

## **GENERAL REPORT OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13 DECEMBER 2023**

### **MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN REFRESH**

1. Councillor Richard Gold, Cabinet Member for Finance and Communities, presented the report which contained details of the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP); the plan will run to 2026/27 and will be refreshed as part of the annual budget setting process in February 2024.
2. The Cabinet Member reported that a mid-year review of the MTFP has been undertaken as a matter of good practice and consideration given to the pressures Bury Council is experiencing in the current financial year.
3. The review has indicated a provisional budget deficit of £41.582m over the next three years to 2026/27 before proposed savings. This provision budget gap is broken down across the three years as £22.611m in 2024/25; £12.789m in 2025/26 and £6.182m in 2026/27.
4. This report provides the detail of the updated MTFP forecast and sets out options to address this deficit. Responding to a question from Councillor Bernstein, the Cabinet Member for Finance and Communities reported that the Financial Improvement Panel who have been providing assistance and support to the Council had recommended that Committee reports be presented in a more "user friendly" manner to enable Members to better scrutinise the financial information presented to them.
5. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

### **PRESTWICH VILLAGE REGENERATION: APPROPRIATION OF LAND AT FAIRFAX ROAD AND RECTORYLANE FOR PLANNING PURPOSES**

6. The Leader and Cabinet Member for Strategic Growth presented an update to Members on the Prestwich Village Regeneration, namely the appropriation of land at Fairfax Road and Rectory Lane for planning purposes.
7. The Leader reported that a large part of the Council's Land included in the Prestwich Village proposals is currently open to public access and may be impacted by to varying degrees adverse third party rights. Any person who holds the benefit of such a legal right or interest and who suffers a relevant loss when development takes place would be entitled to claim statutory compensation pursuant to section 204 of the Housing and Planning Act 2016.
8. The Leader reported that the details of the statutory compensation are commercially sensitive and linked information which is likely to reveal the identity and financial position of individuals is personally sensitive and is therefore exempt from this Part A Cabinet report. Such details are set out in a Part B Cabinet report.
9. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the Part A and Part B reports.

### **RELOCATION OF SPRING LANE SCHOOL TO THE NEW KERSHAW CENTRE**

10. Following consideration of previous Cabinet reports in relation to the development of the new Radcliffe Secondary School, the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for

Children and Young People presented a further report to update Members on the relocation of the Spring Lane School.

11. The Cabinet Member reported that a number of options were considered to accommodate the needs of Spring Lane School and the focus more recently has been on the use of Council owned premises. This has resulted in the identification of the New Kershaw Centre (NKC) as a viable proposition. The NKC currently accommodates a number of Children's Services teams, including a number of social care services, a base for care leavers, and the youth service.
12. It is anticipated that existing services will be relocated on w/c 8th of January 2024, to other Council owned premises, with the majority of those services being accommodated in 6 Knowsley Place and the Town Hall.
13. The Leader detailed design work is on-going in respect of the necessary adaptations to the NKC and Park House to facilitate movement of the PRU early next year. This design activity is progressing alongside required planning/design of adaptations to 6 Knowsley Place and the Bury Town Hall to facilitate the move of staff from the Children and Young People's directorate currently operating from NKC.
14. A high-level cost plan has been developed for delivery of the NKC/Park House project and this also includes provisional (estimated) sums for associated construction and design activity for adaptations to 6KP and the Bury Town Hall. The cost plan will evolve as the design is developed. At present the total cost of project activity is estimated at £1,758,000 which covers the initial phase of works. Further phases of work will be subject to a separate report.
15. The project will be overseen by BGI officers and will report to the Council's Regeneration Board for project assurance/oversight.
16. Given the need to invest in this interim solution, and the inability to deliver the scheme at Spurr House on time, it is no longer proposed to proceed with the adaptations to Spurr House and this project is now closed. Instead, an options appraisal exercise will be commissioned through BGI, to consider the future accommodation needs of the Pupil Referral Unit, and how they might be met.
17. Before inviting questions from those present, the Leader apologised for the lateness of this report and also the home to school transport policy.
18. Councillors Smith and Bernstein, raised concerns in relation to; preparedness, procurement, ability to secure labour and finance comments contained within the first iteration of the report shared with Members of the Cabinet.
19. Responding firstly, the Chief Executive Officer reported that, she can provide full assurance that the financing of this project has been considered at the Regeneration Board and is provided for in the Capital Programme.
20. The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People acknowledged concerns that the Members have raised but she has full confidence that the Council can deliver on the programme as outlined in the report.
21. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

## **EXTENSION OF CONTRACT FOR CHILDRENS SAFEGUARDING EQUINOX PROJECT TEAM**

22. The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children and Young People presented a report seeking approval for an extension of the Equinox Project Team, currently commissioned to support core statutory safeguarding services, to enable Bury Council to protect vulnerable children and young people from harm, in accordance of the principles outlined within the CA 1989.
23. Responding to a question from Councillor Bernstein, the Cabinet Member reported that social work recruitment is a primary focus for herself and the department and is frequently discussed at the Children's Improvement Board. In addition to international recruitment, work has been undertaken to "grow your own" and a number of agency staff have been converted into permanent staff.
24. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

## **HOME TO SCHOOL AND COLLEGE TRANSPORT POLICY - PROPOSAL TO CONSULT ON CHANGES TO THE POLICY**

25. The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children and Young People presented a report to Cabinet which included a proposal to consult on changes to the home to school and college transport policy.
26. The policy was last subject to review in 2015, following the publication of the Children & Families Act 2014, which introduced significant reforms in respect of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. The DfE has recently published updated guidance in respect of transport and the Bury policy needs to be reviewed and refreshed to reflect this guidance.
27. Following an investigation into current arrangements by the Council is amending its policy to make clear that, where the Council decides transport is necessary to enable young adults with an EHC Plan to maintain their placement, they will not be charged, in line with the Council's statutory duty.
28. A draft policy has been written that meets the Council's statutory obligations.
29. Responding to a question from Councillor Bernstein, the Leader reported that the investigation referred to above, details of which and the implications for the Council will be shared with Members of Cabinet.
30. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

## **ADULT SOCIAL CARE PERFORMANCE QUARTER ONE AND QUARTER TWO REPORT 2023/24**

31. The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing presented the Adult Social Care Department Quarter 1 and 2 Report for 2023-24. The report outlines delivery of the Adult Social Care Strategic Plan, preparation for the new CQC Assessment regime for local authorities and provides an illustration and report on the department's performance framework.
32. Responding to a question from Councillor Bernstein, the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing reported that he would be happy for further detail in relation to Adult Social Care to be included in future Cabinet quarterly monitoring reports.

33. The Leader asked that his thanks be placed on record to Adrian Crook, Director of Community Commissioning and his team for their excellent work which has been highlighted and commended in the recent Peer Review.
34. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

#### **TRANSFER OF 11 - 13 STOCK STREET, BURRS COUNTRYPARK, BURY TO HOUSING SERVICES**

35. The Cabinet Member for Housing Services presented a reported to Council to propose the transfer 11 – 13 Stock Street, Bury from the Land & Property Team to Housing Services, for the provision of temporary accommodation in accordance with the recommendations in section 2 of the accompanying report.
36. If this proposal is approved, the property will provide temporary accommodation for larger, low-income families who are statutory homeless and in priority need, until a more permanent solution can be found. The rent would be capped at the Local Housing Allowance (LHA) rate to ensure affordability. Rental income generated from the letting of this property would be paid into the Housing Revenue Account (HRA).
37. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

#### **PROCUREMENT OF WATER HYGIENE MONITORING SERVICES FOR THE PREVENTION OF LEGIONELLA**

38. The Cabinet Member for Corporate Affairs and HR presented a report to Cabinet which provided details of the proposal to Procure a Water Hygiene Monitoring Services for the Prevention of Legionella.
39. The Cabinet Member reported that the contract is for the period 01 July 2024 to 30 June 2027 with a possible extension option for a further 2 years.
40. This contract provides prevention of Legionella compliance to all council-controlled properties, schools that buy into the service and buildings occupied by Persona and Six Town Housing. There are 209 properties with the current contract, comprising of: 57 Schools, 11 Persona Buildings, 20 Six Town Housing managed properties and 121 council-controlled buildings.
41. This contract is managed through Architectural Services and is a traded service which is recharged out to individual client departments, schools that buy into the service and ALMO's such as Persona and Six Town Housing.
42. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the Part A and Part B reports.

#### **CONTRACT RENEWAL FOR THE SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF VARIOUS LIQUID FUELS**

43. The Cabinet Member for Environment, Climate Change and Operations presented a report to seek formal approval to use the Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation (YPO 1173 Liquid Fuels framework for the period 16 October 2023 to 15 October 2025 with two options to extend for an additional 12 months. The maximum Framework period will therefore be 4 years, from 16 October 2023 to 15 October 2027 (subject to annual review, incorporating price negotiations and KPI performance).
44. The various liquid fuels listed are available for use by all Council owned vehicles which equates to 22 separate service users including waste and recycling, highways, grounds maintenance, security and response services, adult and children's transport

and Six Town Housing. Bury Council is an associate member of YPO, a Public Buying Organisation established in 1974 to maximise the value from consolidating demand and procuring collaborative supply contracts on behalf of its members and associates.

45. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the Part A and Part B reports.

#### **THE LOCAL AUTHORITY BIODIVERSITY DUTY: FIRST CONSIDERATIONS REQUIREMENT**

46. The Cabinet Member for Environment, Climate Change and Operations presented a report which asking the Council to consider their Bio-diversity duty and what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity.

47. The Cabinet Member reported that the report sets out:

- The new legal and procedural requirements for the Council to meet our biodiversity duty;
- The requirement to complete our first consideration of what action to take for biodiversity by the 1st January 2024;
- The scope and content of a draft Biodiversity Strategy which forms our first consideration of the current state of biodiversity in Bury and the potential actions that we could take to conserve and enhance biodiversity in the Borough;
- A proposal to consult residents and stakeholders on the draft Biodiversity Strategy;
- Work taking place to identify potential Council-owned receptor sites for off-site Biodiversity Net Gain; and
- The potential next steps.

48. The Leader responding to comments from Councillor M Smith reported that when undertaking any developments the Council would wish to avoid any environmental implications, in the first instance. This report acknowledges the Council's Biodiversity Duty and provides strong measures to mitigate impacts.

49. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.