

Minutes of: CORPORATE JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: 10 February 2022

Present: Councillors C Birchmore, M Hayes, T Holt, E O'Brien and T Rafiq

Trade Union attendance: T Beesley (in the Chair)
S Allen, E Entwistle, C Jakeway, K Mather and J Thompson

Also in attendance: S Bagley, P Braithwaite, S Evans, S Goodwin, S McVaigh, L Ridsdale and C Schofield

Apologies for Absence: Geoff Little, Councillor I Gartside, Councillor A Quinn and Councillor D Vernon

32 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Iain Gartside, Alan Quinn and Dene Vernon, and from Geoff Little.

33 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

It was agreed:

That the minutes of the last meeting held on 8 December 2021 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

34 MATTERS ARISING

Updates on missed collection rates and the OCO budget were circulated with the agenda.

35 THE COUNCIL'S FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2021

Sam Evans, Executive Director of Finance, presented the report which outlined the forecast financial position of the Council at the end of 2021/22 based on the information known at the end of the third quarter, 31st December 2021. The report set out the position for both revenue and capital and provided an analysis of the variances, both under and overspending.

In response to questions, it was noted that provision for future pay awards was being made and a 2% was budgeted for the next financial year but it was unclear how the timing of that decision would affect budgets. With regards to budget proposals concerning bin caddies, Sam advised that the Operations Team had modelled its effect on recycling rates and believed this saving could be delivered.

The Union side noted the impact on jobs was relatively low but asked for commitment from Council Officers that they would provide regular updates and keep the Union informed. Lynne Ridsdale, Deputy Chief Executive, confirmed this commitment. She advised that nothing new was being proposed under

transformation savings but undertook to come to an Employee Relations Meeting to go through the proposals (including Business Support) again.

It was agreed:

That the report be noted.

36 HOUSING REVENUE REPORT

Sam Evans, Executive Director of Finance, presented the report which set out the proposed Housing Revenue Account for 2022/23 and proposals for Dwelling and Garage rents, Sheltered Support, Management, Amenities and Heating charges, Furnished Tenancy charges and Fernhill Caravan site tenancy charges. It also established the Management Fee paid to Six Town Housing for 2022/23.

The Committee noted the Council's intention to develop an HRA strategy; there had been no communications around this as the work on proposals was still ongoing. In response to a question it was noted that short to medium term plan was to make the most of the relationship with Six Town Housing (STH) and get the benefit of the two being separate entities. Nothing was ruled out for longer term, but there were no immediate plans to bring STH back in-house.

It was agreed:

That the report be noted.

37 BUDGET REPORTS

Sam Evans, Executive Director of Finance, presented the following suite of budget reports:

- The Council's Budget 2022/23 and the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022/23 - 2025/26
- The Dedicated Schools Grant and setting the Schools Budget 2022-23
- Capital Strategy and Capital programme 2022/23
- Flexible use of Capital Receipts Strategy 2022/23
- Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators 2022/23

It was noted that a number of savings did have an impact on staffing roles. Some of these roles were vacant but where a member of staff was affected conversations had been held with them prior to the publication of these papers. The Trade Union had also been engaged throughout this process.

In response to questions it was noted that the vacancy factor was set at 2% for a saving of £1.2m. This would be an adjustment for managers as previously these could be used to offset other overspends. To improve corporate budget management, these were now required to be reported so they could be used to a wider corporate benefit. The Union side voiced their support of this change, as the monies could equate to job savings elsewhere.

It was agreed:

That the reports be noted.

**38 REVISIONS TO SECTION 6 OF THE LOCAL CONDITIONS OF SERVICE:
TRAVELLING, SUBSISTENCE & HOUSING**

Sam McVaigh, Director of People & Inclusion, presented the report which detailed a number of amendments to staff travel arrangements and specifically the Council's policy in relation to car usage.

It was noted that wording and expectations had been clarified and strengthened with regards to essential car use in the light of agile working and the Council's environmental commitments. No fundamental changes were proposed, with the most significant change being how mileage would be calculated. This now reflected the employee's total driving for work purposes (not including driving to their contracted place of work, for HMRC reasons). The Union side, having had input into this review, noted their support for these changes.

It was agreed:

That the proposed changes be endorsed, and their implementation from March 2022 be agreed as a variation to the Council's Local Conditions of Service.

39 URGENT BUSINESS

The Leader advised he was meeting with regional Unison representatives ahead of a GMCA meeting later this week to discuss the implementation of the Real Living Wage. He confirmed Bury was moving forwards and the intention was for full implementation to be achieved next year. Union side reps confirmed they were supportive of Bury's approach and appreciated the timescale.

40 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting was scheduled to take place on Thursday, 31 March 2022 at 5.00pm.

The Committee discussed whether these meetings should take place in person or continue over Teams, and it was agreed that the majority should be over Teams with the option of holding an in-person meeting periodically.

Chair

(Note: The meeting started at 4.00 pm and ended at 4.49 pm)