

## **THE CABINET**

### **MEETING, 7<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2016**

Councillor Morris	Executive Cabinet Member
Councillor Mrs. Thomas	Executive Cabinet Member
Councillor Peel	Executive Cabinet Member

#### Cabinet Members

Councillor J. Byrne	Culture, Youth and Sport
Councillor D. Burrows	Neighbourhood Services, Police and Community Safety
Councillor Chadwick	Transport, Special Projects and Skills
Councillor Sherrington	Procurement, Housing and Highways
Councillor Zaman	Development and Regeneration and Human Resources
Councillor A. Ibrahim	Adult Safeguarding and Adult Social Care
Councillor Cunliffe	Education, Schools, Safeguarding and Looked After Children
Councillor Watters	Social Inclusion, Voluntary Sector and Community Services

#### Other Members in Attendance

Councillor Donaghy  
Councillor Murray  
Councillor Kellett  
Councillor Greenhalgh  
Councillor Mrs. Fairclough  
Councillor Haslam  
Councillor Cox  
Councillor Hayes

Councillor Hornby

Officers

Mrs. M. Asquith	Chief Executive
Mr. J. Daly	Director of People
Mr. S. Young	Director of Place
Mr. D. Herne	Director of Public Health
Mrs. H. Gorman	Borough Solicitor
Ms. S. Johnson	Borough Treasurer
Ms. S. Long	CCG
Mrs. V. Ridge	Democratic Services Manager

Councillor Morris in the Chair.

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Adia.

**16. MINUTES**

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2016 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

**17. MINUTES OF THE COMBINED AUTHORITY**

The minutes of the meetings of the Combined Authority held on 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2016 were submitted for information.

**18. BUDGET UPDATE 2017-2019**

The Borough Treasurer submitted a report which outlined the updated Financial Forecast for 2017/2018 and 2018/2019 and sought approval to progress the initial budget options presented therein.

The report recommended that £30 million of the Council's revenue reserves be used to cash flow the 2017-2019 budgets which would result in reductions amounting to £12.5 million. Information was provided in the report in relation to the following, viz:-

- The Government spending plans and the acceptance of the offer of a four year settlement;
- The collection and retention of business rates;
- The potential to increase council tax by 2% for Adult Social Care and 1.99 % general council tax increase;
- Other key assumptions;
- The current situation with reserves;
- The budget strategy;
- Impact on staffing;
- Communication and consultation; and
- The budget process and timetable.

In terms of the budget strategy, members were reminded that Cabinet at its meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2016 re-affirmed the Council's priorities as protecting the most vulnerable in the Borough and supporting economic development.

It was stated that taking everything into account the proposed budget strategy was as follows:-

- To continue with a two year strategy covering 2017/2018 and 2018/2019;
- To re-allocate £30 million revenue reserves over those two years; and
- To monitor the impact of the economic development activity in the Borough and to increase Council Tax and Business Rates yields and to mitigate against savings if required in 2019/2020.

This resulted in a reduction over the two year budget cycle of £12.5 million and Appendix A to the report contained the Medium Term Financial Strategy covering the two year budget period. The Council's controllable budget in 2016/2017 was £214 million. It was explained that the £12.5 million reductions

had been allocated departmentally as set out below which left a controllable budget of £201.5 million:-

- People - £4.5 million
- Public Health - £2.0 million
- Place - £3.0 million
- Chief Executive's/Corporate - £3.0 million

Part of the report was considered in the confidential part of the meeting (Minute 20 refers) and provided the individual budget options and associated staffing impact. It was stated that it was not possible to accurately identify how many posts would be lost until detailed proposals were developed, however, based upon the options outlined in Appendix B up to 239 posts might be affected.

The Council was intending to commence formal consultation immediately on the overall budget proposals with a view to reporting back to Cabinet in February, 2017. Consultation would include:-

- formal consultation with the Trades Unions through the Single Local Joint Consultative Committee, supported by Departmental Joint Consultative Committees, for the duration of the consultation period;
- updates via Staff News and Bob explaining the overall budget position and pointing to the different ways they could respond to the consultation;
- specific comments/views would be sought from 500 targeted households and one organised briefing event would be held explaining the budget, the options put forward and again seeking people's views; and
- targeted presentation/discussions with specific groups such as the Third Sector Forum, Business Ratepayers and other groups as appropriate.

Resolved – (i) That the updated financial position for the period 2017/2018 be noted;

- (ii) That the revenue reserves totalling £30 million be used to cash flow the revenue budget for the financial years 2017/2018 and 2018/2019; and
- (iii) That the initial proposals for 2017/2018 and 2018/2019 as outlined in the report of £12.5 million be formally agreed for consultation.

## **19. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Resolved – That, in accordance with Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as specified in paragraphs 1 and 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act; and that it be deemed that, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in their exemption outweighs the public interest in their disclosure.

## **20. BUDGET UPDATE AND SAVINGS OPTIONS 2017-2019**

The Borough Treasurer submitted a report which outlined the strategic savings proposals to meet the Financial Forecast for 2017/2018 and 2018/2019.

A summary of the proposals for each department, in line with the principles set out in the previous report (minute 18 refers) were detailed in the report.

A full strategic equality impact assessment had been undertaken and was considered by members during their deliberations.

Resolved – The Cabinet agreed, as a basis for consultation, the budget options to deliver the two year budget for 2017-2019 as set out in the report and the Strategic Equality Impact Assessment to enable the delivery of the budget.

## **21. GREATER MANCHESTER TRANSFORMATION FUND PROPOSAL**

The Director of People submitted a report which sought member's approval for the submission of the Greater Manchester Transformation Fund proposal which had been developed in partnership by Bolton Council and NHS Bolton.

The report provided details in relation to Bolton's 5 Year Plan for Reform (Locality Plan) and the Greater Manchester Transformation Fund proposal template.

Resolved – That the submission of the Greater Manchester Transformation Fund proposal be agreed.