER, 2020**

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

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Sir Ron Watson viewed the meeting
remotely

65. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

66. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

67. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Decision Made:

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 5 November 2020 be approved as
a correct record.

**68. OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM CATHOLIC PRIMARY - DISPOSAL OF
LAND TO HIGHWAYS ENGLAND (OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION)**

The Cabinet considered the report of the Executive Director of Children's
Social Care and Health in relation to a request received from Highways
England to purchase a small area of land which forms part of the playing
fields at Our Lady of Walsingham Catholic Primary School. The purchase
of the land would enable the pedestrian bridge over the A5036 towards the
junction of Dunnings Bridge Road and Park Lane/Park Lane West,
Netherton to be replaced and relocated.

The report set out the consultation process undertaken and stated that no
objections had been received.

Decision Made: That:

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) officers be authorised to proceed with the application to the
Secretary of State under Section 77 of the Schools Standards and
Framework Act 1998, in order that the necessary approvals

required to dispose of the playing field land are obtained, be approved; and

- (3) officers be authorised to proceed with the disposal of the land following successful Section 77 approval, be approved.

Reasons for the Decisions:

The recommendations are made in accordance with the Authority's constitution.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

No other options have been considered. Highways England wish to proceed with relocating the pedestrian bridge as soon as possible. There is a possibility that they could apply for a compulsory purchase order to facilitate this.

69. DRAFT EXECUTIVE/SCRUTINY PROTOCOL

Further to Minute No. 27 (3) of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 30 July 2020 the Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer in relation to the feedback received from the four Overview and Scrutiny Committees and the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board on the Executive/Scrutiny Protocol as attached as an Appendix to the report.

The Cabinet Member for Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services requested that the Overview and Management Board be thanked for its work on the development of the Executive/Scrutiny Protocol and also highlighted the importance of a similar approach in engaging with and holding Partners to account.

Decision Made:

That the Executive/Scrutiny Protocol be approved.

Reason for the Decision:

To comply with a previous decision of the Cabinet (Minute No. 27 (3) of the meeting held on 30 July 2020) seeking the production of an Executive/Scrutiny Protocol in Sefton.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

No alternative options have been considered because a decision is required by the Cabinet.

70. PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS – 2021/22 MUNICIPAL YEAR

The Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer that sought approval of a Programme of Meetings for the 2021/22 Municipal Year.

The Chief Legal and Democratic Officer highlighted that the report was scheduled to be considered by the Council at its Meeting on 21 January 2021 and referred to paragraph 3 to the report in relation to the Planning Committee and more specifically the start time of Planning Committee.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Maher requested that recommendation (3) to Council be amended as follows:

- (3) that in consultation with the Chair of the Planning Committee consideration be given to the starting time of meetings of the Planning Committee if remote meetings continue to be held in 2021/22.

Decision Made:

- (1) that the Programme of Meetings for the Cabinet, Public Engagement and Consultation Panel, Sefton Safer Communities Partnership and the Health and Wellbeing Board for 2021/22 as set out in Annexes A and D of the report be approved; and
- (2) that the Cabinet commends the report and the following recommendations to Council for approval:
 - (a) that the programme of Meetings for the Council, Member Briefing Sessions; Regulatory Committees; and Overview and Scrutiny Committees for 2021/22 as set out in Annexes B and C of the report be approved;
 - (b) that the programme of Meetings for the Cabinet, Public Engagement and Consultation Panel, Sefton Safer Communities Partnership and the Health and Wellbeing Board for 2021/22 as set out in Annexes A and D of the report be noted; and
 - (c) that in consultation with the Chair of the Planning Committee consideration be given to the starting time of the meetings of the Planning Committee if remote meetings continue to be held in 2021/22.

Reasons for the Decision:

To enable the business of the Council and its various Committees/bodies to be conducted during the 2021/22 Municipal Year.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

None. The Council is required to produce a programme of meetings.

71. ANNUAL HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

The Cabinet considered the report of the Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services in relation to the progress of implementation of the Councils Health and Safety policy during the 2019/20 financial year.

Decision Made:

That the progress on implementing the Council's Corporate Health and Safety Policy for the 2019/20 financial year, be noted.

Reasons for the Decision:

The annual report provides assurance to the Cabinet, which has strategic responsibility for employee health and safety, that there is continued progress to implement and enhance an effective health and safety system across the Council.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

None

72. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT 2020/21 TO 2023/24 AND FRAMEWORK FOR CHANGE 2020 - REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET UPDATE 2020/21 INCLUDING THE FINANCIAL IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON THE 2020/21 BUDGET - DECEMBER UPDATE

The Cabinet considered the report of the Executive Director for Corporate Resources and Customer Services that advised of:

- (1) the current estimated financial impact of COVID-19 on the 2020/21 Budget;
- (2) the current forecast revenue outturn position for the Council for 2020/21;
- (3) the current forecast on Council Tax and Business Rates collection for 2020/21; and
- (4) the monitoring position of the Council's capital programme to the end of October 2020 relating to:
 - the forecast expenditure to year end;
 - variations against the approved budgets and an explanation of those variations for consideration by Members;

- updates to spending profiles and proposed amendments to capital budgets necessary to ensure the efficient delivery of capital projects are also presented for approval.

The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services referred to the recent Government Spending Review Announcement and reported that Officers were working through the detail and as such would report back accordingly.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Maher thanked all Finance Officers for their continued support and hard work.

Decision Made:

That:

(A) in respect of the Revenue Budget:

- (1) the current estimated impact of COVID-19 on the 2020/21 Budget together with the key issues that will influence the final position, be noted;
- (2) the financial risks associated with the delivery of the 2020/21 revenue budget and the material variations that are to be expected to the current estimates contained in the report be recognised, and it be agreed that subsequent reports provide updates and where appropriate remedial action plans as appropriate;
- (3) the Government grant funding that has been received to support individuals and businesses with the response to the pandemic, and which has been distributed in accordance with central government guidance, be noted;
- (4) the current forecast revenue outturn position for 2020/21 be noted;
- (5) it be acknowledged that the forecast outturn position will continue to be reviewed to ensure a balanced forecast outturn position and financial sustainability can be achieved; and

(B) in respect of the Capital Programme:

- (1) the spending profiles across financial years for the approved Capital Programme (paragraph 7.1.1 of the report) be noted;

- (2) the latest capital expenditure position as at 31 October 2020 of £10.600m (paragraph 7.2.1 of the report) with the latest full year forecast of £33.233m (paragraph 7.3.1 of the report) be noted;
- (3) the explanations of variances to project budgets (paragraph 7.2.3 of the report) be noted;
- (4) the Council be recommended to approve the supplementary capital estimate of £0.352m for Ainsdale Coastal Gateway (paragraph 7.4 of the report);
- (5) the capital virement of £0.149m to the Bootle Strategic Acquisitions project from Council Wide Essential Maintenance (paragraph 7.5 of the report), be approved; and
- (6) the Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services will manage capital resources to ensure the capital programme remains fully funded and that capital funding arrangements secure the maximum financial benefit to the Council (paragraph 7.6.3 of the report), be noted.

Reasons for Decision:

To ensure Cabinet are informed of the forecast outturn position for the 2020/21 Revenue Budget as at the end of October 2020, including delivery of a remedial action plan, and to provide an updated forecast of the outturn position regarding the collection of Council Tax and Business Rates.

To keep Members informed of the progress of the Capital Programme against the profiled budget for 2019/20 and agreed allocations for future years.

To progress any changes that are required in order to maintain a relevant and accurate budget profile necessary for effective monitoring of the Capital Programme.

To approve any updates to funding resources so that they can be applied to capital schemes in the delivery of the Council's overall capital strategy.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

None.

