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CABINET

11 OCTOBER 2021

(7.15 pm - 7.45 pm)

PRESENT Councillors Councillor Mark Allison (in the Chair),
Councillor Agatha Mary Akyigyina, Councillor Natasha Irons,
Councillor Rebecca Lanning, Councillor Owen Pritchard,
Councillor Martin Whelton and Councillor Brenda Fraser

ALSO PRESENT Councillor Anthony Fairclough

Hannah Doody (Chief Executive), Elizabeth Fitzpatrick (Head of School Improvement), Caroline Holland (Director of Corporate Services), Chris Lee (Director of Environment and Regeneration), John Morgan (Interim Director, Community & Housing), Louise Round (Managing Director, South London Legal Partnership and Monitoring Officer) and Amy Dumitrescu (Democracy Services Manager)

ATTENDING Councillor Tobin Byers and Councillor Eleanor Stringer

REMOTELY

Councillor Nick McLean

Ben Stephens (Head of Parking Services), Charles Baker (Waste Strategy and Commissioning Manager), Octavia Lamb (Policy and Research Officer – Labour Group)

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1)

Apologies were received from Councillor Marsie Skeete.
Councillors Byers and Stringer attended remotely.

2 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST (Agenda Item 2)

There were no declarations of interest.

3 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (Agenda Item 3)

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 6 September 2021 are agreed as an accurate record.

4 BUSINESS PLAN (Agenda Item 4)

The Chair announced that items 4, 8 and 9 would be presented together. For the purposes of the minutes they are minuted separately in agenda order.

The Cabinet Member for Finance presented the report, thanking officers for their work on the report which set out the current position on income and expenditure. It was noted that there would be a number of changes to the report in due course. The Cabinet member gave an overview of the report, noting that the current MTFS showed a gap of £1.175m in 2022/23 increasing to £17m in 2023/24. The current assumption was for a 2% Council Tax increase but there had been no precept assumption at this point. Savings would need to be brought forward and a further paper would be presented to Cabinet in December prior to being considered by Scrutiny panels. The Cabinet Member thanked officers and all councillors on the scrutiny panels who would be considering the Business Plan.

RESOLVED:

1. That Cabinet noted the approach to rolling forward the MTFS for 2022-26.
2. 2 That Cabinet confirmed the latest position with regards to savings already in the MTFS
3. That Cabinet agreed the approach to setting a balanced budget using the unmet balance of last year's savings targets as the basis for the setting of targets for 2022-26.
4. That Cabinet agreed the proposed savings targets.
5. That Cabinet agreed the timetable for the Business Plan 2022-26 including the revenue budget 2022/23, the MTFS 2022-26 and the Capital Programme for 2022-26.
6. That Cabinet noted the process for the Service Plan 2022-26 and the progress made so far.

5 IMPLEMENTATION OF EMISSIONS BASED CHARGING PROPOSALS – REVIEW BY CABINET (Agenda Item 5)

At the invitation of the Chair, Councillor Anthony Fairclough spoke on the item, expressing his concerns that the report did not address the remaining two policies of the diesel levy and increased charges in Wimbledon and Raynes Park and requesting that further measures to tackle air pollution and the climate emergency be explored.

The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health thanked Councillor Fairclough for his contributions and presented the report, responding that a clean air pilot zone had been developed in Wimbledon and a strategy on electric vehicle charging was also being developed.

The Cabinet Member for Housing, Regeneration and the Climate Emergency also spoke on the item.

The Director for Environment and Regeneration stated that the Air Quality action plan set out the Council's actions on the issue and noted that the Council was awaiting the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure delivery plan from TfL to enable the council to make further progress on this issue.

The Chair thanked officers for their work and it was

RESOLVED:

A. That Cabinet agreed to no longer proceed with the proposal to implement emissions based parking charges from October 2021.

6 SOUTH LONDON WASTE PARTNERSHIP - INTER AUTHORITY AGREEMENT (Agenda Item 6)

The Cabinet Member for Local Environment and Green Spaces presented the report which outline the procurement process for the contracts, noting that the current contracts were due to expire in August 2022.

The Cabinet Member thanked officers for their work on the report and it was

RESOLVED:

A. Following the procurement process set out below, and subject to approvals through the relevant governance processes in LBs Croydon, Kingston ,and Sutton, that Cabinet approved the South London Waste Partnerships (SLWP) recommendations for the RB Kingston (procuring authority on behalf of SLWP) to award Lot 1 to Bio Collectors , Lot 3.1 to Country Style , Lot 3.2 to Olleco , and Lots 5.1 and 5.2 to SUEZ

B. As approved the contracts will be for an initial period of 4 years and 7 months commencing on 1 September 2022, with possible extensions up to 31 March 2030 for a total contract value of £16m for the full term.

C. That Cabinet delegated authority to the Director of Environment and Regeneration in consultation with the Cabinet Member to agree any future contract extension on behalf of LB Merton.

7 AUTOMATIC NUMBER PLATE RECOGNITION (ANPR) CAMERAS AND PUBLIC SPACE CCTV UPGRADE AND MAINTENANCE (Agenda Item 7)

The Cabinet Member for Partnerships, Public Safety and Tackling Crime thanked officers for their work and presented the report which sought to agree a full upgrade of the CCTV equipment.

The Director of Environment and Regeneration spoke on the item to advise that the report sought approval to appoint the contractor for the maintenance of the network and the capital programme held the funds necessary to upgrade the equipment.

RESOLVED:

A. That Cabinet approved the award of a contract for CCTV and ANPR upgrade including maintenance to the successful bidder identified in Appendix 1 for a term of four years with the option to extend for a further 12 or 24 months.

B. That Cabinet delegated authority to exercise the option to extend this contract to the Director of Environment and Regeneration.

8 FINANCIAL REPORT 2021/22 - PERIOD 4 JULY 2021 (Agenda Item 8)

The Cabinet Member for Finance presented the reports for items 8 & 9 covering periods 5&6. The Cabinet Member thanked officers for their work monitoring and handling budgets across the Council and noted the continuing impact of the pandemic on income and expenditure.

The Director of Corporate Services advised that the current proposed pay award had been rejected and therefore the Council were awaiting further updates from Unions as to whether staff would be balloted for strike action.

RESOLVED:

A. That Cabinet noted the financial reporting data for month 4, July 2021, relating to revenue budgetary control, showing a forecast net adverse variance at year end on net service expenditure of £5.095m, increasing to £8.027m when corporate and funding items are included.

B. That CMT noted the contents of Section 5 and approve the adjustments to the Capital Programme contained in Appendix 5b

That Cabinet noted the contents of Section 5 and Appendix 5b of the report and approve the adjustments to the Capital Programme in the Table below:

	Budget 2021-22	Budget 2022- 23	Narrative
	£	£	
Corporate Services			
Business Systems - Revenues and Benefits	(400,000)	400,000	Re-profiled in line with projected spend
Children, Schools and Families			
Merton Abbey - Capital Maintenance	5,000		Virements - projected spend capital maintenance
Abbotsbury - Capital Maintenance	33,000		Virements - projected spend capital maintenance
Malmesbury - New School	5,000		Virements - projected spend capital maintenance
Sherwood - Capital Maintenance	57,000		Virements - projected spend capital maintenance
William Morris - Capital Maintenance	(57,000)		Virements - projected spend capital maintenance
Raynes Park - Capital Maintenance	15,390		Virements - projected spend capital maintenance
Rutlish - Capital Maintenance	(16,000)		Virements - projected spend capital maintenance
Ricards Lodge - Capital Maintenance	16,000		Virements - projected spend capital maintenance
Unallocated Capital Maintenance Budget	(58,390)		Virements - projected spend capital maintenance
Environment and Regeneration			
Fleet Vehicles - Replacement of Fleet	(251,000)	251,000	Re-profiled in line with projected spend

vehicles			
Total	(651,000)	651,000	

9 FINANCIAL REPORT 2021/22 - PERIOD 5 AUGUST 2021 (Agenda Item 9)

The Cabinet Member for Finance presented the report as minuted within Item 8.

RESOLVED:

A. That Cabinet noted the financial reporting data for month 5, August 2021, relating to revenue budgetary control, showing a forecast net adverse variance at year end on net service expenditure of £4.825m, increasing to £6.461m when corporate and funding items are included. And Cabinet note the change in reporting treatment for covid related business rate losses as outlined in section 3.

B. That Cabinet approved the transfer of £750k revenue budget from the corporate contingency to E&R relating to the unachieved emissions based charging saving target for the current financial year (saving reference ENV2021-04). This transfer and resulting forecast impact has been reflected within this report.

C. That Cabinet noted the contents of Section 5 and Appendix 5b of the report and approve the adjustments to the Capital Programme in the Table below:

	Budget 2021-22	Budget 2022- 23	Budget 2024-25	Narrative
	£	£	£	
Corporate Services				
Works to Other Buildings - Boiler Replacement	(378,680)	378,680		Re-profiled in line with projected spend
Disaster Recovery	332,960			Funded from Corporate Capital Contingency
Corporate Capital Contingency			(462,960)	Moved to 2021-22 for Disaster Recovery
Children, Schools and Families				
Abbotsbury - Capital Maintenance	13,000			Virements - projected spend capital maintenance
Merton Abbey - Capital Maintenance	50,000			Virements - projected spend capital maintenance
Unallocated Capital Maintenance Budget	(63,000)			£63k virement to specific schemes
Harris Academy Wimbledon	130,000			Virements - projected spend
Environment and Regeneration				
Parks Investment - Paddling Pools Option 2	(226,000)			Progressing Option 1
Highways & Footways - Active Travel Fund	(42,170)			Adjustment to TfL Funding
Total	(183,890)	378,680	(462,960)	

10 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC (Agenda Item 10)

The Cabinet agreed not to refer to the exempt information contained in item 7 during consideration of the items and therefore the meeting remained in public.