

POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES - 8 JULY 2024

Present: Councillor Terry (Chair);
Councillors Leng (Vice-Chair), Barnett-Ward, Ennis, Gittings,
Griffith, McEwan, Rowland, R Singh, Thompson, Williams and Yeo

**Remote attendance:
(non-voting)** Councillor Emberson

13. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meetings held on 28 May 2024 and 10 June 2024 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

14. ALLOCATION OF THE COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY 15% LOCAL CONTRIBUTION

The Committee received a report on the proposed allocation of the 15% of local Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) collected up to 31st May 2024. The report also provided updates on progress with projects already allocated 15% local CIL funding. The following documents were attached to the report:

- Appendix 1: Equalities Impact Assessment
- Appendix 2: Summary of assessment for each nominated project
- Appendix 3: Project assessment forms for each nominated project
- Appendix 4: Progress on projects previously associated 15% of local CIL funding

The report noted that the allocation of 15% local CIL totalling £4.519m had already been made towards 61 projects, progress of these projects were set out full in Appendix 4. The Council had continued to collect 15% local CIL Funds as a result of development taking place in Reading. Up to 31 May 2024, a total of £6.036m had been collected. After taking account of the allocations already made there was a total of £1.517m available for allocation as at 31 May 2024. A consultation was carried out on the priorities for use of these funds between February and April 2021, and results were reported in full to Policy Committee on 14 June 2021 (Minute 7 refers). In total, there were 171 responses, and the priorities were as follows:

1. Play areas and public open spaces
2. Climate change and renewable energy
3. Natural environment
4. Highways, transport and travel
5. General environmental enhancements
6. Community centres and hubs
7. Healthcare provision
8. Education provision
9. Heritage and cultural provision

POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES - 8 JULY 2024

The report explained that in advance of the allocation of funds for 2024-25, officers wrote to all Councillors on 3 October 2023 requesting nominations, with a deadline of 7 November 2023, for infrastructure projects relevant to their ward, and asking that Councillors make a single submission per ward if possible. Officers from the relevant sections reviewed the projects and provided further information, including costing and delivery details wherever possible. It was proposed that projects to receive 15% local CIL funds be selected from a list of nominated projects. There were 62 projects nominated which were set out in summary in Appendix 2 and in further detail in Appendix 3 to the report.

The report also explained that due to the amount of projects that had been nominated that allocation of all 15% local CIL funds collected up to the end of May 2024 be allocated, as opposed to the funds collected up to the end of the previous financial year as would normally be the case under the CIL Spend Protocol. This allowed for a larger range of projects to be allocated funds, and also reflected the fact that some of the projects were likely to take longer to deliver than a single financial year, so it would make sense to allocate the funds at this point. The proposed allocation of 15% of CIL funds collected up to 31 May 2024 of £1.498m for 31 projects, further details were provided in Appendix 3 to the report.

The report explained that proposed allocations would direct almost half of the funds towards the wards where by far the largest amount of development was taking place (Abbey and Thames, which together saw 56% of the recent or permitted new homes), whilst still ensuring that those parts of the Borough that also continued to see development taking place (the west, south, east and north) also received funds. The recommended projects would also be provided across a range of different priorities to ensure that there were no delivery issues caused by capacity within specific service areas. A mix of larger projects would be delivered with longer delivery timelines and with smaller projects that could often be delivered relatively quickly.

It was noted that the projects marked with asterisks in Table 1 of the report were grouped together as they all related to wider strategic objectives, these were *improvement of the relationship with Reading's waterways, **town centre strategy implementation or ***promotion of active travel.

Information on the steps necessary for delivery of individual projects was set out in Appendix 3. In some cases, there was some additional project scoping work required, or there may be a need to go through additional steps such as consultation or a planning application, but in other cases delivery could start almost immediately and the report sought authority for the relevant Assistant Directors to complete necessary procurement processes to deliver the programme of work.

It was also noted that £0.025m had been allocated for the installation of additional river safety equipment along Thames Promenade and potentially more exit points.

Resolved –

- (1) That the following allocations of 15% local CIL collected up until 31 May 2024 be agreed, with a total allocation of £1.498m:**

POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES - 8 JULY 2024

£0.015m to landscape the verge along the route in front of the Irish Club along Chatham Street

£0.020m to re-landscape the front garden of Somerstown Court

£0.050m for town centre tree planting

£0.020m for permanent planters on Oxford Road IDR over pass

£0.020m for Pocket Park biodiversity enhancement at Castle Hill roundabout (NW corner)

£0.020m for repair and cleaning and providing water to George Street allotments

£0.020m for planting green spaces in Battle ward

£0.075m for more greenery on the Oxford Road

£0.085m for zebra crossing on Portman Road opposite Milk & More

£0.008m for replacement of carpet on Kensington Park wicket

£0.040m for 20mph zone for the Amersham Road estate area

£0.050m for tree planting in Amersham Road and Westfield Recreation Ground

£0.040m for traffic and crossing measures in Caversham Heights

£0.100m for maintenance/refurbishment of Albert Road Park tennis courts

£0.050m for provision of graffiti resistant information boards within the Cowsey

£0.015m for replacement of outdated/broken community noticeboards in Katesgrove

£0.025m for removal of the priority flow feature at the junction of Allcroft Road and Redlands Road

£0.012m to amend the width restriction build-outs on Redlands Road to include cycle-through bypasses

£0.061m to add a non-turf cricket pitch and a two net training facility at Cintra Park

£0.001m for refurbishment of bench at the junction of Southcote Rd and Tilehurst Rd

£0.026m for Bath Road/Granville Road underpass enhancement

£0.020m to enhance the green in the Horncastle Conservation Area

£0.100m for improving the appearance of the public areas of the Orts Road Estate

£0.020m to create a biodiversity friendly setting along the Gunther's Brook

£0.030m for water safety enhancements including at the Kennet river

£0.050m for installation of information board(s) and signage and improving pathway at Coley Water Meadows

£0.100m to clean and enhance the underpass from Katesgrove Lane to the County Lock and general enhancement of the area

£0.100m for infill footpath in Southcote Linear Park along the Holy Brook close to the allotments

£0.200m to repaint and resurface the footbridge over the Kennet between Kennet Walk and Avon Place

POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES - 8 JULY 2024

£0.025m for installation of additional river safety equipment along Thames Promenade and potentially more exit points
£0.100m for improvement of active travel connections to The River Academy

- (2) That the relevant Assistant Director be authorised to complete necessary procurement processes to deliver the programme of work;**
- (3) That the relevant officers be authorised to give spend approval in accordance with the funds approved at (1) above, and that the relevant officers in consultation with the Lead Councillors for Planning and Assets and Corporate Services and Resources and the Director of Finance be authorised to approve any variation to the allocations above;**
- (4) That progress on the projects already allocated 15% local CIL funds (Appendix 4 to the report) be noted.**

15. JANUARY 2024 FLOOD EVENT

The Committee received a report setting out the response and actions taken by the Council following a flood event in January 2024. The report explained that the Council was the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) as set out in the Flood & Water Management Act 2010 (FWMA) and had a duty to investigate and report all flood event findings using a Section 19 report.

The report explained that the Reading area had been impacted by flooding in January 2024 arising from the River Thames, River Kennet and Holy Brook, and associated ditches and tributaries of these watercourses. The main contributing factor to the flood event had been the above average rainfall levels in the three months prior to January 2024 (up to 150% above the long-term average), in combination with a period of intense rainfall in early January 2024 caused by Storm Henk. During 1 to 4 January 2024 65% of the total recorded rainfall for January 2024 fell in this period.

The high rainfall levels on a saturated catchment led to river levels at the River Thames at Reading gauge to rise to their highest recorded level since the major flood event of 1947. During the period commencing 6 January 2024 for six days the main river and ordinary watercourses capacity had been exceeded from Natural Flood, saturated ground conditions and extreme prolonged rainfall. This resulted in low-lying land and property being flooded within the RBC administrative boundary with 21 residential properties, three commercial properties, including one static caravan being flooded internally, due to rising water levels in the River Thames, River Kennet and tributaries. The Council commissioned Stantec to investigate and produce the Flood Option Report, which was attached at Appendix 1 (Reading Flood Investigation – January 2024).

The report provided information on the actions taken by the Council at the time of the flood event, these included:

POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES - 8 JULY 2024

- Activation of the 'Tactical Co-ordinating Group' (TCG) on 4th January 2024 and a decision to declare a 'Major Incident'.
- Regular updated flood information provided by the Environment Agency
- Public Health, Social Services and Education Departments activated their vulnerable person action plans to be on standby for evacuation if required.
- Council staff deployed to Circuit Lane / Sylvan Walk in Southcote and to Queens Road in Caversham to deliver sandbags and visited reported flooding sites along the Thames River including Scours Lane.
- Setting up of a 'Storm Henk Recovery Group' on the 11th January 2024 to establish the extent of flooding, facilitate recovery and engagement with other agencies, support residents affected by the flood event, review operational procedures and the Council's response, provide information to the 'Local Resilience Forum' and key stakeholders, and to also carry out a 'Lessons Learned' investigation.
- Meetings with affected residents of Queens Road and Mill Green, Caversham, and Circuit Lane / Sylvan Walk Southcote, took place on 2nd February 2024 and attended by residents, representatives of Reading Borough Council, Stantec and the Environment Agency. Residents were invited to share their local knowledge and experience with the Council to inform the Flooding Investigation Report process and their anonymised responses are included in Flood Report (Appendix 1).
- Commissioned ditch clearance works to the Christchurch Ditch (Gos Brook/ Dannalls ditch) and on the ditch immediately South of Circuit Lane, as well as repairs to the Kennet bank that was damaged / eroded by floodwater. The Council also installed a temporary clay bund under Briscoe's Bridge to hold back flood water from Circuit Lane area in the period after the flooding event.
- Engagement with Heron Island Residents Group, Network Rail, the Canal & River Trust and the Environment Agency to share information and to address watercourse ditch maintenance.

The report also set out the recommended actions following the Flood Event for areas including Lower Caversham, Southcote/Kennet Meadows area, Scours Lane and administrative actions to be undertaken by the Council and the Environment Agency.

The report also set out next steps for further actions and 'Lessons Learned' to deal with a re-occurrence of the flooding event, particularly with Climate Change having an increasing impact over time.

It was noted that an update report on actions taken would be brought back to Policy Committee or the Housing, Neighbourhoods and Leisure Committee in the future.

At the invitation of the Chair, Mr Wigley addressed the Committee on this item.

Resolved –

- (1) That the outcome of the 'Section 19 Flood Report' following the Flood event in January 2024 be noted;**
- (2) That the 'January 2024 Flood Event Options Report' and Lessons Learned findings be noted;**

POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES - 8 JULY 2024

- (3) **That the recommended actions set out in the 'January 2024 Flood Event Options Report' be endorsed and that officers proceed to deliver these recommended flood reduction measures.**

16. **FOOD SERVICE PLAN 2024-25**

The Committee considered a report setting out for approval the updated Food Service Plan. Attached to the report at Appendix 1 was the Food Service Plan 2024-2025 and at Appendix 2 a Climate and Impact Assessment.

The report noted that the Food Service Plan was a statutory requirement for all Local Authorities who undertook official food controls and was detailed within the Food Law Code of Practice set by the Food Standards Agency (FSA). The Food Service Plan outlined the Local Authorities commitment to development of the food service.

The FSA set a standard template for the Food Service Plan which had to be drawn up in accordance with the FSA Framework Agreement on Official Feed and Food Controls by Local Authorities. The Plan included qualitative and quantitative performance reviews of delivery against previous plans and outlined how national priorities and standards would be addressed and delivered locally.

The Food Service Plan served to assist Local Authorities in aligning with the principles of good regulation, focussed on key delivery issues, provided an essential link with corporate and financial planning, set objectives, managed performance and provided information on service delivery to key stakeholders.

The report noted that there remained a backlog of inspections, particularly Food Hygiene inspections, following Covid-19 and in part due to a number of vacant posts within the team. The Team had appointed three officers to fill the existing vacancies, two of whom would require further development to be able to undertake official food controls. At present there was a deficit of resources in order to meet the requirements of the Food Law Code of Practice, clear the backlog of inspections and maintain the required number of inspections and complete other work identified within the Food Service Plan, including statutory requirements that fell to the Food & Safety Team. There was also additional work that fell within the remit of the Food Service which was a priority but outside the scope of the Food Service Plan.

Following recruitment and meeting with the FSA to agree an improvement plan it was predicted that all areas of the improvement plan could be successfully implemented. It was anticipated that the authority would be able to meeting the full requirements of official controls detailed within the Food Law Code of Practice by the end of 2024-25.

Resolved –

That the statutory Food Service Plan for 2024-2025 be approved.

17. SUPPLEMENTARY SUBSTANCE MISUSE TREATMENT AND RECOVERY GRANT

The Committee received a report to setting out for approval the Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant (SSMTRG) of £770,942 for 2024/25.

The report explained that a new Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant (SSMTRG) had been issued to Local Authorities in 2022/23. The monies were to rebuild treatment and recovery systems, rebuild the workforce, ensure better integration of services, improve accommodation alongside treatment, improve employment opportunities, increase referrals and pathways for those in the criminal justice system and those leaving prison.

Reading had received SSMTRG grant over the past two years of £413,221 for 2022/23 and £469,761 for 2023/24. The grant had supported some key enhancements and improvements in drug and alcohol service provision such as an increased workforce and training offer, additional commissioning support, additional treatment places and rehab placements, and an increase in availability and access to naloxone.

The funding aimed to achieve the following outcomes:

- reduced likelihood of drug and alcohol related deaths
- increase in number of people into drug and alcohol treatment
- a reduction in drug and alcohol related reoffending amongst prolific offenders within local areas
- increase in the numbers of drug and alcohol users, especially offenders, engaging in treatment as well as increases in those achieving and sustaining recovery.
- reduced costs for local health services and police forces due to lower health and crime harms, and lower costs to the criminal justice system (as fewer people are dealt with by the courts).

The report noted that due to the value of the SSMTRG in 2024/25, the timing of the announcement of the funding and the deadline for acceptance, the Director of Public Health authorised the 2024/25 plans and accepted the grant to avoid losing the opportunity. It was noted that the grant had been accepted for the past two years and had been under £500k, therefore, within Officer delegation.

Resolved –

- (1) That the SSMTRG Grant of £770,942 in 2024/25, to enhance the delivery of the drug and alcohol treatment and recovery system in Reading be accepted;**
- (2) That the Executive Director of Community & Adult Social Care Services in consultation with Lead Councillor for Education & Public Health, and the Director of Finance and the Assistant Director of Legal & Democratic Services be authorised to spend the funding and award contracts**

POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES - 8 JULY 2024

necessary following due regard to Contract Procurement Regulations to implement the services.

18. HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUND UPDATE 2024

The Committee received an update on the delivery and take-up of the Household Support Fund scheme between April 2023 and March 2024, and the Household Support Fund scheme currently being delivered between April and September 2024.

The report explained that the grant was funded by the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) to help families and vulnerable individuals who struggled to pay for basic living costs, such as energy and water, food and wider essentials. The funding received to deliver support between April 2023 and March 2024 was the fourth round of Household Support Fund money provided to local authorities and was commonly referred to as HSF4. Each round of funding had only been confirmed at the end of the previous round years, creating significant uncertainty, and preventing long term planning. For HSF4, the Council received £2,261,298 of funding to cover support to residents between April 2023 and March 2024. Unlike the previous three HSF rounds, which were for periods of six months, the utilisation of this funding needed to be managed successfully to provide support to residents throughout the year.

The report explained that the utilisation of the HSF grant over the year had been focused on two main elements. First as an application-based scheme that was agile and flexible enough to meet the specific needs of local people who were in desperate need of cost-of-living support. The second was automatic support through an allocation scheme to low-income households with children in receipt of Pupil Premium/Free School Meals and older people in receipt of Housing Benefit who do not receive the direct government support provided to recipients of other DWP benefits. In addition, some funding was also made available via Public Health to local community-based organisation providing direct cost-of-living support to residents.

The report noted that on 6 March 2024 as part of the Spring Budget it was announced that the Household Support Fund was to be extended for a further six months to October 2024. Guidance for the current round of the Household Support Fund beginning on 1 April 2024 was issued on 26 March 2024 and confirmed that the Council would receive £1,130,648.94 to deliver support between 1 April and 30 September 2024. The guidance from DWP stated that this Household Support Fund allocation was considered an extension to the previous four Household Support Fund schemes. Therefore, the same principles as laid down for the delivery of HSF 4 had been followed for HSF 5. Any underspends from the previous scheme cannot be carried forward.

The report explained that the HSF 5 allocation must be spent between April and September 2024. However, the guidance was only released in late March and within the pre-election period for the local elections. In order to avoid delay and risk not utilising the allocated funds in full within the required timescales, an Officer Decision Notice for the delivery HSF5 was taken on 19th April 2024. Specifically, this included the following Cost of Living support:

POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES - 8 JULY 2024

- Vouchers for Pupil Premium Free School Meal households
- Vouchers for Care Leavers
- Funding to local VCS organisations directed by Public Health
- An application element focused on local priority residents

As with the previous Household Support Fund scheme, up to 10% of the funding would be available for contingency and administration costs.

Resolved –

- (1) That the utilisation of the Household Support Fund grant from DWP during 2023/24 be noted;**
- (2) That the arrangements for the utilisation of the Household Support Fund grant from DWP between April and September 2024 be endorsed;**
- (3) That the Assistant Director for Policy and Performance, in consultation with the Lead Councillor for Corporate Services and Resources and the Director of Finance, be delegated to make arrangements for any further funding rounds of the Household Support Fund.**

19.

TEMPORARY AGENCY STAFF - CONTRACT PROCUREMENT

The Committee received a report seeking authority to procure and award a contract for the supply of temporary agency staff for a period of three years, with an option to extend for a further one year in accordance with the Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisation Framework Agreement, Managed Services for Temporary Agency Resources (MSTAR).

The report explained that the current contract for the supply of temporary agency workers expired in February 2025. The Council's need for agency staff to provide skilled resource on a time limited basis or cover key posts was expected to continue. Therefore, it was proposed that a procurement process was started to award a contract under the leading Framework available to Local Government, Mstar4.

The report noted that the Council currently operated under a framework call off contract with Reed, which ran until February 2025. It was proposed that the new contract would be for three years with an option to extend by one year and the total value of the new contract over four years was approximately £56m based on current usage.

The report stated that the proposed procurement approach was to use the Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisation (ESPO) to access Managed Services for Temporary Agency Resources (MSTAR) 4, as this framework was the leading temporary staff framework for Local Authorities. This would involve running a 'mini-competition' to ensure best available rates were achieved with the solution tailored to the Council's requirements. It was expected that the re-tender of this contract would achieve additional savings of around £100k per year. A £50k saving had been included in the Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2025/26 onwards and the figure would be updated once the contract had been let.

POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES - 8 JULY 2024

Resolved –

That the Executive Director of Resources, in consultation with the Lead Councillor for Corporate Services and Resources, be authorised to award a contract to provide temporary agency staff for an initial term of three years with an option to extend for a further one year under the Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisation Framework Agreement, Managed Services for Temporary Agency Resources (MSTAR).

20. 2023/24 QUARTER 4 PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Committee considered a report setting out the provisional revenue and capital outturn positions for the Council's General Fund and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) for 2023/24 and the performance against the measures of success set out in the Council's Corporate Plan. The following documents were attached to the report:

- Appendix 1 - General Fund - Revenue Outturn 2023/24
- Appendix 2 - Brighter Futures for Children (BFfC) Outturn 2023/24
- Appendix 3 - Savings 2023/24
- Appendix 4 - Delivery Fund 2023/24
- Appendix 5 - General Fund - Capital Programme Outturn 2023/24
- Appendix 6 - Housing Revenue Account - Revenue Outturn 2023/24
- Appendix 7 - Housing Revenue Account - Capital Programme Outturn 2023/24
- Appendix 8 - Reserves Position as at 31st March 2024
- Appendix 9 - Corporate Plan Performance KPIs 2023/24
- Appendix 10 - Corporate Plan Projects 2023/24

The report noted that budget for 2023/24 had been prepared during another challenging period due to inflation running at levels not seen in decades, wide-scale industrial action taking place in support of pay claims, a one-year Local Government funding settlement from Central Government with the long-planned changes to the Local Government Finance system, including the Business Rates rest, having been deferred beyond the period of the current Parliament. The Budget had included £5.295m of savings to be delivered in 2023/24 to deliver a balanced budget position, with a planned net contribution of £6.128m to reserves. The actual outturn position was an adverse net variance of £6.099m, which was an adverse movement of £0.982m from the projected outturn position as at the end of Quarter 3. The outturn position was inclusive of £13.042m of additional net transfers from reserves approved under delegated authority by the Director of Finance. In addition to the wider, macroeconomic issues Local Government was facing an escalation of costs that far exceeded increases in funding. At the Council, the most significant pressures had been in Childrens Social Care and Homelessness.

The report explained that Brighter Futures for Children had seen a 14% increase in the number of Children Looked After (CLA) from March 2023 to December 2023 which was accompanied by a significant increase in placements costs. The overall impact was an adverse variance against budget of £8.506m. Also, the increase in the number of families presented as homeless was even more stark, with the figure of 117 in November 2023 being 334% of the equivalent figure of 35 in March 2023. Combined with a 35% increase in

POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES - 8 JULY 2024

unit costs over the same period had resulted in an adverse variance against budget of £1.459m.

The overall adverse net variance of £6.099m was recommended to be funded from the Finance Resilience Reserve, in line with the assumptions included when the 2024/25 Budget was approved in February 2024. This would leave a balance of £8.236m in the Financial Resilience Reserve as of 31 March 2024.

The provisional General Fund Capital Programme outturn was a £5.178m positive net variance against the proposed revised budget of £50.799m. A net total of £5.122m of budgets was requested to be reprogrammed from 2023/24 into future years of the Capital Programme as set out in Appendix 5 attached to the report.

The approved Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget had assumed a net drawdown from HRA reserves of £2.499m. The provisional outturn position for the HRA required an actual net drawdown from HRA Reserves of £4.294m. This was comprised of a drawdown from the Main HRA Reserve of £6.401m for HRA day to day operational costs, a drawdown of £0.392m from the North Whitley PFI Reserve and a contribution to the Major Repairs Reserve balance of £3.037m relating to the excess Depreciation charge over budget in 2023/24. The HRA was therefore reporting an adverse net variance compared to budget of £1.257m. In addition to the HRA day to day operational costs drawdown, there was a further total drawdown of £1.546m from the HRA Main Reserve relating to one-off costs, for instance directly funding the Housing Management System scheme within the Capital Programme which was originally planned to be funded from external borrowing. This switch in funding enabled the HRA to avoid incurring additional borrowing costs in future.

Also, the provisional HRA Capital Programme outturn was a £2.065m positive net variance against the approved budget of £33.564m. A net total of £2.065m of budgets were requested to be reprogrammed from 2023/24 into future years of the Capital Programme as set out in Appendix 7 to the report.

The report also set out performance against the measures of success published in the Council's Corporate Plan. Of the 57 Corporate Plan Performance KPIs for 2023/24, at the end of the financial year 40% were rated "green", 23% "amber", and 37% "red". Of the 47 Corporate Plan Projects, 68% were "green" and 32% "amber". The full list of Performance KPIs were set out in Appendix 9 and Projects as Appendix 10 to the report.

Resolved –

(1) That it be noted that:

- a) the provisional General Fund revenue outturn position for 2023/24 was an adverse net variance of £6.099m which is an adverse net movement of £0.982m from Quarter 3 as set out in Appendix 1;
- b) the provisional General Fund revenue outturn position includes the outturn position reported by Brighter Futures for Children (BFfC) as summarised within Section 3 of the associated report, as set out in Appendix 2;

POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES - 8 JULY 2024

- c) **£4.202m (52%) of savings had been delivered in 2023/24 with £2.768m (34%) of non-delivered savings being carried forward into future years. £1.148m (14%) of savings were removed as part of the 2024/25 Budget and 2024/25-2026/27 Medium Term Financial Strategy setting process as set out in Appendix 3;**
 - d) **£3.233m of Capital Receipts had been used to fund transformation (the Delivery Fund) in accordance with the Capitalisation Directive as set out in Appendix 4;**
 - e) **the provisional General Fund Capital Programme outturn was a positive net variance of £5.178m against the proposed revised budget of £50.799m, as set out in Appendix 5, before the net reprogramming of £5.122m of budgets to future years;**
 - f) **the provisional Housing Revenue Account (HRA) outturn position was an adverse net variance of £1.257m, which resulted in a net drawdown from HRA Reserves of £3.756, as set out in Appendix 6;**
 - g) **the provisional HRA Capital Programme outturn position was a positive net variance of £2.065m against the approved budget of £33.564m set out in Appendix 7, before the net reprogramming of £2.065m of budgets to future years ;**
 - h) **the Reserves position as at 31st March 2024 as set out in Section 12 of this report and as set out in Appendix 8;**
 - i) **the performance achieved against the Corporate Plan success measures as set out in Section 14 of the report and as set out in Appendices 9 and 10.**
- (2) **That the General Fund Revenue outturn balance of £6.099m was funded from the Financial Resilience Reserve as set out in Appendix 8 be approved;**
- (3) **That the Council provides £9.139m of additional funding support to Brighter Futures for Children (BFfC) over and above the 2023/24 contract sum in respect of their 2023/24 outturn position be approved;**
- (4) **The amendments to the General Fund Capital Programme (as set out in Section 9 of the associate report and Appendix 5) resulting in a revised Capital Programme budget of £50.799m for 2023/24 (before the net reprogramming of £5.122m of budgets to future years, £109.005m for 2024/25, and £51.121m for 2025/26 be approved;**
- (5) **That scheme and spend approval of £0.495m for the new Libraries Improvement Fund General Fund capital scheme, which was fully grant funded, to begin in 2024/25 be approved;**
- (6) **That scheme and spend approval of £0.382m for the new ASC Digital Transformation General Fund capital scheme, which was funded through budget virements from existing capital schemes be approved;**

POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES - 8 JULY 2024

- (7) That the amendments to the HRA Capital Programme (as set out in further detail in Section 11 of the report and Appendix 7) resulting in a revised HRA Capital Programme net budget of £33.564m for 2023/24 (before the net reprogramming of £2.065m of budgets to future years), £50.050m for 2024/25 and £54.370m for 2025/26 be approved.**

(The meeting started at 6.30 pm and closed at 8.20 pm)