

Extract of Executive Board Minutes Relevant to the Corporate Policy and Performance Board

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 15th JUNE 2017

RESOURCES PORTFOLIO

EXB8 2017/18 TO 2019/20 CAPITAL PROGRAMME

The Board considered a report of the Operational Director, Finance, which presented the Council's total forecast Capital Programme expenditure and associated funding for 2017/18 to 2019/20.

The report updated Members on the latest position on the Council's Capital Programme, including confirmed and indicative capital grant allocations for 2017/18 and future years. Table 1 provided details of the planned Capital Programme for 2017/18 onwards, based on current information for approved schemes. Table 2 summarised how the Capital Programme would be funded.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) approval be given to the updated Capital Programme for 2017/20, including forecast spend and funding, as set out in Table 1 and Table 2;
- 2) the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, in consultation with the Portfolio holder for Transportation be delegated to agree a detailed implementation programme of Highways and Transportation schemes to be delivered in 2017/18; and
- 3) the proposed use of the ICT rolling Capital Programme for 2017/18 as set out in Appendix A attached to the report, be approved.

Operational
Director - Finance

EXB9 TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2016-17

The Board considered a report of the Operational Director, Finance, on the Treasury Management Annual

Report 2016/17.

The report updated the Board on activities undertaken on the money market as required by the Treasury Management Policy. It provided supporting information on the economic outlook, interest rate forecast, short term borrowing rates, long term borrowing rates, borrowing and investments, budget monitoring, new long term borrowing and treasury management indicators. It was noted that no debt rescheduling had been undertaken during 2016/17.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

EXB10 2016/17 FINANCIAL OUTTURN

The Board considered a report of the Operational Director, Finance, on the final revenue and capital spending position for 2016/17.

The Board was advised that the final accounts for 2016/17 were near completion; the revenue spending for each Department, which would be subject to external audit, was attached at Appendix 1.

It was reported that the budget savings for 2017/18 were implemented in two sets, the first of which consisted of savings of £7.9m approved by Council in December 2016. As a result of some of these savings being implemented early, they have helped to reduce the in-year overspend position, together with budget managers' efforts to limit spend to only essential items in the final quarter of the year.

The report provided details on the key budget variances within the following services:-

- Children and Families;
- Adult Social Services and Prevention and Assessment;
- Community and Environment;
- Economy, Enterprise and Property;
- ICT and Support Services;

- Planning and Transportation; and
- Corporate and Democracy.

Members were advised that the Council's Reserves and Balances had been reviewed in accordance with the Reserves and Balances Strategy. The Council's general reserve stood at £4.8m, which was considered to be at a reasonable level given the financial challenges and spending pressures facing the Council.

It was reported that during the new financial year, a review of earmarked reserves would be undertaken in order to establish those which might be released in order to establish a fund to help with balancing the budget in future years.

With regards to Capital Spending, details of spending against the 2016/17 Capital Programme were attached to the report at Appendix 2. It was noted that spending was £37.2m below the revised Capital Programme of £122m. The reason for this being so far below budget was reported as the delay in making the second payment in connection with the Mersey Gateway bridge project.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the report be noted; and
- 2) the information within the report be taken into account when reviewing the medium term forecast and saving proposals for future years.

EXB11 DISCRETIONARY NON DOMESTIC RATE RELIEF
ACTIVE NATION UK

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, on an application for non-domestic rate relief.

The Board was advised that from 1 April 2017, the Council was responsible for meeting the full cost of all mandatory and discretionary relief granted, as part of the Liverpool City Region 100% Business Rates Retention Pilot Scheme.

An application from Active Nation UK Limited, a registered charity operating nationally, had been received. It

was reported that, as the organisation was a registered charity, there was automatic qualification for 80% mandatory relief. The organisation had applied for 15% discretionary relief, and the costs associated with this were set out in the report.

It was noted that historically, the Board had supported such applications from locally based charities and had rejected those from charities which operated nationally.

RESOLVED: That the request for 15% discretionary rate relief from Active Nation UK Limited for the period 6 February 2017 to 31 March 2019, be refused on the grounds of being a charity which operates nationally.

Strategic Director
- Enterprise,
Community &
Resources

EXB12 DISCRETIONARY BUSINESS RATES RELIEF REQUEST - CONTACT GROUP

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, which contained details of an application for Discretionary Business Rates Relief.

The Board was advised that the Business Rates Retention Scheme was intended to offer councils a financial incentive to promote economic growth. It was reported that the Council has considered such applications on a case by case basis and only awarded such relief where there were exceptional reasons.

The report set out details of the request for Members' consideration.

RESOLVED: That the Contact Group's request for 100% discretionary business rates relief in respect of Unit 17, Mulberry Avenue, Turnstone Business Park, Widnes, on the basis set out in paragraph 3.8 of the report, be rejected.

Strategic Director
- Enterprise,
Community &
Resources

EXB13 DIRECTORATE PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW REPORTS FOR QUARTER 4 2016 - 17

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, on progress against key objectives/milestones and performance targets for the fourth quarter year-end to 31 March 2017.

The Board was advised that the Directorate Performance Overview Report provided a strategic summary

of key issues arising from performance in the relevant quarter for each Directorate, being aligned to Council priorities or functional areas. The Board noted that such information was central to the Council's performance management arrangements, with the Board having a key role in monitoring performance and strengthening accountability.

RESOLVED: That the report and progress and performance information be noted.