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CABINET

16 JANUARY 2023

(7.17 pm - 7.43 pm)

PRESENT Councillors Councillor Ross Garrod (in the Chair), Councillor Eleanor Stringer, Councillor Stephen Alambritis, Councillor Billy Christie, Councillor Caroline Cooper-Marbiah, Councillor Brenda Fraser, Councillor Natasha Irons, Councillor Andrew Judge, Councillor Sally Kenny and Councillor Peter McCabe

ALSO PRESENT Zara Bishop (Communications Manager), Hannah Doody (Chief Executive), Fabiola Hickson (Head Of Law, Property and Commercial), Adrian Ash (Interim Executive Director Environment, Civic Pride and Climate), Anthony Hopkins (Head of Library, Heritage and Adult Education Services), Roger Kershaw (Interim Executive Director of Finance and Digital) and Jane McSherry (Executive Director of Children, Lifelong Learning and Families), Robert Cayzer (Interim Head of Cabinet Office), Graham Terry (Assistant Director Adult Social Care), Heather Begg (Commissioning Officer), Amanda Roberts (Policy, Strategy and Partnerships Officer) and Amy Dumitrescu (Democracy Services Manager)

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1)

No apologies were received.

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 5 December 2022 are agreed as an accurate record.

4 MERTON CIVIC PRIDE FUND: SUPPORTING THE VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR 2023/26 - FUNDING OUTCOMES (Agenda Item 4)

The Cabinet Member for Civic Pride presented the report and outlined the funding awards, thanking officers for their work as well as partner organisations. It was noted that funding had been allocated to 18 organisations and the Cabinet Member listed all those receiving funding. Cabinet members spoke of their support of the process and the decision.

RESOLVED:

1. That Cabinet noted the allocation of 24 projects in the voluntary and community sector to receive Civic Pride Fund funding totalling £4,917,252.67.67 over the 2023 - 2026 period.
2. That Cabinet noted the approach to selecting providers.

5 COST OF LIVING UPDATE (Agenda Item 5)

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Services presented the report which gave an overview of the first tranche of funding, noting that a report regarding the second tranche would be brought to cabinet in March 2023.

The Cabinet Members thanked officers and the Cabinet Member for their work.

RESOLVED:

- A. That Cabinet noted the progress in implementing the proposals for the first £1million from the Cost of Living Emergency Support Fund agreed by Cabinet in September 2022.
- B. That Cabinet noted the work on the Cost of Living to date, carried out by the council and its partners
- C. That Cabinet agreed the proposed way forward to develop the council's relationship with the Credit Union as at 3.20
- D. That Cabinet agreed the outlined Cost of Living Action Plan, the ongoing development of this Action Plan as laid out in 3.26 – 3.32, and that a proposal on the remaining allocation of the Cost of Living Support Fund will come to Cabinet in March 2023.

6 WORKING BETTER WITH COMMUNITIES (Agenda Item 6)

The Cabinet Member for Civic Pride presented the report and thanked officers and the Voluntary sector for their contributions. It was noted that the report had been co-designed with local partners and the Cabinet Member outlined the next steps to be undertaken.

RESOLVED:

That Cabinet:

- A. Formally adopted the 'Working Better with Communities' Framework and ways of working.
- B. Noted the proposed process for embedding the Framework into the way in which the council operates

7 MERTON ADULT LEARNING STRATEGY 2023 – 2026 (Agenda Item 7)

The Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning presented the report and thanked officers for their work. It was noted that 1836 learners had attended over 300

courses and at the last OFSTED inspection in 2019 the service had received 6 good judgements.

Cabinet Members spoke to thank the officers and the Cabinet Member and for the focus on green skills and green jobs.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Merton Adult Learning Strategy 2023 – 2026 was reviewed and adopted by Merton Council

8 BUSINESS PLAN 2023-27 (Agenda Item 8)

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Services presented the report, noting that a further set of savings proposals would be considered by Scrutiny panels in the week following the meeting. The Cabinet Member advised that Councils were expected to take the maximum increase and precept however also noted that the majority of households within Council Tax Bands A-D would receive a one-off discount in Merton.

The Interim Executive Director for Finance and Digital advised that officers were continuing to work to deliver savings and that the money from the sale of CHAS had been immediately invested.

Cabinet Members spoke to thank all involved for their work.

RESOLVED:

1. That Cabinet considered and agreed the additional new savings proposals for 2023/24 to 2025/26 (Appendix 2) and refers them to the Overview and Scrutiny Commission on 25 January 2023 for consideration and comment.
2. That Cabinet considered and agreed that the draft unachievable saving proposal of £50k (2020-21 CS11) is removed from the MTFs and referred to the Overview and Scrutiny Commission on 25 January 2023 for consideration and comment.
3. That Cabinet agreed the latest amendments to the draft Capital Programme 2023-2026 and refers them to the Overview and Scrutiny Commission on 25 January 2023 for consideration and comment.
4. That Cabinet noted the details contained in the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement 2023/24 and the implications for Merton's MTFs as summarised in Appendix 1.
5. That Cabinet considered and approved the Council's draft Capital Strategy and Treasury Management Strategy for 2023/24

9 NOVEMBER FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT (Agenda Item 9)

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Services presented the report noting that the net adverse variance had been eliminated and there was now a small net favourable variance.

The Interim Executive Director for Finance and Digital advised that departments continued to work to drive down departmental overspends and this work would continue.

RESOLVED:

A. That Cabinet noted the financial reporting data for month 8, November 2022, relating to revenue budgetary control, showing a forecast net favourable variance at 30 November on service expenditure of £0.183m when corporate and funding items are included.

B. That CMT note 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 2022-23	Budget 2023-24	Narrative
Corporate Services	£	£	
Customer Contact	(160,000)		Vired to a separate project within customer contact
Customer Contacts - Complaints System	160,000		Vired from the general project code for a separate project
Civic Centre - Workplace Design Project	(1)	473,000	Elements of Project funded from Revenue Reserve
Invest to Save- Photovoltaics & Energy Conserv	(50,000)	50,000	Reprofiled in accordance with Projected Spend
Community and Housing			
Disabled Facilities Grant- Project General	181,200		Funding to match Forecast
Children, Schools and Families			
Hollymount Capital Maintenance	(50,000)	50,000	Virement and re-profiling of schemes within the Schools Capital Maintenance programme to provide for new schemes within the approved grant sum and to reflect anticipated and actual final accounts on schemes.
Hatfeild Capital Maintenance	(35,000)	35,000	
Dundonald Capital Maintenance	(5,000)		
Merton Park Capital Maintenance	(14,500)		
Wimbledon Park Capital Maintenance	(50,000)	50,000	
Abbotsbury Capital Maintenance	(10,000)		
Bond Capital Maintenance	(6,000)		
Gorrington Park Capital Maintenance	(4,500)		
St Marks Capital Maintenance	10,000		
Lonesome Capital Maintenance	(19,000)		
Sherwood Capital Maintenance	(40,000)	8,000	
Links capital maintenance	16,000		
Hillcross capital maintenance	16,000		
William Morris Capital Maintenance	(10,000)	10,000	
Perseid Upper Capital Maintenance	(50,000)	50,000	
Cricket Green Capital Maintenance	(7,080)		
Melrose Whatley Avenue Capital Maintenance	56,080		
Perseid Lower - School Expansion	(30,000)	30,000	Reprofiled in accordance with Projected Spend
CSF Schemes - Devolved Formula Capital	728,250		Additional Government Grant to be passported directly to schools
Children's Centres - Bond Road Family Centre	(30,000)	30,000	Reprofiled in accordance with Projected Spend
Children's Centres - Family Hubs	15,000	15,000	New Dof E Grant for Family Hubs

Environment and Regeneration			
On Street Parking - P&D - ANPR Cams Air Qual & Traf Sens	86,000		Scheme Funded from Revenue Contributions
Off Street Parking - P&D - Car Park Upgrades	(130,000)	130,000	Reprofiled in accordance with Projected Spend
CCTV Investment - CCTV Cameras and Infrastructure Upgrade	(497,770)	497,770	Reprofiled in accordance with Projected Spend
CCTV Investment - Willow Lane Bridge Improvements	(27,280)	27,280	Reprofiled in accordance with Projected Spend
CCTV Investment - Brangwyn Cres/Cside East Improvements	(52,430)	52,430	Reprofiled in accordance with Projected Spend
Highways & Footways - Vivacity Monitors	(39,180)		Budget being moved to revenue along with S106 funding
Mitcham Area Regeneration - Pollards Hill Bus	(50,000)	50,000	Reprofiled in accordance with Projected Spend

Shelter			
Sports Facilities - Leisure Centre Plant & Machine	(50,000)	50,000	Matchfunding for playzone £50k 22/23 and £50k 23/24
Total	323,790	1,135,480	

10 MICROSOFT ENTERPRISE AGREEMENT (Agenda Item 10)

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Services presented the report.

RESOLVED:

- A. That Cabinet approved that the Contract for the Microsoft Enterprise Architecture Licences is awarded to Supplier A
- B. That Cabinet approved that the Microsoft Azure Hosting Cloud Solution Provider (CSP) is bundled with the contract award to Supplier A

11 SOCIAL VALUE (Agenda Item 11)

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Services presented the report noting that new officers were being recruited to enhance this area and that additional training was also being undertaken.

RESOLVED:

- A. That Cabinet noted the progress made with the opportunities available to London Borough of Merton through the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012.
- B. Any relevant observations or actions following discussion of this report be recognised or undertaken by Commercial Services with further updates given to CMT/LSG quarterly or as requested

12 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC (Agenda Item 12)

The Chair advised that the meeting was able to proceed entirely in public and therefore this item was not required