



Classification	Item No.
Open / Closed	

Meeting:	Council
Meeting date:	17 March 2021
Title of report:	Leaders' Report
Report by:	Leader of the Council
Decision Type:	Non-Key Decision
Ward(s) to which report relates	All wards

Recommendation(s)

That the report be noted.

Key considerations:

Cabinet decisions from the December, January and February meetings

General Report Of The Meeting Held On 16 December 2020

1. Council Tax Base 2021/22

Councillor O'Brien, the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance and Growth, explained that Bury Council, as a Council Tax billing authority, is required each year to make statutory calculations to calculate the Council tax base for the forthcoming year and this informs the funding on which the Council's budget is based. The calculation is specified in Section 33 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended). The Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012 require authorities to calculate the Council Tax base (number of taxable properties), expressed as "Band D

equivalent properties". Approval of these calculations is required by 31st January in each financial year. The report sets out the basis of Bury council's calculation.

The Cabinet:

- Noted the statutory requirement for setting the Council Tax Base and the basis on which calculations must be made and:
- Approved the Council Tax base expressed as "Band D equivalent properties", as 53,828 for 2021/22 (55,222 20/21) as detailed at Appendix 1.
- Approved the proposed precepts payment schedule as set out in the report.

2. **Short Breaks**

Councillor Tamoor Tariq Deputy Leader of the Council Cabinet Member for Children Services, Young People and Skills presented a report setting out the proposals to re-design the Short Breaks Services for Children and Young People with Disabilities and their families.

The Cabinet approved the proposal as set out in the report to tender for short break services

3. **Parks, Countryside And Greenspaces Capital Programme For 2020/2021**

Councillor Quinn, Cabinet Member Environment and Climate Change presented a report outlining the investment from the Corporate Capital Programme and the Manifesto Programme for 2020/2021 approved by Council in February 2020 for the associated planned works including the refurbishment of play areas, parks and other open spaces. The report sought agreement that the works can progress and the funding for the 2020/2021 financial year can be released.

The Cabinet:

- Approved to support the Parks, Countryside Greenspaces Corporate Capital Programme and the Manifesto Programme for 2020/2021.
- Approved the Authority to spend the £1.1m included in the approved 20/21 capital programme in accordance with the detail outlined in both this report and within Appendix 1.
- Delegated authority to the Executive Director of Operations in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment to approve the detailed list of smaller localised schemes as part of the Manifesto funding outlined in the report.

4. **Executive Director Place**

Councillor O'Brien, the Leader of the Council reported that the Human Resources and Appeals Panel had considered the establishment the post of Executive Director – Place on 10 December 2020. Based upon their approval and recommendation to create this post, Cabinet is asked to formally establish this post.

The Cabinet agreed that the post of Executive Director – Place is established.

5. Strategic Finance Leadership

Councillor O'Brien, the Leader of the Council reported that the Human Resources and Appeals Panel had considered the establishment the post of joint Executive Director Finance on 10 December 2020.

The Cabinet agreed that the post of joint Executive Director Finance is established.

6. Brownfield Fund Grant Agreements/Exemption From Contract Procedure Rules For Enabling Works

Councillor Eamonn O'Brien Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance and Growth presented a report informing Cabinet of the Council's successful Brownfield Land fund bid, to give consent to enter into the grant agreements, to allocate a budget for Brownfield Land within the capital programme and agree procurement of enabling works contractors to ensure the brownfield land fund grant funding is spent in accordance with the funding agreement.

The Cabinet:

- Noted the award of Brownfield fund grant to deliver a package of enabling works on two nominated sites and authorise the Director of Regeneration and Capital Growth, in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer to enter into a Brownfield Funding Agreement (BLF) with GMCA;
- Noted that bids for further sites are being submitted for a second round of funding and agree that, should bids be successful, Tranche 2 grant agreements can be entered into with GMCA; 3. Underwrite the grant to ensure that a start on site with enabling works before March 2021 and housing start outputs are achieved within the programme period (by 31st March 2025).
- Authorised the inclusion of the Brownfield Fund Grant in the Capital Programme for 20/21;
- Delegated authority to the Director of Regeneration and Capital Growth to take all necessary steps in order to procure the carrying out of the relevant site 'enabling works', including the authorisation of contracts.

- Agreed to use an appointed agent to undertake a competition for the enabling works contractors for the benefit of expedience in getting a contractor appointed early in the new year.
- Approved that the Council enters in a contract for the enabling works as recommended by our agent.
- Agreed a resolution as required by GMCA.

7. **Car Parking Enforcement Contract**

Councillor Lucy Smith, Cabinet Member for Transport and Infrastructure presented a report in relation to the Car Parking Enforcement Contract.

The Cabinet:

- Agreed to award Lot 1 to the highest scored bidder for Lot 1 based on a total of 25,174 enforcement hours per annum.
- Agreed to award Lot 2 over 4 years to the bidder who achieved the highest score for Lot 2.

General Report Of The Meeting Held On 20 January 2021

8. **Inclusion Strategy**

Councillor Tahir Rafiq, Cabinet Member for Corporate Affairs and HR, presented the report which explained that the Council and CCG partnership had, through the leadership of the Strategic Commissioning Board, made a commitment to make significant improvements in our equalities and inclusion practice as both an employer and service provider/commissioner. This commitment was made as part of the leadership role in delivering the Bury 2030 vision and wider organisational transformation.

The Cabinet approved the Joint Inclusion Strategy for implementation.

9. **Rehousing Policy With Regards To Disabled Facility Adaptations Grants**

Councillor Eamonn O'Brien, the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance and Growth, presented the report which advised that Urban Renewal Officers have reviewed the existing Council Procedure with regards to adaptations to Council properties.

The Cabinet:

- Agreed to repeal the existing Council Procedure in relation to Disabled Adaptations for Council tenants.
- Agreed to approve and implement the proposed new Procedure
- Agreed that the cost be managed within the overall HRA budget that forms part of the capital programme and that consideration be given to

increasing the budget in future years should there be an ongoing cost pressure.

10. **Review Of Radcliffe Shop Front Improvement Scheme**

Councillor Eamonn O'Brien, the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance and Growth, presented the report which reviewed phase one of the Radcliffe Shop Front Improvement Scheme and considered how the remaining scheme funds could be most effectively used to support ongoing regeneration of Radcliffe town centre.

The Cabinet agreed that approval be given to the transfer of the remaining Radcliffe Shop Front Grant funds to support improvement works to Radcliffe Market Chambers as part of the wider investment in this high profile building and in line with the Radcliffe SRF objectives as per the recommendation of the Radcliffe Cabinet Committee on 22 December 2020.

11. **Disposal Of Summerseat House, Summerseat Lane, Summerseat Via Open Market Sale**

Councillor Eamonn O'Brien, the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance and Growth, presented the report regarding the proposed disposal of Summerseat House, a vacant former Pupil Learning Centre located in Summerseat.

The Cabinet:

- Agreed that Summerseat House is offered for sale.
- Agreed that the Council's Property and Asset Management section procure a property marketing agent / consultant to assist in the disposal of Summerseat House. The appointment of an agent will expose the property to a wide range of potential purchasers and the agent can provide advice and recommendations with regard to potential purchasers.
- Delegated authority to the Director of Economic Regeneration and Capital Growth in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance and Growth to consider and accept / decline competitive bids for the property from potential purchasers and then to instruct the Council Solicitor with regard to an acceptable bid.

12. **Appointment Of Mayor 2021/22**

Councillor Eamonn O'Brien, the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance and Growth, proposed that, in this unprecedented year, Councillor Tim Pickstone be appointed as Mayor for a second year.

The Cabinet agreed that Council be recommended to appoint Councillor Tim Pickstone as Mayor and Councillor Shaheena Haroon as Deputy Mayor for the Civic year 2021/22.

13. **Discretionary Grant Payments For Business**

Councillor Eamonn O'Brien, the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance and Growth, presented a paper which sought approval to bring forward a major package of support to key strategic businesses and employers.

The Cabinet agreed that a major package of support to key strategic businesses and employers be brought forward.

General Report of The Meeting Held On 23 February 2021

14. **The Council's Financial Position As At 31 DECEMBER 2020**

Councillor Eamonn O'Brien, the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance and Growth, presented the report which outlined the forecast financial position of the council at the end of 2020/21 based on the information known at the end of the third quarter, 31 December 2020.

The Cabinet:

- Noted the forecast underspend of £0.053m on the revenue budget;
- Noted the significant uncertainties that exist, in particular Covid, and that there is likely to be further changes before the end of the financial year;
- Noted the position on the Dedicated Schools Grant, Collection Fund and the Housing Revenue Account and the Council's participation in the DfE's Safety Valve project;
- Noted forecast position on the capital programme;
- Noted the Council's application for de-carbonising the estate grant and approve that acceptance of the grant delegated to the Executive Director of Operations and the Council's S151 Officer in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change and the Cabinet Member for Finance and Growth;
- Delegated authority to the Executive Director of Operations and the Council's S151 Officer in Consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment and the Cabinet Member for Corporate Affairs and HR to award contracts associated with the decarbonisation fund, subject to the appropriate procurement contract procedure rules being followed;
- Approved the revised rephrasing of the capital programme as set out in the report.

- Approved the addition of £0.367m to the capital programme for the previously agreed contribution to the coroner's service to give a final capital programme of £57.201m for 2020/21.

15. **Local Council Tax Support Scheme 2021/22**

Councillor Eamonn O'Brien, the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance and Growth, presented the report which outlined the background, current scheme, context of overall Welfare Reform and recommendations for delivering a local scheme of Council Tax Support with effect from April 2021.

The Cabinet approved the recommendations for onward approval by Full Council.

16. **The Housing Revenue Account 2021/22**

Councillor Eamonn O'Brien, the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance and Growth, presented the report which set out the proposed Housing Revenue Account for 2021/22 and proposals for Dwelling and Garage rents, Sheltered Support, Management, Amenities and Heating charges, Furnished Tenancy charges and Fernhill Caravan site tenancy charges.

The Cabinet:

- Agreed to increase the Rents for all HRA social rent formula and affordable rent dwellings by 1.5% from the first rent week in April;
- Agreed to increase Garage rents by 1.5% from the first rent week in April;
- Agreed to increase Sheltered Management and Amenity Charges by 1.5% from the first rent week in April;
- Agreed that Sheltered support and heating charges remain unchanged from the first rent week in April;
- Agreed that Furnished Tenancy charges remain unchanged from the first rent week in April;
- Agreed to increase pitch fees at the Fernhill Caravan Site by 1.5% from the first rent week in April.

17. **The Dedicated Schools Grant And Setting The Schools Budget 2021-22**

Councillor Eamonn O'Brien, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance and Growth, presented the report which set out recommendations in relation to the Schools Budget for approval by Cabinet. It was noted that the details had been discussed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Schools Forum, and thanks were expressed to officers across Children's Services and Finance for their work and communication with the DfE.

The Cabinet:

- Approved the Dedicated Schools Grant Budget for 2021/22 at £190.923m and approve the allocations between the 4 funding blocks;

- Approved the Schools and Academies 2021/22 funding unit values as recommended by Schools' Forum and detailed at Appendix 1;
- Approved the 2021/22 hourly rates for all early years providers as follows:
 - £4.44 per hour for 3 and 4 year olds, and;
 - £5.36 per hour for 2 year olds.

18. **Capital Strategy 2021/22 - 2023/24 And Capital Programme 2021/22**

Councillor Eamonn O'Brien, the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance and Growth, presented the report which had been prepared to cover a 3-year period initially, though it was expected that this will be extended to a 5-year time frame in line with the council's medium term financial strategy. It was noted that the approach set out demonstrated the Council's intent and commitment to regeneration while focussing on practical and deliverable outcomes.

The Cabinet:

- Approved the capital strategy 2021/22 – 2023/24;
- Approved the capital programme of £73.957m for 2021/22 and the associated funding arrangements;
- Noted the indicative capital programme for 2022/23 and 2023/24 and that this will be subject to decision making in future years.

19. **The Council's Budget 2021/22 And The Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021/22 - 2024/25**

Councillor Eamonn O'Brien, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance and Growth, presented the report which set out the key elements of the 2021/22 budget proposals and the framework for the longer term Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2021 – 2025.

The Cabinet:

- Approved the medium-term financial strategy and the assumptions regarding resources and spending requirements;
- Noted the Council Tax base at 53,828 on which the Council Tax funding has been calculated as approved by Cabinet in December 2020;
- Approved the net revenue budget of £169.247m for 2021/22 and note that this includes an assumed increase in the council tax of 1.99%;
- Noted the further option of a 3% social care levy and that this is not reflected the strategy;
- Approved the permanent spending allocations of £25.211m in 2021/22;
- Noted the budget gap of £20.388m in 2021/22;
- Approved the budget reductions of £21.898m over the 4 years of which £8.056m applies to the 2021/22 financial year;

- Approved the use of reserves of £12.332m in 2021/22 and note the planned use of reserves of £14.355m in 2022/23;
- Noted the forecast position on reserves;
- Noted the Directorate cash limits;
- Noted the significant financial risks for funding, income and demand pressures in future years and for the impact of Covid to impact on the strategy.

20. **LET'S DO IT! Bury 2030 Community Strategy**

Councillor Eamonn O'Brien, the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance and Growth, presented the report which detailed Let's do It, a ten year vision and strategy for the Borough of Bury. It was noted that the strategy set out high level ambitions but was supported by a robust delivery plan to ensure measurable impact and outcomes.

The Cabinet endorsed the strategy for onward approval by Full Council.

21. **GM Clean Air Plan: Consultation**

Councillor Alan Quinn, Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change, presented the report which set out the progress of the GM CAP and the next steps for the development of the Clean Air Plan and the closely linked Minimum Licensing Standards (MLS) for taxi and private hire services.

The Cabinet:

- Noted the progress of the Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan;
- Noted the next steps for the development of the Clean Air Plan and Minimum Licensing Standards, listed at Section 11;
- Noted the distribution of Bus Retrofit funding commenced in December 2020;
- Noted that Government ministers have agreed to consider extending Greater Manchester's Clean Air Zone (CAZ) charges to the sections of the A628/A57 which form part of the Strategic Road Network, within the proposed CAZ boundary, subject to the outcomes of an assessment, which is expected to be completed by early 2021;
- Noted that the GM Clean Air Plan is required to take action to tackle nitrogen dioxide exceedances until compliance with the legal limits has been demonstrated and that the nearer term influence of COVID-19 on air quality is not expected to lead to sufficiently long term reductions in pollution such that the exceedances of the legal limits of nitrogen dioxide will not occur without implementing a Clean Air Zone;
- Noted that the GM CAP final plan will be brought forward for decision makers as soon as is reasonably practicable and no later than summer 2021;
- Noted that the outputs of the MLS will be reported alongside the GM CAP as soon as is reasonably practicable and no later than summer 2021;

- Agreed to the establishment of joint committees and to delegate to those committees the Authority's functions as set out in this report at paragraph 8.5 and the terms of reference, as set out in Appendix 6.
- Appointed the Cabinet Member for Transport and Infrastructure to sit on both committees for purposes as set out in this report at paragraph 8.5 with specific terms of reference, as set out in Appendix 6.
- Appointed the Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change as substitute for both committees for purposes as set out in this report at paragraph 9.5 with specific terms of reference, as set out in Appendix 6.
- Agreed to enter into a collaboration agreement with the other 9 GM local authorities and GMCA/TfGM to clarify amongst other matters the rights, responsibilities and obligations of the authorities in relation to those contracts set out in Appendix 2 that are required to maintain delivery momentum in line with JAQU funding agreements.
- Agreed a delegation to the Council Solicitor and Monitoring Officer to agree the final form of the collaboration agreement;
- Agreed a delegation to the Executive Director of Operations in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport and Infrastructure and the Cabinet Member for Climate Change to award the contracts set out in Appendix 2 (subject to government funding) that are required to implement a charging Clean Air Zone in Spring 2022 to ensure the achievement of Nitrogen Dioxide compliance in the shortest possible time and by 2024 at the latest as required by the Ministerial Direction.
- Agreed a delegation to Executive Director of Operations in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport and Infrastructure and the Cabinet Member for Climate Change to approve the submission of supplementary information to the Government's Joint Air Quality Unit (JAQU).

22. Arrangements for the preparation of a joint development plan on behalf of nine districts

Councillor Eamonn O'Brien, the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance and Growth, presented the report which provided further details on the next steps in relation to the joint plan of the nine GM districts, to be known as 'Places for Everyone'. In order to progress this plan, a new Joint Committee of the nine districts (Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Tameside, Trafford and Wigan) was proposed to be established, with delegated authority to formulate and prepare the 'Places for Everyone' Joint Development Plan Document (DPD).

The Cabinet:

- Approved the making of an agreement with the other 8 Greater Manchester councils [Bolton, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Tameside, Trafford, Wigan] to prepare a joint development plan document to cover strategic policies including housing and employment land requirements and, as appropriate, strategic site allocations and Green Belt boundary amendments and associated infrastructure across the nine districts.

- Delegated to the Joint Committee of the nine Greater Manchester councils the formulation and preparation of the joint development plan document to cover housing and employment land requirements including, as appropriate, strategic site allocations and Green Belt boundary amendments and associated infrastructure across the nine Greater Manchester districts insofar as such matters are executive functions.
- Agreed that the Leader of the Council be the lead Member for the joint committee and that the Deputy Leader of the Council be the nominated deputy to attend and vote as necessary.
- Noted that the following are the sole responsibility of full Council:
 - Responsibility for giving of instructions to the Cabinet to reconsider the draft plan submitted by the Cabinet for the Council's consideration.
 - The amendment of the draft joint development plan document submitted by the Cabinet for the full Council's consideration.
 - The approval of the joint development plan document for the purposes of submission to the Secretary of State for independent examination.
 - The adoption of the joint development plan document.
- Delegated authority to the Cabinet Member for Finance and Growth to make minor amendments to the Council's Statement of Community Involvement to reflect the new joint plan-making arrangements in Greater Manchester.
- Noted that the Council's Local Development Scheme will be amended by the Cabinet Member for Finance and Growth under existing delegated powers to reflect the new joint plan-making arrangements in Greater Manchester.

Community impact/links with Community Strategy

Equality Impact and considerations:

Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the 'general duty' on public authorities is set out as follows:

A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to -

- (a) *eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;*

- (b) *advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;*
- (c) *foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.*

The public sector equality duty (specific duty) requires us to consider how we can positively contribute to the advancement of equality and good relations, and demonstrate that we are paying 'due regard' in our decision making in the design of policies and in the delivery of services.

Equality Analysis	<i>Please provide a written explanation of the outcome(s) of either conducting an initial or full EA.</i>

**Please note: Approval of a cabinet report is paused when the 'Equality/Diversity implications' section is left blank and approval will only be considered when this section is completed.*

Assessment of Risk:

The following risks apply to the decision:

Risk / opportunity	Mitigation
n/a	.

Consultation: None.

Legal Implications:

To be completed by the Council's Monitoring Officer

Financial Implications:

To be completed by the Council's Section 151 Officer

Report Author and Contact Details:

Background papers:

Please include a glossary of terms, abbreviations and acronyms used in this report.

Term	Meaning