

THE CABINET

MEETING, 5TH DECEMBER, 2016

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

Cabinet Members

Councillor A. Ibrahim	Adult Safeguarding and Adult Social Care
Councillor D. Burrows	Neighbourhood Services, Police and Community Safety
Councillor Chadwick	Transport, Special Projects and Skills
Councillor Zaman	Development and Regeneration and Human Resources
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 Greenhalgh
Councillor Mrs. Fairclough
Councillor Haslam
Councillor Cox
Councillor Hayes
Councillor Hornby

Officers

Mrs. M. Asquith	Chief Executive
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Mr. J. Daly	Director of People
Mr. D. Herne	Director of Public Health
Ms. S. Johnson	Borough Treasurer
Ms. J. Robinson	Strategic Lead for Early Years
Mrs. V. Ridge	Democratic Services Manager

Councillor Morris in the Chair.

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors J. Byrne and Murray.

22. MINUTES

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 7th November, 2016 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

23. MINUTES OF THE COMBINED AUTHORITY AND THE JOINT COMBINED AUTHORITY AND AGMA EXECUTIVE BOARD

The minutes of the meetings of the Combined Authority and the Joint Combined Authority and AGMA Executive Board held on 28th October, 2016 were submitted for information.

24. COUNCIL TAX BASE FOR 2017/2018

The Borough Treasurer submitted a report which set out the calculation of the tax base to be used in the calculation of the Council Tax and Business Rates for 2017/2018 (the tax base for tax setting purposes).

The report indicated a tax base before adjustment for losses on collection of 75,992 band D equivalents.

The Council needed to determine its collection rate for the year, which took account of collection difficulties. Based on an assessment of past collection performance, this had been

maintained at 98% and resulted in a tax base for tax setting purposes of 74,472 band D equivalents which represented an increase of 4.3% on the 2016/2017 tax base.

Resolved – That the report of the Borough Treasurer for the calculation of the Council's tax base for tax setting purposes for the year 2017/2018 be agreed and that the Council Tax base for the year 2017/2018 shall be 74,472 band D equivalents.

25. AGMA BUSINESS RATES POOLING

The Borough Treasurer submitted a report which sought members' approval to the Council entering into a pooled business rates arrangement with AGMA and adjoining authorities, should this be deemed appropriate.

Members were advised that the Local Government Resource Review (LGRR) introduced the option for Local Authorities to pool their Business Rates. The advantage of this arrangement was that monies which might have been paid over to Central Government could be retained within the pool. However, the risk with pooling was that if an Authority lost a large amount of Business Rates within a year then it would be hit by a safety net which would be triggered when there was a loss of more than 7.5%. In a pooling arrangement the loss of income above this was supported by the pool and not an additional payment from Central Government. Therefore, in establishing a pooling arrangement it was important to establish that no Authorities were at risk of triggering a safety net claim.

In view of the above, a detailed analysis of the projected business rate position for AGMA authorities, plus Cheshire East and Cheshire West and Chester had been undertaken which showed that no authorities were anticipating breaching the safety net in 2017/2018. Therefore, an application had been submitted to the Department for Communities and Local Government on the pooling of Business Rates and each Authority would need to make a decision on whether it wanted to be part of the pool within 28 days of the Local Government Financial Settlement.

In conclusion, members were advised that any monies gained as part of the pooling arrangement would be retained by the pool for investment within Greater Manchester (via the existing governance structures of the Combined Authority) and the other Authorities involved. It was anticipated that the pool would be administered by Manchester City Council.

Resolved – That approval be given to the Council entering into a pooled business rates arrangement with other AGMA and adjoining authorities for 2017/2018.

26. 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 items of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as specified in paragraph 1 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.

27. REVIEW OF EARLY YEARS AND CHILDCARE, CHILDREN'S CENTRES AND FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES – POST CONSULTATION REPORT

The Director of People submitted a report which set out the results of the consultation on proposals to review, re-design and restructure Early Years and Childcare, Children's Centres and Family Support Services and took into account a reduction in funding from 2017 onwards and sought members' approval to implement the final proposals.

The report outlined the feedback from the consultation process and a summary of the responses to the proposals was set out in full at Appendix 3b to the report. The formal responses for Unison and GMB were also set out in Appendix 2a to the report and the petitions which had been received were detailed in Appendix 3c to the report.

Members were advised that following the consultation some changes had been made to the final proposals and these were summarised in the report.

It was stated that, if the final proposals were approved, implementation of the new service, including any recruitment and selection processes, would be completed by 31st March, 2017.

The relevant Equality Impact Assessment had been undertaken and this was detailed in Appendix 4 to the report.

Resolved – (i) That the final proposals in relation to the review of Early Years and Childcare, Children's Centres and Family Support Services be approved; and

(ii) That, subject to the approval of the Head of Paid Service in consultation with the Leader, implementation of the new structure, including details of voluntary redundancy arrangements and if required, consequential redundancy selection, be delegated to the Chief Executive and the Director of People.

28. SAVINGS AND EFFICIENCIES REVIEW OF ACCOUNTANCY AND STRATEGIC FINANCE AND CHILDREN'S AND ADULT JOINT FINANCE UNIT – POST CONSULTATION REPORT

The Borough Treasurer submitted a report which set out the results of the consultation process to achieve efficiencies, through the review of the following service areas in accordance with the 2015/2017 budget programme and sought members' approval to implement the final proposals, viz:-

- Accountancy and Strategic Finance (ASF); and
- Children's and Adult Joint Finance Unit (CAJFU)

The report set out the feedback received from the consultation process and a summary of the issues raised by both staff and the Trade Unions, together with the associated management response was detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

Following the formal consultation, there were no changes to the overall proposals.

It was anticipated, that if approved, the final proposals would be fully implemented by 1st March, 2017 in preparation for the year-end.

The relevant Equality Impact Assessment had been undertaken and this was detailed in Appendix 5 to the report.

Resolved – (i) That the final proposals in relation to the review of Accountancy and Strategic Finance and Children's and Adult Joint Finance Unit be approved; and

(ii) That, subject to the approval of the Head of Paid Service in consultation with the Leader, implementation of the new structure, including voluntary early retirement/flexible retirement/voluntary severance applications, be delegated to the Chief Executive.