

POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES - 12 APRIL 2021

Present: Councillor Brock (Chair);
Councillors Page (Vice-Chair), Barnett-Ward, Ennis, Duveen, Emberson, Hoskin, Pearce, Robinson, Rowland, Skeats, Stanford-Beale, Stevens, Terry and White

Apologies: Councillor Jones

108. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair asked all taking part in the meeting to join in a minute's silence in memory of His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

109. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 8 March 2021 were agreed as a correct record and would be signed by the Chair.

110. QUESTIONS

Questions on the following matters were submitted by members of the public:

| | <u>Questioner</u> | <u>Subject</u> | <u>Reply</u> |
|----|-------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. | James Denny | Neurodivergent Conditions | Cllr Hoskin |
| 2. | Alison May | Moratorium on Incinerators | Cllr Barnett-Ward |

(The full text of the questions and responses was made available on the Reading Borough Council website).

111. DECISION BOOKS

The Assistant Director of Legal & Democratic Services submitted a report listing the Decision Books that had been published since the report to the meeting of the Committee held on 8 March 2021.

Resolved -

That Decision Book Nos 624-627 be noted.

112. HOUSEHOLD WASTE - UPDATE ON THE INTRODUCTION OF KERBSIDE FOOD WASTE COLLECTION AND 140L RESIDUAL WASTE BINS

The Executive Director for Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report providing an update on the roll out of the kerbside food waste collection service and the change to 140 litre residual waste bins. Attached to the report at Appendix 1

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was a summary of the Communications Campaign and at Appendix 2 a table of Monitoring data for Early Adopter areas.

The report explained that an early adopter initiative had encompassed over 3,000 households for 17 weeks and provided useful operational and communications insights which had helped inform the main roll out of the project in February 2021. Appendix 2 summarised the results of the early adopters and included the specific changes and learning outcomes which were applied to the main roll out.

For the main rollout 56,000 food waste bins, caddies, liners and leaflets had been delivered in January 2021 and the five new food waste collection rounds had begun on 1 February 2021 as planned. The swap out of the 240l residual waste bins for the new 140l bins had begun as scheduled on 1 February 2021 and completed within the planned 10-week timetable. The Service had received 963 requests for additional waste capacity between 1 and 26 February 2021, of which 582 had been approved, and had agreed to issue 641 additional recycling bins in accordance with the Waste Collection Service Standard policy. In general, the swap out and replacement of residual bins had gone according to plan however, there had been some minor issues with bins being removed ahead of time before the replacement had been delivered as well as with 240l bins being removed when they should have been left, for example for clinical waste reasons. The waste operations team was monitoring and resolving issues quickly as they arose and the Recycling and Enforcement team had supported the roll-out dealing with requests for additional waste capacity, additional recycling bins and ensuring residents had food waste bins, caddies and liners.

The final phase of the project was to roll out the introduction of a food waste collection service to the remaining 14,000 households living in high and low-rise flats in the borough. This was programmed to start in July 2021 and to be completed by the end of March 2022. Individual internal caddies and caddy liners would still be provided to each household, however, rather than an external caddy per household, the required number of 240 litre communal food waste bins would be provided in the bin storage areas. Each of the block of flats would have the capacity needed for communal residual and recycling waste bins reassessed during this roll out.

The report also set out information on the revised project timetable, governance arrangements and communications campaign and reported that the provisional recycling rate following the first month of the new waste collection service was 45.78%, compared to a third quarter 2020/21 recycling rate of 33%.

Resolved -

- (1) That the progress to date of the project be noted;**
- (2) That the proposed Phase 2 roll out timetable be agreed;**
- (3) That a further update, including the results of the Phase 2 roll out be brought to a future meeting of the Committee.**

113. SCHOOL ESTATE FABRIC CONDITION PROGRAMME

The Executive Director for Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report seeking approval for the release of £6m of designated capital programme funding to carry out a three-year programme of works following surveys carried out across the Council's community schools and nurseries to ascertain the current fabric condition of the buildings. The report also sought authority for the Executive Director for Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services to enter into the contracts required to deliver the works.

The report noted that in 2020 Hampshire County Council's building surveyors had carried out a borough wide survey of the Council's school estate to establish the condition of the fabric of the buildings. The survey had identified 1300 items of work totalling approximately £15m across all community schools and nurseries. The requested funding of £6m aimed to cover the items identified as requiring urgent action or action within the next three years.

The report explained that the programme would benefit from the recently successful bid to the Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund which had been reported to Policy Committee on 18 January 2021 (Minute 85 refers). The offer of an additional Decarbonisation Grant of £1.293m, to be spent on school window replacements by the end of September 2021, would enable a marked acceleration of the windows replacement programme.

Resolved -

- (1) That the release of designated capital programme funding of £6m to deliver a three-year programme of works across Reading Council's Community schools and nurseries, up to 31 March 2024 be approved;**
- (2) That the Executive Director for Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services be authorised to enter into the contracts required to deliver the works.**

114. DIGITAL FUTURES FOUNDATIONS (ICT FUTURE OPERATING MODEL) UPDATE

Further to Minute 73 of the meeting held on 14 December 2020, the Executive Director of Resources submitted a report summarising the progress of 'Digital Futures Foundations' the project to implement a new ICT Future Operating Model (FOM) following the end of the contract with Northgate Public Services on 31 March 2021.

The report noted that the five elements of the FOM were a hosting provider, a Unified Communications provider, a Network Management provider, an End User Workspace provider and an enhanced internal ICT organisation. It summarised progress with the transition to new arrangements for each of these workstreams and explained that since the report to Policy Committee on 14 December 2020 the final procurement, of a Network Management provider, had been completed and a contract awarded to North (formerly Pinacl Solutions). The other elements were now provided by Agilisys (hosting and end user workspace) and Virgin Media Business (Unified Communications).

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The report explained that significant social value commitments had been made by the suppliers as part of the procurement, and that officers were currently working with the suppliers and developing governance arrangements to ensure that maximum value was realised from these. Proposals would be reported to the September 2021 Policy Committee as part of a post project completion report.

The report set out information on how the current estimated costs of ICT services in the Final Business Case varied from the Outline Business Case and sought approval from the Committee to carry forward a capital underspend from 2020/21 to 2021/22. The shift of spend reflected the fact that some work that was to have been delivered by Northgate had been moved to Agilisys to avoid conflict with transition, and that the Managed Network procurement had identified the need to upgrade some infrastructure elements after the transition. The cost of these latter changes had been offset by savings in transition costs elsewhere.

Resolved -

- (1) That the progress made by the project to date be noted;**
- (2) That a post project completion report on the outcome of the transition and benefits realisation arising from the implementation of the new operating model, including suppliers' social value commitments, be submitted to Policy Committee in September 2021;**
- (3) That the carry forward of the capital underspend into 2021/22 be approved, noting that this funding would be needed to complete planned work that was intentionally deferred to avoid conflict with the transition to the new model and to upgrade infrastructure in areas where the transition project had identified issues, as set out in the report.**

(The meeting started at 6.30 pm and closed at 7.24 pm)