

At a meeting of the Executive held in Council Chamber - Allerdale House, Workington on Monday 3 September 2018 at 6.00 pm

Members

Councillor Alan Smith (Chair)
Councillor Barbara Cannon
Councillor Konrad Hansen
Councillor William Jefferson

Councillor Mark Fryer (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Joan Ellis
Councillor Michael Heaslip
Councillor Carni McCarron-Holmes

Staff Present

B Carlin, I Frost, N Hardy, C Holmes, K Kerrigan, C Nicholson, A Seekings and S Sewell

143. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 July 2018 were signed as a correct record.

144. Declaration of Interests

None declared.

145. Questions

None received.

146. Members' Announcements

None received.

147. Q1 Finance Report April to June 2018

The subject of the decision

The Head of Financial Services submitted a report which sought to inform Members on the Council's financial performance against budget for the period April to June 2018 along with the forecast position to 31 March 2019.

Members noted the headline messages at the end of quarter 1 2018/19, being:

Revenue Budget

- Expenditure from the revenue budget, excluding projects funded from earmarked reserves, was forecast to exceed budget by £91k
- This projected outturn position would result in an additional contribution from the Council's General Fund of £91k

Earmarked Reserves Budget

- Following publication of the 2017-18 outturn position, the budgeted use of Reserves had been increased to reflect the profiling of expenditure presented as part of that report

- There was no variance projected against this updated budget

Capital Budget

- Expenditure from the capital budget was forecast to underspend by £10.2million
- The forecast underspend would be matched by a corresponding reprofiling of expenditure to subsequent financial years, leaving no remaining variance

Treasury Management

- Treasury management activities during the quarter were carried out in accordance with the Council's treasury management and investment strategies and within the limits established by the approved treasury and prudential indicators for 2018-19
- No new external borrowing was undertaken during the three months ending 30 June.

Paragraph 6.8 of the report, Councillor M Fryer requested that Executive members be provided with an update on the Helena Thompson Museum.

Councillor B Cannon moved that the report be noted; this was seconded by Councillor W Jefferson. The motion was unanimously agreed.

Alternative options considered:

None

The reason for the decision:

To inform Members on the Council's financial performance against budget for the period April to June 2018 along with the forecast position to 31 March 2019.

The decision:

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

148. Q1 Performance Report 2018/19

The subject of the decision

The Policy Manager (Corporate, Performance and Information) submitted a report which sought to advise members on the Council's performance at the end of Quarter 1 2018/19 as measured by projects/activities and Key Performance Indicators set out in the Corporate Business Plan 2018/19.

The Council was on track with 72 of its 87 key projects/activities, 12 areas were being watched and 3 key projects/activities had been completed in Q1.

There were 51 Key Performance Indicators. 29 of those were on target, 12 were within agreed tolerance of target and 5 were significantly worse than target.

Members noted the report.

Councillor A Smith moved that the report be noted; this was seconded by Councillor M Fryer. The motion was unanimously agreed.

Alternative options considered

None

The reason for the decision

To advise Members of the Council's performance at the end of Quarter 1 2018/19.

The decision

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

149. Local Plan (part 2) - Presubmission Draft

The subject of the decision

The Head of Strategy, Policy and Performance submitted a report which sought member's approval to publish the pre-submission draft of the Local Plan (part 2) for a final six week period prior to submission to the Secretary of State for public examination.

Members expressed their thanks to all of the team involved in the work in producing the draft policy.

Councillor A Smith moved that the report be noted; this was seconded by Councillor M Fryer. The motion was unanimously agreed.

Alternative options considered

A detailed options assessment had been carried out across all sites and policies before arriving at the pre-submission draft of the Local Plan (part 2). An options consultation was undertaken in 2017.

The reason for the decision

To seek approval to publish the pre-submission draft of the Local Plan (part 2) for a final six week period prior to submission to the Secretary of State for public examination.

The decision

Recommended – That Council be requested to agree that:

1. The Presubmission draft of the Local Plan (part 2), including amendments to the affordable housing (3.1) and tourism (7.1) policies, as set out in appendix 1 of this report, be approved for publication
2. The Policies Maps, as set out in appendix 2 of this report, be approved for publication
3. Following the completion of a six week period for representations the Local Plan (part 2) be submitted to the Minister for Housing, Communities and Local Government for an Examination in Public.

150. Reedlands Business Park

The subject of the decision

The Head of Place Development submitted a report which sought to provide clarification on the terms and conditions on the final grant agreement for the £1.5 million European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) grant to develop 23,500 sq. feet, (2,183 sq. metres) of industrial workspace at Reedlands Business Park, Clay Flats in Workington, previously accepted by the Executive on 24 January 2018.

Members were informed that the ERDF funding for the project had been secured under the Local Infrastructure State Aid Scheme, approved by the European Commission under Article 56 of the General Block Exemptions Regulation (GBER).

Councillor M Fryer moved the recommendation; this was seconded by Councillor B Cannon. The motion was unanimously agreed.

Alternative options considered

1. Accept the offer of grant funding and proceed with the scheme. This would necessitate the submission of a change request to the Ministry for Housing Communities and Local Government.
2. Decline the offer of grant funding and do not proceed with the scheme.

The reason for the decision

On the 24 January 2018 Members of the Executive approved the acceptance of a £1.5 million European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) grant to develop 23,500 sq. feet, (2,183 sq. metres) of industrial workspace at Reedlands Business Park, Clay Flats in Workington. Members also approved the £1 million match-funding requirement to be met from prudential borrowing.

Following receipt of the final grant agreement clarification has been sought on a number of points relating to the terms and conditions of the award. This report updates Executive on the financial implications of these clarifications and in particular on the operation of the clawback provision which could result in the repayment of part of the funding in the event that the authority makes excess profit from the project.

The decision

Resolved

That:

1. The £1.5m offer of European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) grant funding and associated match-funding requirement to enable the project to proceed be accepted
2. A change request be submitted to the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) to amend the profiled project spend and associated funding draw-down to bring this in line with the latest project programme.

The Chairman moved -

“That under 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 they may involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.”

151. Social Infrastructure Investment Fund Business Support Investment Proposal

The subject of the decision

The Head of Strategy, Policy and Performance submitted a report which sought members to amend the previously agreed distribution of funds in the Social Infrastructure Investment Fund (SIIF) to enable consideration of a loan investment proposal for MPM North West Ltd.

Councillor M Fryer moved the recommendation; this was seconded by Councillor A Smith. The motion was unanimously agreed.

Alternative options considered

Not to endorse the proposed course of action.

The reason for the decision

To amend the previously agreed distribution of funds in the Social Infrastructure Investment Fund (SIIF) to enable consideration of a loan investment proposal for MPM North West Ltd.

The decision

Resolved

That the recommendations in the report be approved.

152. Future Options for Workington Town Centre - Update Report

The subject of the decision

The Head of Place Development submitted a report which sought members to note work being undertaken to explore future commercial opportunities for Workington Town Centre in accordance with the Capital Investment Strategy and the Councils priority of 'Enhancing our Towns' and to endorse the proposed course of action.

Councillor M Fryer moved the recommendation; this was seconded by Councillor A Smith. The motion was unanimously agreed.

Alternative options considered

Not to endorse the proposed course of action.

The reason for the decision

To update members on the work that had been undertaken.

The decision

Resolved:

That the report be noted and the proposed course of action be endorsed.

The meeting closed at 7.00 pm