

POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES - 11 MARCH 2019

Present: Councillor Lovelock (Chair);

Councillors Page (Vice-Chair), Brock, Ennis, Hacker, James, Jones, O'Connell, Pearce, Skeats, Stevens, Terry, Vickers, Warman and White

Apologies: Councillors Hoskin

RESOLVED ITEMS

72. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18 February 2019 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

73. PETITIONS AND QUESTIONS

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

| | <u>Questioner</u> | <u>Subject</u> | <u>Reply</u> |
|-----|--------------------|---|--------------|
| 1. | Colin Lee | Business Model for Leisure Services | Cllr Hoskin |
| 2. | Colin Lee | Leisure Services - third-party management | Cllr Hoskin |
| 3. | Colin Lee | Rivermead Contract | Cllr Hoskin |
| 4. | Ayo Solanke | Education Funding | Cllr Pearce |
| 5. | WITHDRAWN | | |
| 6. | Richard Stainthorp | Support for Community Groups | Cllr James |
| 7. | Richard Stainthorp | Recruitment and Retention of Teachers | Cllr Pearce |
| 8. | Richard Stainthorp | Nature Reserves | Cllr Hacker |
| 9. | Ayo Solanke | CQC Inspection | Cllr Jones |
| 10. | WITHDRAWN | | |

Questions on the following matters were submitted by Councillors:

| | <u>Questioner</u> | <u>Subject</u> | <u>Reply</u> |
|----|-------------------|--|--------------|
| 1. | Cllr White | Climate Emergency Action | Cllr Page |
| 2. | Cllr White | Exempting Young People Leaving Care From Council Tax | Cllr Terry |

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

74. RECOMMISSIONING OF INTEGRATED SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES

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The Director of Adult Care and Health Services submitted a report on the procurement of Sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services. The following documents were attached to the report:

- Appendix A - Reading Summary of Berkshire Sexual Health Needs Assessment 2017
- Appendix B - extract from Reading Public Health Outcomes Framework
- Appendix C - Equality Impact Assessment

The report noted that SRH services were a mandated provision for Local Authorities under the Health and Social Care Act 2012. The existing integrated SRH provision was jointly commissioned with West Berkshire and Wokingham Councils and delivered by Royal Berkshire Hospital Trust, who provided Sexually Transmitted Infection testing and treatment, contraception (aged 25 and under), contraception (referrals from GPs for over 25 for complex cases), open access sexual health services, and nurse-led outreach services for vulnerable groups. The existing contract was due to end on 31 March 2020 and it had been agreed in principle with the other Berkshire West Local Authorities that the current arrangements with a single provider supporting delivery across the area provided an efficient and effective service which met the SRH needs. The report therefore sought approval for the Council to participate in a joint competitive tender with Wokingham and West Berkshire over 2019/20.

The report explained that Bracknell Forest Council's Shared Public Health Team would lead the recommissioning of the Integrated SRH Tender. Joint commissioning would support the delivery of robust local SRH services and improve the ability to negotiate with providers to seek best value. The contract would be written to be flexible to allow for possible integration of other SRH services as they were reviewed, and possible changes in legislation or funding. Further negotiation was required to agree the final contract period.

Resolved -

- (1) That the intention to undertake procurement for Reading's SRH services, with new provisions being awarded and commencing from 1 April 2020 be approved;
- (2) That the proposal to jointly procure services in principle with the two other Berkshire West Local Authorities be approved;
- (3) That the Director of Adult Care and Health Services, in consultation with the Lead Councillor for Health, Wellbeing and Sport, and the Chief Executive, Head of Finance and Head of Legal & Democratic Services, be authorised to agree the final contract value and contract period, and to award the sexual and reproductive service contract, following the completion of the procurement process;
- (4) That the indicative tender timeframe set out in the report be noted.

75. QUARTER 3 PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT

The Director of Resources submitted a report setting out the projected revenue and capital outturn positions for 2018/19 as at the end of December 2018 (Quarter 3), and also the performance for the first three quarters against the measures of success published in the Council's Corporate Plan. The following documents were attached to the report:

- Appendix 1 - Financial Monitoring for Quarter 3, and
- Appendix 2 - Performance Monitoring for Quarter 3

The report stated that the forecast outturn showed a projected overspend on the General Fund as at the end of period 9 (December) of £1.511m, which was an increase of £0.036m since that reported at the end of Period 8. The Children's Services, Education and Early Help forecast overspend had risen in month from £1.427m to £1.443m, and the majority of the projected variance related to the Children's Social Care Team - £1.160m for LAC placements and £0.330m relating to agency staffing costs. The Housing Revenue Account was forecasting a £2.069m underspend at the end of December 2018 due to rent collection rates being higher than budgeted, expenditure on reactive and planned maintenance being underspent, and staff vacancies in the Sheltered Housing Team. The General Fund Capital Programme was forecast to underspend in 2018/19 by £6.3m, which was predominantly the result of slippage on two larger schemes (ICT Technical Infrastructure and phase three of the Accommodation Review) from 2018/19 into future years.

The report explained that the 'Purchase of Commercial Property' capital scheme currently had an approved budget of £50m for 2018-19. It now looked increasingly likely that the completion of any purchases would be deferred into the 2019-20 financial year, and approval was therefore sought to re-profile the capital budget according.

The report also included a summary of performance, as at the end of the third quarter, against the success measures published in the Corporate Plan to monitor progress against the Council's six priorities. Measures where there had been key shifts in performance and/or significant variation from the target were highlighted. Since the Quarter 2 report 14 measures had improved, five measures were static and three measures showed a dip in performance from the second quarter, although two of these (delayed transfers of care and customer satisfaction) were still expected to achieve the targets set.

Resolved -

- (1) That the following be noted:
 - (a) That the forecast General Fund outturn position as at the end of December 2018 was an overspend of £1.511m excluding the use of contingency;

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- (b) That the forecast outturn position on the Housing Revenue Account as at the end of December 2018 was a projected underspend of £2.069m;
 - (c) That the forecast outturn position on the Capital Programme as at the end of December 2018, was a projected underspend of £6.330m for the General Fund and £5.708m for the Housing Revenue Account;
 - (d) The performance achieved against the Corporate Plan success measures as set out in the report and Appendix 2 attached to the report;
- (2) That the re-profiling of the 2018 capital budget, for the 'Purchase of Commercial Property' within the General Fund Capital Programme 2019, be approved.

(The meeting started at 6.30 pm and closed at 7.26 pm)