

THE CABINET

Minutes of a Meeting of the Cabinet held in the meeting room, Taunton Library, on Wednesday 14th August 2019 at 10.00am.

PRESENT

Cllr D Fothergill (in the Chair)

Cllr M Chilcott

Cllr D Hall

Cllr D Huxtable

Cllr C Lawrence

Cllr F Nicholson

Cllr F Purbrick

Cllr J Woodman

Junior Cabinet members:

Cllr G Fraschini

Other Members present: Cllr H Davies, Cllr A Groskop, Cllr L Leyshon, Cllr T Lock, Cllr T Munt, Cllr B Revans

Apologies for absence: None

219 **Declarations of Interest** – agenda item 2

Members of the Cabinet declared the following personal interests in their capacity as a Member of a District, City/Town or Parish Council:

Cllr J Woodman – Sedgemoor District Council

220 **Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 8th June 2019** - agenda item 3

The Cabinet agreed the minutes and the Chair signed these as a correct record of the proceedings, subject to Cllr B Revans being added to the list of members present.

221 **Public Question Time (PQT)** – agenda item 4

The Leader of the Council, Cllr David Fothergill, noted that no public questions had been submitted.

222 **2019/20 Revenue Budget Monitoring – Quarter 1 (Month 3) Report** –

agenda item 5

The Cabinet Member for Resources, Cllr Mandy Chilcott introduced the report noting: the level of financial reserves held by the Council; increasing financial resilience; earmarked and general reserves levels; the £8.4m increase in earmarked reserves; the recently announced members preventative fund; the use of capital receipts to support Council transformation; and that 99% of MTFP savings had been delivered or were on-track to be delivered.

The Interim Director of Finance, Sheila Collins highlighted: the importance of maintaining the enhanced financial controls; and the decrease in debts over 90 days old.

The Cabinet proceeded to debate the report and invited comments from other members present. Points raised included: the Adult Social Care debt position and debts over 90 days old; the increase in general fund reserves; the earmarked business rates pilot; and Capital receipts and Learning Disabilities transformations costs.

The Director of Adult Social Care, Mel Lock and the Interim Director of Finance, Sheila Collins, responded to the points raised, noting: Adult Social Care deferred payments; that the business rates pilot was being led by the Growth Board; and that no further Capital Receipts were allocated to Learning Disabilities transformation.

The Leader of the Council, Cllr David Fothergill, highlighted the recommendations as detailed in the report.

Following consideration of the officer report and discussion the Cabinet:

- 1. Noted the forecast balanced budget position for the end of 2019/20**
- 2. Noted that £6.061m of the corporate contingency remains unallocated and this is expected to increase as management actions on service variances are confirmed**
- 3. Noted the delivery of £16.694m savings by Quarter 1 and the forecast delivery of £21.485m by the year end.**
- 4. Noted the improving financial resilience of the Council, with the level of reserves now being projected as £53.810m by the year end (comprising £35.443m of Earmarked Reserves and £18.367m of General Fund).**

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report

REASON FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report

223 **Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman Report Outcome -**
agenda item 6

The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Cllr David Huxtable, introduced the report, noting how seriously the Council has taken the Ombudsman's comments. Cllr Huxtable further noted that the Council had apologised and paid compensation.

The Director of Adult Social Care, Mel Lock, added to the points raised by Cllr Huxtable noting: the Ombudsman's findings had been used to improve the Council's service model; that the Ombudsman had agreed that the individual in question was not eligible for services; that new documentation was now being used; and the provision of a new audit tool.

The Leader of the Council, Cllr David Fothergill sought confirmation that all points raised in the report had been addressed, with reassurance being provided the Director of Adult Social Care, Mel Lock.

The Cabinet noted the report, its findings and endorsed the actions taken by the Director of Adult Social Services as recommended by the Ombudsman.

224 **Award Contract for Care and Support Services to Shared Lives South West in Somerset –** agenda item 7

The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Cllr David Huxtable, introduced the report noting: this was a positive outcome; and that Shared Lives South West is a regional organisation.

The Director of Adult Social Care, Mel Lock, added to the points raised by Cllr Huxtable, noting, Shared Lives South West is already working with Somerset County Council; how the service helps people to gain independence in a family setting; promoting independence; that some placements become long term; and that a direct contract award was being proposed due to the niche nature of market.

The Cabinet proceeded to debate the report and invited comments from other members present. Points raised included: the value of the case studies included with the report; potential to further expand the Shared Lives model; support for the service model; the importance of placements in service users' own communities; and the importance of including clear KPI's in the contractual agreement.

The Director of Adult Social Care, Mel Lock highlighted: the desire to grow the service by 10% over the next three years; and confirmed the inclusion of KPIs within the contract.

The Leader of the Council, Cllr David Fothergill requested all Cabinet Members confirmed they had read and understood the confidential papers. All Cabinet Members confirmed this was the case.

Following consideration of the Officer report, the confidential appendix and discussion, the Cabinet:

- 1. Agreed that Appendices 01-03 & 08 be treated as exempt information and be treated in confidence, as the case for the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing that information.**
- 2. Approved the use of a waiver to Contract Standing Orders for the proposed contract award to Shared Lives South West**
- 3. Approved the award of a contract to Shared Lives South West, for a period of up to two years with an option to extend by a further year, to deliver care and support services across Somerset Shared Lives Schemes.**
- 4. Delegated authority to the Director of Adult Social Care and Director of Finance to negotiate and agree the commercial terms of the contract with Shared Lives South West, including as to the allocation of pension liabilities;**
- 5. Delegated authority to the Director of Adult Social Care, in consultation with the County Solicitor, to negotiate, conclude and enter into the contract with Shared Lives South West;**

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report

REASON FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report

225 **Any other business** – agenda item 8

The Leader of the Council, Cllr David Fothergill noted the Panorama Programme – The Cost of Care, which was shown on television in May. Cllr Fothergill highlighted that he and all other Somerset County Council political group leaders were supporting a petition to call for a debate in Parliament regarding Social Care funding.

(The meeting ended at 10.39am)

CHAIR