

Agenda Item 3

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CABINET

17 JANUARY 2022

(7.15 pm - 7.34 pm)

PRESENT Councillors Councillor Mark Allison (in the Chair),
Councillor Rebecca Lanning, Councillor Owen Pritchard and
Councillor Martin Whelton

ALSO PRESENT Councillor Peter Southgate
Hannah Doody (Chief Executive) and Amy Dumitrescu
(Democracy Services Manager)

ATTENDING Councillor Agatha Akigyina, Councillor Brenda Fraser, Councillor
REMOTELY Natasha Irons and Councillor Eleanor Stringer

Caroline Holland (Director Corporate Services), John Morgan
(Interim Director Community and Housing), Chris Lee (Director
Environment and Regeneration), Jane McSherry (Director
Children Schools and Families), Louise Round (Managing
Director South London Legal Partnership), Matt Burrows (Head
of Communications), Tara Butler (Deputy Head Future Merton)
and Octavia Lamb (Policy and Research Officer – Labour Group)

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1)

Apologies were received from Councillor Marsie Skeete.
Councillors Akyigyina, Fraser, Irons 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 December were agreed as
an accurate record.

4 ADOPTION OF MERTON'S HOUSING DELIVERY STRATEGY (Agenda Item 4)

The Chair began the meeting by paying tribute to the work of former Councillor Tobin
Byers.

The Cabinet Member for Housing, Regeneration and the Climate Emergency
presented the report on increasing the supply and quality of new homes. Following
Cabinet approval in July 2021 to consult on the draft strategy, a public consultation
had taken place in 2021. The Cabinet Member thanked all those who had responded
to this. The report had looked at a number of streams including, need, density,

specialist homes and using and improving existing stock. The draft strategy was being introduced in addition to other policies and strategies including the Local Plan, the Climate Strategy and action plan and the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy.

It was noted that the introduction of a HRA had been extensively examined however was not viable at this stage. The establishment of a Housing Investment Fund was also being investigated.

The Cabinet Member thanked the consultants and staff who had contributed to the report and it was RESOLVED:

1. That Cabinet adopted Merton's Housing Delivery Strategy and action plan.

5 YOUR MERTON (Agenda Item 5)

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Performance, Recovery and the Local Economy presented the report requesting approval for the new strategic priorities and framework for the next 8 years. It was noted that further work would be required and requested an annual update to be provided to Council.

The Chair thanked all staff involved and it was RESOLVED:

1. That Cabinet approved the Strategic Framework comprising an ambition for Merton, strategic priorities, guiding principles and delivery objectives as set out in Appendix 1.
2. That Cabinet noted the immediate response to the key themes emerging from the Your Merton engagement as set out in Appendix 2.
3. That Cabinet noted that further work will take place within the council and with partners on the delivery objectives and the plans to deliver on these objectives and that an update will be provided to Cabinet in June 2022.
4. That Cabinet agreed that an annual update will be provided to Full Council on progress and updated plans.
5. That Cabinet agreed the Strategic Framework set out in Appendix 1 will be communicated to residents, businesses and partners, with content, design and communication channels adjusted to reflect the different audiences through the appropriate channels in January 2022.

6 BUSINESS PLAN 2022-26 (Agenda Item 6)

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Performance, Recovery and the Local Economy thanked Tobin Byers for his work as the previous Cabinet Member for Finance and presented the report and recommendations. It was noted that further updates were expected in February.

The Director of Corporate Services advised that there were a number of potential changes which were still unconfirmed including details of the final settlement and results of meetings with the DFE in relation to the DSG.

It was noted that the Business Plan was currently going through the Scrutiny process.

RESOLVED:

1. That Cabinet agreed the latest amendments to the draft Capital Programme 2022-2026 and referred them to the Overview and Scrutiny Commission on 20 January 2022 for consideration and comment.
2. That Cabinet noted the details contained in the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement 2022-26 and the implications for Merton's MTFS as summarised in Appendix 1.
3. That Cabinet considered and approved the Council's draft Capital Strategy and Treasure Management Strategy for 2022/23.

7 FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT - PERIOD 8 NOVEMBER 2021
(Agenda Item 7)

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Performance, Recovery and the Local Economy presented the report, noting that the outturn variance had increased to £7.358 million, expecting that figures would be updated in the coming months.

The Director of Corporate Services advised that the cost of Covid had marginally reduced due to an improvement in Business rates collection however this was still less than pre-pandemic figures which would affect the MTFS going forward. An update would be included within the February report.

RESOLVED:

- A. That Cabinet note the financial reporting data for month 8, November 2021, relating to revenue budgetary control, showing a forecast net adverse variance at year end on net service expenditure of £5.008m, increasing to £7.358m when corporate and funding items are included, a decrease of £1.177m compared to last month
- B. That CMT note the contents of Section 5 and approve the adjustments to the Capital Programme contained in Appendix 5b and 5d, subject to the receipt of project plans for those schemes where full slippage has been requested That Cabinet note the contents of Section 5, Appendix 5b and 5d of the report and approve the adjustments to the Capital Programme in the Table below:

	Budget 2021-22	Budget 2022-23	Budget 2023-24	Budget 2024-25	Narrative
Corporate Services	£	£		£	
Westminster Coroners Court		402,000			Increase in estimate orig. estimate 5 years old
Community and Housing					
Disabled Facilities Grant - General	200,000			(200,000)	Virement to fund projected outturn
Major projects – Social Care H – Learning Disability Aff Housing	(50,000)				2021-22 Budget moved to Rev. for Feas studies
Children, Schools and Families					
Haslemere – Capital Maintenance	(160,000)	160,000			Re-profiled in accordance with projected spend
Harris Morden – Harris Morden Community Sports Pitch	(70,000)	70,000			Re-profiled in accordance with projected spend
Raynes Park – Capital Maintenance	(21,000)	21,000			Re-profiled in accordance with projected spend
Ricards Lodge – Capital Maintenance	(21,610)	21,610			Re-profiled in accordance with projected spend
Rutlish – Capital Maintenance	(20,000)	20,000			Re-profiled in accordance with projected spend
Melrose Whatley Avenue Expansion	(150,000)	150,000			Re-profiled in accordance with projected spend
Melrose School Expansion	252,020				Virement to cover expected outturn
Unallocated SEN Expansion Budget	(20,000)	(232,020)			Virement to cover expected outturn
Youth Provision – Pollards Hill Digital Divide	(160,000)	160,000			Re-profiled in accordance with projected spend

	Budget 2021-22	Budget 2022-23	Budget 2023-24	Budget 2024-25	Narrative
Environment and Regeneration					
Off Street Parking - P&D - Car Park	(60,000)	60,000			Re-profiled in accordance with
Highways & Footways - Highway	(684,000)	684,000			Re-profiled in accordance with

Highways & Footways - TfL Principal Roads	(6,600)	0			TfL adjustment to funding
Highways & Footways - Culverts	(488,430)	488,430			Re-profiled in accordance with projected spend
Cycle Route Improvements - Morden	(107,220)	107,220			Re-profiled in accordance with
Cycle Route Improvements - Cycle	(100,000)	100,000			Re-profiled in accordance with
Mitcham Area Regeneration - Elmwood Centre Hub	(65,000)	65,000			Re-profiled in accordance with
Wimbledon Area Regeneration -	(100,000)	0			Virement of SCIL Money to
Wimbledon Area Regeneration - Wimbledon Hill Rd	154,850	0			Utilising SCIL & NCIL Funding
Wimbledon Area Regeneration -	(80,000)	80,000			Re-profiled in accordance with
Morden Area Regeneration - Crown	(75,000)	75,000			Re-profiled in accordance with
Parks Investment - Wimb. Park	(150,440)	150,440			Re-profiled in accordance with
Parks Investment - Wimb. Park Water	(226,000)	226,000			Re-profiled in accordance with
TfL Unallocated Budget	(495,250)				Removal of unawarded Estimated TfL Allocation
Total	(2,703,680)	2,808,680	0	(200,000)	

C. That Cabinet approved the use of £750k from the Your Merton reserve to fund the following projects over the financial years 2021/22 and 2022/23:

Department	Your Merton Project	£
Corporate Services	Communicating our improvements to residents &	125.00
Corporate Services	Cultural improvements to Merton staff and their	140.00
E&R	Don't Mess with Merton	415.00
E&R	Safety of Women and Girls	15.00
CSF	Youth Fund	10.00
CSF	Apprenticeship Coordinator – Vulnerable Groups	45.00
	Total	750.00

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