

APPENDIX 1

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

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 16 JUNE 2022

EXB3 DISCRETIONARY NON DOMESTIC RATE RELIEF APPLICATIONS

The Board received a report from the Operational Director – Finance, which presented three applications for discretionary non-domestic rate relief, under Section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988, for consideration.

It was noted that under the amended provisions of the Local Government Finance Act 1988, the Council was able to grant discretionary rate relief to any business ratepayer. This relief had previously only been available to organisations that were a registered charity, a community amateur sports club or a not for profit organisation.

The report outlined details of the applications from Feeding Britain, Halton Citizens Advice Bureau and Power in Partnership, in relation to their respective addresses. Appended to the report was the potential annual cost to the Council of granting the discretionary rate relief.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the application for discretionary rate relief for Feeding Britain, in relation to 21 Queens Avenue, Widnes, WA8 8HR, be approved at 15%;
- 2) the application for discretionary rate relief for Halton Citizens Advice Bureau, in relation to units 1-2 Runcorn Shopping Centre, Runcorn, WA7 2BS, be approved at 15%; and
- 3) the application for discretionary rate relief for Power in Partnership, in relation to 5 Queens Avenue, Widnes, WA8 8HR and 108a Royal Avenue, Widnes, WA8 8HN, be approved at 90%.

Operational
Director - Finance

EXB4 2021/22 REVENUE AND CAPITAL FINANCIAL OUTTURN

The Board considered a report from the Operational

Director – Finance, advising of the Council’s overall revenue and capital net spending outturn position for the year 2021/22.

It was reported that the final accounts for 2021/22 were nearing completion. The revenue spending position for each Department was shown in Appendix one; which presented a summary of spending against the operational revenue budget and costs relating to Covid; Appendix two provided detailed figures for each individual Department. In overall terms, the outturn position for the year showed that operational net spend was over the approved budget by £1.195m; this excluded unfunded Covid cost of £1.118m, the costs of which had been met directly from earmarked reserves. Appendix 3 contained the Capital Programme for each Directorate as at 31 March 2022.

The outturn position was a significant improvement on the forecast overspend of £2.998m reported at the end of quarter 3. There were a number of reasons for the improved financial position; these were detailed in the report. The key budget variances for the quarter were outlined for the Board, from the following Departments:

- Children and Families Department;
- Adult Social Care Department;
- Education, Inclusion and Provision;
- Public Health and Public Protection;
- Finance;
- Policy, Planning and Transportation; and
- Community and Environment.

Members were also advised of the financial impact of Covid-19 and a summary of the general Government funding made available to the Council to date was given.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

EXB5 DIRECTORATE PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW REPORTS FOR Q4 2021/22

The Board considered a report of the Operational Director – Policy, People, Performance and Efficiency, on progress against key objectives/milestones and performance targets for the fourth quarter period to 31 March 2022, for the People Directorate (Children and Young People; and Adult Social Care and Health); and the Enterprise,

Community and Resources Directorate.

The Board was advised that the Directorate Performance Overview Report provided a strategic summary of key issues arising from the relevant quarter for each Directorate and was aligned to Council priorities or functional areas. The Board noted that such information was key to the Council's performance management arrangements and Executive Board had a key role in monitoring performance and strengthening accountability. Performance Management would continue to be important in the demonstration of value for money and strengthening accountability.

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

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 14 JULY 2022

LEADER'S PORTFOLIO

EXB15 DISCRETIONARY NON-DOMESTIC RATE RELIEF

The Board received a report from the Operational Director – Finance, which presented an application for discretionary non-domestic rate relief, under Section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988, for consideration.

It was noted that under the amended provisions of the Local Government Finance Act 1988, the Council was able to grant discretionary rate relief to any business ratepayer.

The report outlined details of the application for 15% Discretionary Rate Relief from Widnes Gymnastics Academy, which was a registered Charity. Members were provided with information on the work carried out by them within the community. Appended to the report was the potential annual cost to the Council of granting the discretionary rate relief for 2022-23.

RESOLVED: That the application for 15% Discretionary Rate Relief for Widnes Gymnastics Academy from 21 June 2021, be approved.

Operational
Director - Finance

EXB16 TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22

The Board considered a report from the Operational Director – Finance, which presented the Treasury

Management Annual Report 2021/22.

The report updated Members on the activities undertaken on the money market, as required by the Treasury Management Policy.

Information was provided on the economic outlook, interest rate forecast, borrowing and investments, budget monitoring, policy guidelines and treasury management indicators. The Council's approved *Treasury and Prudential Indicators for 2021-22* were set out in the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and was attached as Appendix one.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

EXB17 2022/23 TO 2024/25 CAPITAL PROGRAMME

The Board considered a report from the Operational Director – Finance, which advised of new capital grant allocations and slippage to capital projects for 2021/22, that had been rolled forward to 2022/23. All the separate elements were presented together and details of the Council's total planned capital programme expenditure and associated funding over the next three years was given.

Table 1 presented the planned Capital Programme for 2022-23 onwards for both Directorates, based on current information for approved schemes, funding available and slippage of scheme expenditure from 2021-22. Table 2 summarised how the capital programme would be funded and Table 3 showed the expected balance of capital receipts over the next 3 years.

It was noted that the capital programme was subject to continuous change as new resources and projects were identified and would be updated throughout the year as revisions were approved by Council.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) Council be recommended to approve the updated Capital Programme for 2022-25, including forecast spend and funding, as set out in Table 1 and Table 2; and
- 2) the Operational Director – Finance, in liaison with the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Urban Renewal, finalise the detailed implementation programme of

Operational
Director - Finance

Highways and Transportation schemes to be delivered in 2022-23.

DEPUTY LEADER'S PORTFOLIO

EXB18 MOOR LANE BUS DEPOT

The Board considered a report from the Operational Director – Economy, Enterprise and Property, which provided an update on negotiations regarding the Moor Lane Bus Depot and sought approval to negotiate a long-term lease.

Two proposals from local businesses were presented to Executive Board in March 2022, where it was agreed that negotiations should progress with Company Y. Further discussions had since taken place with Company Y who have stated they would favour a long-term lease (minimum 30 years) to enable them to secure funds to undertake improvements and invest in the building and to provide certainty for them in the future.

It was noted that granting a long-term lease to Company Y would prevent the Council from exploring alternative uses and options, as outlined in the report to Executive Board in March 2022. However, it was recognised that there were advantages to this arrangement; the building would be utilised for the purpose for which it was intended and it was unlikely to impact on its Listed Building status or planning requirements.

RESOLVED: That the Board authorises officers to progress a long-term lease agreement with Company Y.

Operational
Director -
Economy,
Enterprise &
Property