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THE CABINET

MEETING, 7TH MARCH, 2022

Councillor Cox	Leader's Portfolio
Councillor Mrs. Fairclough	Deputy Leader's Portfolio
Councillor Haslam	Highways and Transport
Councillor Dean	Stronger Communities
Councillor Muslim	Environmental Service Delivery
Councillor Morgan	Adult Social Care
Councillor Baines	Wellbeing
Councillor Hewitt	Strategic Housing and Planning

Other Members in Attendance

Councillor Radcliffe
Councillor Eckersley-Fallon
Councillor Peel
Councillor McKeon (as
deputy for Councillor
Zaman)
Councillor Donaghy
Councillor Haworth
Councillor Hayes
Councillor Brady

Officers

Ms. S. Johnson	Deputy Chief Executive
Ms. B. Brown	Director of People
Mr. G. Brough	Director of Place Development
Ms. R. Tanner	Managing Director – Bolton Integrated Care Partnership
Mr. J. Dyson	Director of Place Services

Ms. L. Donkin	Consultant in Public Health
Ms. H. Gorman	Borough Solicitor
Ms. E. Brook	Assistant Director Strategy and Partnerships
Mr. P. Rimmer	Assistant Director Revenues, Benefits and Customer Services
Mrs. V. Ridge	Democratic Services Manager

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Galloway, Sanders, Walsh, Warren and Zaman.

Councillor Cox in the Chair.

32. MINUTES

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 7th February, 2022 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

33. MINUTES OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY

The minutes of the meeting of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority held on 28th January and 11th February, 2022 were submitted for information.

Resolved – That the minutes be noted.

34. CORPORATE PLAN AND DASHBOARD – QUARTER 2 UPDATE

The Deputy Chief Executive submitted a report which provided members with an updated Corporate Performance Plan and Dashboard for the Council for Quarter 2 2021/2022.

The report provided a summary of how the Council was performing corporately, against its agreed priorities and key performance indicators for 2019/2021 and whilst a new Corporate Plan was developed, progress would continue to be

monitored against existing priorities. It was also stated that, in line with the implementation of a Digital Strategy, as well as becoming an intelligence-led Council, the Plan and Dashboard had also been moved to a virtual environment.

Members were advised that in total eighteen priorities were reported quarterly for the Corporate Plan and eleven of these had achieved a green RAG rating and no priorities had been given a red RAG rating.

Table One in the report provided a breakdown of RAG ratings within the Corporate Plan for Quarter 2 and Table Two provided an overview of Direction of Travel for each Key Performance Indicator within the Corporate Dashboard.

A copy of the Corporate Plan and Dashboard for Quarter 2 for 2021/2022 was detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

Resolved – That the report be noted and the data on life expectancy, on a ward basis, be shared with members.

35. BUSINESS RATES RELIEF SCHEMES 2022

Councillor Haslam declared an interest in the undermentioned item, as he has a business in the town centre, and left the meeting during consideration and determination thereof.

The Deputy Chief Executive submitted a report which sought members approval for the implementation of the new Business Rates Relief Schemes for 2022.

Members were advised that, in recent months, the Government had announced new business support measures in the form of relief on business rates bills which were as follows:-

- Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Business Rates Relief Scheme;
- Extension of Transitional Relief and Supporting Small Business Relief schemes in 2022/2023; and
- Covid-19 Additional Relief Fund (CARF).

With regard to the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Business Rates Relief Scheme, the report advised that this was a business rates relief specific measure that would need to be implemented as part of the 2022/2023 annual billing process. It was stated that the guidance for this scheme was published on 21st December, 2021 and it provided for a 50% rates relief in 2022/2023 to be granted on occupied hereditaments that were wholly or mainly being used:-

1. as shops, restaurants, cafes, drinking establishments, cinemas or live music venues;
2. for assembly and leisure; or
3. as hotels, guest and boarding premises or self-catering accommodation.

The report informed members that for the 2022/2023 Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Relief Scheme it was not the case that all businesses eligible in 2021/2022 would be eligible in 2022/2023 due to the introduction of a £110,000 national cash cap per business in addition to subsidy limits. As a result and given the limited time to verify eligibility before annual billing, due to the need to implement two new grant schemes, all businesses would be provided with eligibility information and how to apply as part of the 2022/2023 annual billing process. It was estimated that over 1,000 businesses would benefit from this relief.

With regards to the extension of Transitional Relief and Supporting Small Businesses Relief Schemes, it was stated that this was also a business rates specific measure that would need to be implemented as part of the 2022/2023 annual billing process. Members were advised that transitional relief scheme was introduced in 2017 to help those ratepayers who were faced with higher bills as a result of the revaluation, however, the scheme was due to end on 31st March, 2022 and as a result a small number of ratepayers would face a jump to their full rates bill from 1st April, 2022. In view of this, the government announced that it would extend the current transitional relief scheme and the supporting small business scheme in 2022/2023 via the granting of a Local Discount. It was explained that the scheme would restrict increases in bills

to 15% for businesses with small properties (up to and including £20,000 rateable value) and 25% for medium properties (up to and including £100,000 rateable value). It was estimated that approximately 65 businesses would benefit from this relief.

In terms of the Covid-19 additional relief fund (CARF), members were advised that the Government announced in March, 2021 plans to provide an additional business rates support package, worth £1.5 billion, to support businesses in England affected by Covid-19 but not eligible for existing support linked to business rates. It was explained that Bolton's funding amounted to £5,697,827 and, as with any discretionary scheme the greatest challenge was understanding what level of demand there would be against these funds, whilst awarding the relief as quickly as possible. It was therefore proposed that an application period began from 8th March, 2022 and run throughout that month. This would enable the level of demand to be better established and assist in calculating the actual relief that could be awarded. It was stated that the percentage(s) being proposed to be granted would then be reported for approval prior to the awards being made in April, 2022.

In terms of the financial implications, the report advised that the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Relief and Extension of Transitional Relief and Supporting Small Business Relief schemes were fully funded by Government and so there were no financial implications for the Council. With regards to the CARF scheme, this was a discretionary scheme for which a maximum funding amount of £5,697,827 was being provided and therefore it was essential that the scheme did not commit to total awards greater than this value.

Resolved – (i) That the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Business Rates Relief scheme, as set out in the report, be approved.

(ii) That the Extension of Transitional Relief and Supporting Small Business Relief scheme, as set out in the report, be approved.

(iii) That the opening of the Covid-19 Additional Relief Fund (CARF) for applications from 8th March, 2022, as set out in the report, be approved.