

Agenda Item 3

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CABINET

8 FEBRUARY 2021

(7.15 pm - 7.46 pm)

PRESENT: Councillors Councillor Mark Allison (in the Chair),
Councillor Agatha Mary Akyigyina, Councillor Mike Brunt,
Councillor Tobin Byers, Councillor Caroline Cooper-Marbiah,
Councillor Natasha Irons, Councillor Rebecca Lanning,
Councillor Owen Pritchard, Councillor Marsie Skeete,
Councillor Eleanor Stringer and Councillor Martin Whelton

ALSO PRESENT: Councillors Nigel Benbow and Peter Southgate

Ged Curran (Chief Executive), Hannah Doody (Director of Community and Housing), Caroline Holland (Director of Corporate Services), Chris Lee (Director of Environment and Regeneration), Louise Round (Managing Director, South London Legal Partnership and Monitoring Officer), Anthony Hopkins (Head of Library, Heritage and Adult Education Services), Octavia Lamb (Policy and Research Officer (Labour Group)) and Louise Fleming (Democracy Services Manager)

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1)

No apologies for absence 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 18 January 2021 are agreed as an accurate record.

Before moving to the items of business, the Chair thanked all the Council and NHS staff involved in the enhanced testing exercise in Pollards Hill following the late notification of a case of the South African variant in Merton. He thanked residents for their efforts in reducing the number of cases by complying with the Government's rules and encouraged residents in Pollards Hill to get a test. He advised that he had called on the Government to ensure that isolation payments to those being required to self-isolate are automatic in these cases; and to address the miscommunication over the specific area which had been affected. He placed on record his thanks to all involved for their efforts in the cold weather, demonstrating an amazing community spirit.

At the invitation of the Chair, the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health echoed the tribute to the staff and residents in the Pollards Hill area for their efforts in the enhanced testing exercise.

The Cabinet Member for Housing, Regeneration and the Climate Emergency and Pollards Hill ward Member thanked all involved, but particularly paid tribute to the Commonsides Trust and the New Horizon Centre.

The Chair thanked all the ward Members for their community leadership.

The Chief Executive echoed the comments already made and extended his thanks to the MP for Mitcham and Morden, Bob Whitehead from the Metropolitan Police, Dr Mohan Sekeram, Naomi Martin of the Commonsides Trust and Suzanne Hudson of the Citizens' Advice in Merton.

4 FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT 2020/21 - DECEMBER 2020 (Agenda Item 4)

The Cabinet Member for Finance presented the report which set out the financial position of the Council for December 2020. He thanked the officers for their work on the report and budget monitoring. He highlighted the increased adverse variance from the previous month, in part due to the impact of the current lockdown on Environmental and Regeneration budgets. He drew the Cabinet's attention to page 17 of the report which set out the Covid-19 cost summary which clearly showed that the Council was over £9m worse off as a result of the work done to support communities in the pandemic which had not been properly funded by the Government.

The Director of Corporate Services advised that there was further income to come and would be calculated for the April return; there were some adjustments to the capital programme proposed and a decrease in Community Infrastructure Levy monies being received and therefore a review of how those monies were collected would be undertaken to address.

The Chair thanked the Cabinet Member and the Director for their contributions.

RESOLVED:

1. That the financial reporting data for month 9, December 2020, relating to revenue budgetary control, showing a forecast net adverse variance at year-end of £4.3m be noted.
2. That the contents of Section 4 and Appendix 5b of the report be noted and the amendments to the Programme contained in the Table below be approved:

	Budget 2020-21	Budget 2021-22	Budget 2022-23	Budget 2023-24	Narrative
	£	£		£	
Corporate Services					

Housing Company*	(2)	(6,716,750)	(10,557,690)	(6,000,000)		Removal of Budget
Financial System	(1)			(700,000)	700,000	Re-profiled in line with projected spend
Community and Housing						
Disabled Facilities Grant	(1)	(75,000)			75,000	Re-profiled in line with projected spend
Learning Disability Affordable Housing	(1)	(75,000)	75,000			Re-profiled in line with projected spend
Children, Schools and Families						
Abbotsbury - Capital Maintenance	(1)	28,000				Virement from unallocated budget
Cricket Green - Capital Maintenance	(1)	25,000				Virement from unallocated budget
Melbury SMART Centre - Capital Maintenance	(1)	32,000				Virement from unallocated budget
Malmesbury - Capital Maintenance	(1)	16,000	33,000			Virement from unallocated budget
Unallocated Capital Maintenance	(1)	(101,000)	(33,000)			Virement to new schemes
Environment and Regeneration						
ANPR Cameras Supporting Enforcement of School Streets	(1)	(486,000)	486,000			Re-profiled in line with projected spend
Active Travel Fund	(1)	240,000	150,000			New TfL Funding
Mitcham Area Regeneration - Canons Parks for the People	(1)	(697,120)	697,120			Re-profiled in line with projected spend
Parks - Canons Parks for the People	(1)	(311,350)	311,350			Re-profiled in line with projected spend
Resurface Tennis Courts Wimbledon Park	(1)	(75,440)	75,440			Re-profiled in line with projected spend
Total		(8,196,660)	(8,762,780)	(6,700,000)	775,000	

5 AWARD OF MAIN SERVICES CONTRACT - MERTON ADULT LEARNING (Agenda Item 5)

The Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Skills presented the report and thanked the officers involved for their work. She outlined the purpose of the report and gave an overview of the contract to provide adult learning services in the borough, which would be important in reskilling residents as part of the pandemic recovery.

The Cabinet Member for Housing, Regeneration and the Climate Emergency welcomed the report and the improvements to the important service following the move to a commissioned model.

The Joint Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Performance, Recovery and the Local Economy also thanked the officers involved and the external funding received from the GLA and the ESFA; and welcomed the report which was important and timely for the pandemic recovery.

The Chair thanked all involved, including the Joint Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children and Education and welcomed the report.

RESOLVED:

1. That the award of the main contract for Merton Adult Learning services be awarded to Supplier E, on an initial 3 year term from 1 August 2021, with

extension provision of up to a further 2 years. The identities of the preferred and unsuccessful bidders are set out in Appendix A. The contract values for the proposed term are set out in Appendix B.

2. That the authority to exercise the extension provision is delegated to the Director of Community & Housing, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Skills, and subject to continued funding and satisfactory supplier performance.

6 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC (Agenda Item 6)

Cabinet noted the information in the exempt appendix at item 7 and did not refer to it during the consideration of item 5 and therefore the meeting remained open.

7 AWARD OF MAIN SERVICES CONTRACT - MERTON ADULT LEARNING - EXEMPT APPENDICES (Agenda Item 7)

Cabinet noted the information in the exempt appendix at item 7 and did not refer to it during the consideration of item 5. The decision is set out under item 5 above.