

FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

27 NOVEMBER 2023

The meeting commenced at 10.00 am in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool.

Present:

Councillor Mike Young (In the Chair)

Councillors: Moss Boddy, Paddy Brown, Bob Buchan, Tom Feeney, Gerard Hall, Brenda Harrison, Jim Lindridge, Sue Little, Andrew Martin-Wells and Melanie Morley.

Officers: Denise McGuckin, Managing Director
James Magog, Director of Finance, IT and Digital
Paul Dixon, Assistant Director, Corporate and Financial Services
Sally Robinson, Executive Director of Children’s and Joint Commissioning Services
Craig Blundred, Director of Public Health
Catherine Guy, Public Health Registrar
Jill Harrison, Executive Director of Adult and Community Based Services
Gemma Ptak, Assistant Director of Preventative and Preventative and Community Based Services
Tony Hanson, Executive Director of Development, Neighbourhoods and Regulatory Services
Beverley Bearne, Assistant Director, Development and Growth
Kieran Bostock, Assistant Director, Neighbourhood Services
Christopher Lau, Net Zero Officer
Connor Kerr, Communications and Marketing Team
David Cosgrove, Democratic Services Team

35. Apologies for Absence

None.

36. Declarations of Interest

None.

37. Minutes of the meeting held on 18 September 2023

Received.

38. Minutes of the meeting of the Safer Hartlepool Partnership held on 20 June 2023

Received.

39. Minutes of the meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board held on 10 July 2023

Received.

40. Tall Ships Races Hartlepool 2023 (*Executive Director of Adult and Community Based Services*)

Type of decision

For information.

Purpose of report

To share the independent Evaluation of the Tall Ships Races Hartlepool 2023 and to highlight the outcomes achieved and economic impact of the event.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Executive Director of Adult and Community Based Services introduced the report which included as an appendix the evaluation report on the event prepared by external consultants Spirul. The key headline outcomes from the report were: -

- Over 300,000 visitors attended Tall Ships Races Hartlepool 2023.
- The economic value of hosting Tall Ships Races 2023 was £12,531,633.
- Hartlepool engaged 120 young people in the Sail Trainee programme and 85 young people took part in the Tall Ships Races 2023, accessing the opportunity of a lifetime.
- 37 ships participated in race one and visited Hartlepool. This involved 1,400 crew members, 900 of which were Sail Trainees.
- Over 400 volunteers were engaged during preparations for Tall Ships Races 2023 and over 200 supported successful delivery of the event.
- Tall Ships Races 2023 attracted significant national media coverage for Hartlepool including BBC Breakfast, The One Show and ITV News.
- Sponsorship and in kind contributions were received from more than 25 organisations of varying size.

The Assistant Director, Preventative and Community Based Services gave a presentation to the Committee, including two videos from the event, giving an overview of the event, the feedback received and the impact on the local community and economy.

Members welcomed the report and congratulated the Executive Director of Adult and Community Based Services, Assistant Director of Preventative and Preventative and Community Based Services and all those involved in organising the event. Members particularly commented on the music programme and the volunteers involved across the four days. A Member questioned how the economic value had been estimated and the Assistant Director of Preventative and Preventative and Community Based Services stated that the formula for the calculations would be shared with Members.

The Chair commented that it had become clear during the preparations for the event that the economics and other issues were changing around the event which, for example, included increased arrangements around counter terrorism to ensure safety over the days of the event. The Chair thanked the officers involved for the immense amount of work that had been put into the arrangements for the event. That work had delivered a fantastic event that was enjoyed by over 300,000 people and all concerned should take great pride in that.

Decision

1. That the independent Evaluation of the Tall Ships Races Hartlepool 2023, the outcomes achieved and the economic impact of the event be noted.
2. That the proposed development of a legacy plan supported by relevant governance arrangements be noted.

41. Strategic Financial Management Report as at 30 September 2023 *(Director of Finance, IT and Digital)*

Type of decision

Budget and Policy Framework.

Purpose of report

The purpose of this report is to inform Members of:

- i) Forecast General Fund outturn for 2023/24;
- ii) Forecast Housing Revenue Account outturn for 2023/24;
- iii) Corporate Income Collection Performance;
- iv) Capital Programme Monitoring 2023/24; and
- v) Reserves review, transfers and forecasts.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Director of Finance, IT and Digital reported that the previous report to Committee in September, highlighted the significant financial pressures being experienced by the Council from high general inflation, energy inflation, higher than anticipated pay awards and increased demand and

significant cost rises for Children’s Social Care external placements. These pressures had continued in to the second quarter of the 2023/24 financial year and are detailed in the report. The overall position for the General Fund Outturn for 2023/24 had worsened with a forecast full year overspend of £4.228m.

The Director of Finance, IT and Digital highlighted some elements of the recent Autumn Statement by the Chancellor of the Exchequer and added that comments from the new Minister at the Department for Levelling Up, Communities and Housing had stated that there was no work ongoing on the Fairer Funding proposals for local government which reduced the likelihood of additional funding for the Council as part of next year’s funding agreement.

In terms of the Council’s budget management, the Director of Finance, IT and Digital stated that the internal controls across all departments on avoiding unnecessary spending were reducing pressures but there was still significant work to be done.

A Member questioned the position on reserves and in particular the use of the Budget Support Fund. The Director of Finance, IT and Digital stated that the current forecast would require the utilisation of £5.699m of the reserve leaving a balance of £1.872m. It was anticipated that, pending budget decisions, this balance would be fully used in 2024/25.

Member also raised concerns around the Schools High Needs Block and the delegation to local authorities from central government. The Director of Finance, IT and Digital shared the frustrations but highlighted that the situation in Hartlepool was significantly better than some other areas. Members also discussed some of the issues around children and adults social care funding and concern was expressed that the decision to bring more children’s social care in-house to reduce costs was too late and should have been made earlier. The Chair disagreed and stated that the recent urgency around this funding was due to the huge price rises in the private sector market for specialised children’s social care in particular.

The Executive Director of Children’s and Joint Commissioning Services stated that the Council was moving back into providing such children’s social care in-house where it could and had invested in that provision over recent years. Nationally, there was a significant pressure on specialist placements for children with highly complex needs and that had driven those prices up. The Executive Director of Children’s and Joint Commissioning Services also responded to a comment on the retention of social workers stating that pressures on recruitment were external to the Council and the same as being experienced by all Councils.

The following decisions were agreed without dissent.

Decision

1. That the forecast revenue outturn position and accompanying financial performance for the quarter be noted.
2. The Committee noted the seriousness of the financial position and actions being progressed to mitigate this as far as possible as set out in the report.
3. That the Housing Revenue Account position detailed within the report be noted.
4. That the forecast capital outturn position detailed within the report, including the reported budget realignments be noted.
5. That the reallocation of Arts Council England grant within the Capital Programme be approved.
6. That the acceptance of the Sport England grant funding award as detailed in the report be approved
7. That the reserves transfers set out in the report be noted.

42. Local Council Tax Support 2024/25 *(Director of Finance, IT and Digital)*

Type of decision

Budget and Policy Framework.

Purpose of report

The purpose of the report is to:

- i) Provide Members with the results of the consultation exercise undertaken following agreement at September 2023 Finance and Policy Committee to consult on a simplified Local Council Tax Support (LCTS) Scheme; and
- ii) Agree a revised LCTS scheme for 2024/25 to be referred to full Council for approval.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Director of Finance, IT and Digital reported that the proposed new scheme ensures that more support will be given to those working age households on the lowest of incomes than in the current scheme. The report set out in detail how the new scheme would address the current issues and its effect on individual households. The results of the consultation exercise were set out in detail in the report and appendices. The Director of Finance, IT and Digital stated that following the consultation results it was proposed that a non-dependent deduction would be retained, though only at £5 per week and the capital limit would be increased from £6,000 to £10,000.

The following decisions were agreed without dissent.

Decision

1. That the post consultation changes proposed to the Local Council Tax Support scheme set out in the report relating to non-dependent deductions and the capital limit, be approved.
2. That the 2024/25 Local Council Tax Support scheme proposals be referred to full Council for approval.

43. Council Tax Base 2024/25 (*Director of Finance, IT and Digital*)

Type of decision

Budget and Policy Framework.

Purpose of report

The report sought member approval, as required by statutory regulations, of a calculated Council Tax Base for 2024/25, which would be used for Council Tax billing purposes.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Director of Finance, IT and Digital reported that the Council is required by law to calculate its Council Tax Base for the forthcoming year, and inform the major precepting authorities, Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland and Cleveland Fire Authority, and local precepting authorities (Parish Councils), before 31 January 2023. The Council Tax Base is expressed as the number of Band D equivalent properties.

Councils were also required to determine and operate their own local schemes for providing support with Council Tax, which had been determined in the previous item and the calculated Council Tax Base reflects the proposed simplified scheme.

The Rating (Property in Common Occupation) and Council Tax (empty Dwellings) Act 2018 received Royal assent in November 2018. This allowed Councils to increase the Council Tax long term empty and unfurnished home premium to 100% (previously 50%) from 1 April 2019 for properties that have been empty more than 2 years. The Council adopted this approach from 1 April 2020. The Act also provided that from April 2020 the premium could be increased to 200% for any properties empty between 5 and 10 years and from April 2021 a 300% premium can be charged on any properties empty for more than 10 years. The Council had not implemented this additional power and it was proposed that those powers also be adopted from 1 April 2024, in respect of the 5 to 10 year premium and, from 1 April 2025 in respect of the 10 year premium.

In addition, the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act had recently received Royal assent and powers to implement the long term empty and

unfurnished premium of 100% after 1 year from 1 April 2024, and the second home (furnished) 100% premium from 1 April 2025 were proposed.

The following decisions were agreed without dissent.

Decision

1. That a Hartlepool Council Tax Base for 2024/25 of 25,780, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved.
2. That a Council Tax Base for 2024/25 for Parishes who may levy a precept upon the Council's Collection Fund be as follows:

Brierton	14.7
Claxton	14.5
Dalton Piercy	134.8
Elwick	239.6
Greatham	283.6
Hart	404.9
Headland	800.5
Newton Bewley	34.2
Wynyard	977.2
3. That the implementation of the additional premiums allowable under relevant legislation as set out in the report be referred to Full Council for approval.

44. **Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2024/25 TO 2026/27** (*Director of Finance, IT and Digital*)

Type of decision

Budget and Policy Framework.

Purpose of report

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the Council's financial position and to approve the budget savings proposals to be referred to individual Policy Committees.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Director of Finance, IT and Digital reported on the updated MTFS position for the three year position, 2024/25 to 2026/27. The report gave Members updates on the recent pay award, the increase in Audit fees, income, energy price inflation and referenced the Strategic Financial Management Report considered earlier on the agenda.

The Director of Finance, IT and Digital also reported that the recent announcement on the rise in the National Living Wage would have a significant impact on the staffing budget and also the fees in the Adult Social Care sector. The Local Government Finance Settlement for 2024/25 was expected to be another one-year settlement for councils, continuing the

trend of recent years. Current indications were that the provisional settlement would be published during the week commencing 18th December. The continuation of one year settlements continues to hamper financial planning and sustainability. The government has also confirmed that the long awaited fair funding review and a reset of the business rates retention system will not now take place for at least two years.

The Director of Finance, IT and Digital indicated that as Council Tax decisions would be made at a later date, the report highlighted a budget gap of £5.583m should no increase be applied for 2024/25 rising to £13.708m over the MTFS period. For every 1% Council Tax not applied, the Council loses circa £0.500m of income. The Director of Finance, IT and Digital considered that the financial picture moving forward was going to be very difficult and needed to be fully considered when deciding on Council Tax and savings proposals.

Members considered that the Council was being asked to do the impossible because the government was abrogating its responsibility to adequately fund local services. A Member referenced the savings proposals to be referred to the Policy Committees and the saving related to the CCTV monitoring to be considered by the Neighbourhood Services Committee and considered that the change would restrict the response to the apprehension of crime. The Chair stated the issue would be dealt with and discussed by the Neighbourhood Services Committee.

Decision

- 1 That the report be noted together with the assessment of the forecast budget gap and proposed approach to addressing this gap detailed in the report.
2. That the savings proposals be referred to individual policy committees with the instruction for them to identify replacement savings if these proposals are not supported.
3. That the risks and scenarios outlined in the report which may impact upon the financial position presented as part of future MTFS updates be noted.

45. Net Zero Strategy and Action Plan (*Executive Director of Development, Neighbourhoods and Regulatory Services*)

Type of decision

Key Decision (Test ii applies) Forward Plan DNRS 09/23.

Purpose of report

To present the Council's first Net Zero Strategy and Action Plan on carbon reduction, climate change adaptation and renewable energy, in order to set out objectives and targets for further reducing greenhouse gas emissions and better preparing for future changes in climate and extreme weather.

To note the introduction of new targets set out in the strategy, which include:

- (a) Achieve ‘net zero’ for all Council operations by 2050 through carbon reduction initiatives and offsetting; and
- (b) A 30% reduction in emissions every 5 years.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Executive Director of Development, Neighbourhoods and Regulatory Services presented for Members consideration the Council’s first Net Zero Strategy and Action Plan on carbon reduction. The Plan appended to the report set out 44 key actions for the delivery of the strategy.

The Chair welcomed the report and thanked the Executive Director of Development, Neighbourhoods and Regulatory Services and the Net Zero Officer for an excellent strategy that would be key the future development of the Council and also assist residents. A Member asked if the plan could be extended from the Council to a Borough-wide strategy for carbon reduction. The Managing Director clarified that the option regarding a Council strategy would help the Council in managing and reducing its own carbon reduction programme but couldn’t control the emissions across the Borough.

Members welcomed the strategy document and it was commented that the strategy needed to be a key element of future planning and development control, particularly in increasing the level of tree coverage across the Borough.

The following decisions were agreed without dissent.

Decision

1. That the report including the carbon audit and emissions inventory be noted.
2. That the Net Zero Strategy and Action Plan and its associated targets be adopted.
3. That the delivery of the strategy and action plan through an annual monitoring review of progress be approved.

46. Disposal of Land at Mainsforth Terrace, Hartlepool (Executive Director of Development, Neighbourhoods and Regulatory Services)

Type of decision

Key Decision Test (i) applies (General Exception Notice applies).

Purpose of report

To seek approval to the disposal of an area of land at Mainsforth Terrace. The report had been brought forward without previous entry on the Forward Plan as the Council received an unsolicited approach to purchase the site which was considered to be Best Value and time is of the essence in making the decision to complete the sale.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Executive Director of Development, Neighbourhoods and Regulatory Services reported that the site, which had been the site of the former Centre for Independent Living (CIL) which had been demolished in 2020 and is surplus to Council operational requirements. The Council had recently been approached by a local company who were interested in acquiring the site to develop a number a small light industrial units with office space above. Such use, subject to planning consent, was one that would enhance the Borough's light industrial base, helping to grow the Hartlepool economy. Following negotiations with the company, agreement has been reached to dispose of the site in accordance with the terms set out in the confidential appendix to the report. The appendix contained exempt information under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006) namely, (para 3), information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information.

Members questioned if this was a site included in the Mayoral Development Corporation assets and sought assurance that the development would proceed. The Chair confirmed this was not an MDC site and that he was encouraged through the information he had received that the proposed development would go ahead.

The following decisions were agreed without dissent.

Decision

1. That approval be given to the sale of the site in accordance with the terms set out in the confidential appendix to the report. The appendix contained contains exempt information under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006) namely, (para 3), information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information.
2. That delegated authority be given to the Executive Director of Development, Neighbourhoods and Regulatory Services in consultation with the Director of Legal, Governance and Human Resource and Chair of Finance and Policy Committee to agree detailed terms of the contract.

47. Strategic Asset Management Plan (*Executive Director of Development, Neighbourhoods and Regulatory Services*)

Type of decision

Key Decision – Test (ii) applies (Forward Plan entry - CE 91/23).

Purpose of report

The purpose of the report was to seek approval for the Asset Management Plan 2023-2028.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Executive Director of Development, Neighbourhoods and Regulatory Services submitted for the Committee's consideration a Strategic Asset Management Plan which sets out how the Council would effectively manage, use and review the assets it holds. The Plan details the Council's asset management policies and practices and raised awareness of property matters to guide and influence all property related activities and serve to ensure that consideration is given to property issues at the strategic level.

The following decision was approved without dissent.

Decision

That the Strategic Asset Management Plan 2023-2028 as submitted, be approved.

48. Progress Update on the Hartlepool Food Partnership: Healthy, Affordable and Sustainable Food for All (*Director of Public Health*)

Type of decision

Non-key Decision.

Purpose of report

To update Finance and Policy Committee on progress on the development of the Hartlepool Food Partnership.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Director of Public Health provided an update report to Members on the progress made in the development of the Hartlepool Food Partnership which included supporting the Fairtrade Town renewal application. The report outlined the important work undertaken in conjunction with partners across the town and the future development of the Partnership.

Members welcomed the report but one Member expressed concern that only two schools and one college had joined the allotment challenge. The Public Health Registrar commented that these were the schools that had approached the partnership and there were likely to be others wishing to take up the allotment challenge. Once a support officer for the partnership had been recruited there would be wider development of the allotment challenge and other elements of the partnership's strategy. Members also welcomed the renewal of the Fairtrade Town award and thanked the officers for their support in this.

The Chair thanked all involved in coming together to move this forward at great speed and all should be congratulated for their work. The involvement of the voluntary sector was also a key element of the delivery.

The following decisions were agreed with no dissent.

Decision

1. That the Committee supports the further participation of relevant Council staff in the Food Partnership work.
2. That the Committee supports the continued funding from Public Health (alongside matched PFC Trust funding and funding from other Voluntary Community Sector sources) to ensure effective implementation of the Food Plan.

49. Council Plan 2021 – 2024 – Progress Update *(Managing Director)*

Type of decision

For information.

Purpose of report

To provide an update to Finance and Policy Committee on the progress made on the delivery of the Council Plan 2021/22 – 2023/24. The report also included the latest version of the Strategic Risk Register.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Managing Director reported on the latest progress made on the delivery of the Council Plan since the last update in July of this year.

The Managing Director, in referencing the demand pressures on the Council, referred to some of the increasing incidents of unacceptable behaviour by service users and residents towards Council Staff. The incidents were becoming a concern for the Executive Leadership Team and security in the Contact Centre had recently been increased. Members shared the Managing Director's concerns.

The update on the Highlight Leisure facility was raised by a Member and the Chair confirmed that work on site had commenced last week and he and other Members and officers had been at a photo shoot on the first day of the works. In relation to the Waterfront Connectivity works, it was clarified that there were only two phases of works and the first had been completed.

Decision

1. That the progress made on the Council Plan 2021-2024 by October 2023 be noted.
2. That the updated Strategic Risk Register as set out in Appendix 1 to the report be noted.

50. Corporate Peer Challenge – 6 Month Progress Review Visit Update *(Managing Director)*

Type of decision

For information.

Purpose of report

To update members on the recent Local Government Association (LGA) Corporate Peer Challenge 6 month progress review visit which took place on 30th August 2023.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Managing Director submitted the six month progress report for Members information and reported that some of the timescales for implementation of the recommendations had been extended on the advice of the Corporate Peer Challenge group. Members welcomed the update report and commented that the process had been very valuable for Members as well as officers.

The following decision was agreed without dissent.

Decision

1. That the feedback from the Local Government Association Corporate Peer Challenge 6 month progress review be noted and referred on to full Council for information.
2. That the progress against the Corporate Peer Challenge action plan as set out in the appendix to the report be noted and the new timeframes proposed be approved.

51. Hartlepool Town Deal Programme (*Executive Director of Development, Neighbourhoods and Regulatory Services*)

Type of decision

For information.

Purpose of report

To inform Finance and Policy Committee on the latest progress made on the progress of the £25m Town Deal programme.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Executive Director of Development, Neighbourhoods and Regulatory Services submitted an update on the progress of the Town Deal projects for the Committee's information. In relation to the recent fire at the Wesley Chapel Development, the Executive Director of Development, Neighbourhoods and Regulatory Services stated that surveyor's reports were still awaited before any confirmation of the impact of the fire could be reported.

The following decision was agreed without dissent.

Decision

That the update report be noted.

52. Corporate Procurement Quarterly Report on Contracts (*Executive Director of Development, Neighbourhoods and Regulatory Services*)

Type of decision

For information.

Purpose of report

To satisfy the requirements of the Council's Contract Procedure Rules with regard to the Finance and Policy Committee:

- Receiving and examining quarterly reports on the outcome of contract letting procedures including those where the lowest/highest price is not payable/receivable.
- Receiving and examining reports on any exemptions granted in respect of the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Executive Director of Development, Neighbourhoods and Regulatory Services provided the Committee with an update report on the Council's recent procurement activity. Appendix C to the report included commercial information in respect of the tenders received and any confidential information relating to Contract Procedure Rule exemptions or contract extensions. The appendix contained exempt information under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006) namely, (para 3) information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

Decision

That the report be noted.

51. Development of Children's Home (*Executive Director of Children and Joint Commissioning Services, Executive Director of Development, Neighbourhoods and Regulatory Services and Director of Finance, IT and Digital*)

Type of decision

Key Decision, Test (i) General Exception Notice applies.

Purpose of report

To enable Members to consider a proposal to increase the Council's children's home capacity.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Executive Director of Children and Joint Commissioning Services reported on a proposal to bring a former children's home in the Council's ownership back into use to provide care for three children and split the building into two homes offering a specialist one bed home and two bed home. The one bed home will be available from May 2024 following completion of the work and registration with OFSTED with works to the two bed home following on from this.

The 'Star Centre' has been office accommodation for the past 20 years and the building required significant internal building work to meet current building standards and Ofsted regulations for children's homes. Planning permission had been granted by Planning Committee on 16 August 2023. The Managing Director, under urgency powers (delegation MD8 in the Constitution refers), agreed that the costs of the urgent works, estimated to be in the region of £45,000, would be funded from a STAR Centre unscheduled maintenance budget. Subject to the decision of Full Council

on 30th November, this funding will then be replaced if the prudential borrowing decision is approved.

The report set out the considerations around bringing the building back into use and the detailed costs involved. The costs of the renovation were estimated to be £700,000. Works were required to bring the property up to current Building Regulation standards with significant works required to upgrade the mechanical and electrical parts of the building as well as installing fire doors to the property. It was proposed to use prudential borrowing to fund the scheme. Based on current interest rates the annual cost of borrowing is forecast to be £44,000 per annum.

The Executive Director of Children and Joint Commissioning Services stated that while the costs may seem high, it was financially advantageous for the Council to progress the scheme. Analysis of placement cost shows that residential care provided by HBC was approximately 30% less than the lowest priced placements in the independent sector.

Members stated their support for the project but expressed their concerns at the costs involved in the works for the building. Some Members reported at the meeting that they had met with the Executive Director of Development, Neighbourhoods and Regulatory Services to discuss the costs and had been reassured that all options had been explored to bring the costs down but the reality of price rises, particularly for materials, had been significant.

Members indicated their wish to discuss some of the issues set out in the confidential appendix to the report. The appendix contained exempt information under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006) namely, (para 1, 2 and 3). Information relating to any individual; likely to reveal the identity of an individual; Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

Decision

That the meeting move into closed session.

52. Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation Order) 2006

Under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public were excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraphs referred to below of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

Minute 53 – Development of Children’s Home – This item contains exempt information under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006 namely (para 1, 2 and 3). Information relating to any individual; likely to reveal the identity of an individual; Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

53. Development of Children’s Home (*Executive Director of Children and Joint Commissioning Services, Executive Director of Development, Neighbourhoods and Regulatory Services and Director of Finance, IT and Digital*)

This item contains exempt information under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006 namely (paras 1, 2 and 3))

Type of decision

Key Decision, Test (i) General Exception Notice applies.

Purpose of report

To enable Members to consider a proposal to increase the Council’s children’s home capacity.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Committee discussed the issues set out in the confidential appendix to the report. The appendix contained exempt information under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006) namely, (para 1, 2 and 3). Information relating to any individual; likely to reveal the identity of an individual; Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

Decision

That the recommendations set out in the report be considered in open session.

The meeting returned to open session.

54. Development of Children’s Home (*Executive Director of Children and Joint Commissioning Services, Executive Director of Development, Neighbourhoods and Regulatory Services and Director of Finance, IT and Digital*)

Type of decision

Key Decision, Test (i) General Exception Notice applies.

Purpose of report

To enable Members to consider a proposal to increase the Council's children's home capacity.

Issue(s) for consideration

Further to Minutes 51 and 53, the Committee considered the recommendations as set out in the report.

The following decision was reached by way of a recorded vote in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 15.5.

Those for: Councillors Paddy Brown, Bob Buchan, Gerard Hall, Brenda Harrison, Jim Lindridge, Sue Little, Andrew Martin-Wells and Melanie Morley.

Those against: None.

Those abstaining: Councillors Moss Boddy and Tom Feeney.

The recommendation was, therefore, carried.

Decision

That the proposal to increase the council's children's home capacity by redeveloping the Star Centre be approved, and the use of Prudential Borrowing of up to £700,000 be referred to Full Council for approval.

55. Any Other Items which the Chairman Considers are Urgent

None.

It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on Monday 22 January, 2024 at 10.00 am in the Civic Centre.

The meeting concluded at 12.25 pm.

H MARTIN

DIRECTOR OF LEGAL, GOVERNANCE AND HUMAN RESOURCES

PUBLICATION DATE: 6 DECEMBER 2023