
Cabinet

Report of the meetings held on 23rd October and 20th November 2014

Matters for Decision

25. TREASURY MANAGEMENT: 6 MONTHLY REVIEW

By way of a report by the Head of Resources (a copy of which is reproduced as an Appendix) the Cabinet has been updated on the extent of treasury management activity, including investment, borrowing and performance over the period April to September 2014.

Although operating in difficult market conditions, Executive Councillors were pleased to note that the Council had achieved a 0.43% return on short term investment against a national performance benchmark of 0.23%. **Having noted the views of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Economic Well-Being) on the matter (Item No.24 of their Report refers),** the Cabinet

RECOMMEND

that the Council notes the treasury management activity over the period April to September 2014.

Matters for Information

26. DEVELOPMENT PLAN POLICY ADVISORY GROUP

The Cabinet has appointed Councillor Mrs L Kadic to the membership of the Development Plan Policy Advisory Group in place of former Councillor Mrs P J Longford.

27. SHARED SERVICES GENERALLY

Executive Councillors have noted progress of the project to work in partnership with Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire District Councils to deliver shared services. The Cabinet has agreed a number of general principles for taking the project forward. These relate, for instance, to location and cost sharing and to the selection of a lead or host authority who will take responsibility for progressing the business case for each new shared service. Huntingdonshire has assumed the project lead for ICT although this might not necessarily indicate the location of the service in the future.

Having regard to the views of the **Overview & Scrutiny Panel (Economic Well-Being) (Item No. 21 of their Report refers)** and to the timescale for achievement of each shared service project, the Cabinet has endorsed an approach whereby interim project support will be appointed to help develop the full business cases and a post of Business and Legal Practice Manager established to assist with the transformation programme and development of the legal shared service.

28. BUDGET MONITORING 2014/15 (REVENUE & CAPITAL) AND AN UPDATE ON ZERO BASED BUDGETING

In conjunction with the **Overview & Scrutiny Panel (Economic Well-Being) (Item No 22 of their Report refers)**, the Cabinet has received an update on the present position with regard to the 2014/15 revenue and capital budget and progress on the zero based budgeting exercise. In terms of budget monitoring, Executive Members have noted an estimated variation or underspend of £171,000 and £689,000 in the revenue and capital budgets respectively and a projected increase in New Homes Bonus arising from the completion of 137 additional properties more than originally forecast.

Executive Councillors have discussed the methodology for the ZBB exercise and have expressed concern at the timescale for its completion given how intrinsically it is linked to the Shared Services and 'Facing the Future' projects. In response, the Managing Director has undertaken to consider ways and the capacity of the organisation to expedite the process. Accordingly, a budgetary plan, which will assign a timescale to the completion of the ZBB exercise, will be submitted to a future meeting.

29. OPTIONS FOR FRAUD INVESTIGATION POST SFIS

(The following item was considered as a confidential item under paragraph 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972).

The Cabinet has considered the future of the District Council's fraud team in view of the establishment by the Government of a Single Fraud Investigation Service (SFIS) designed to investigate all welfare fraud under the control of the Department of Work and Pensions. On the recommendation of the **Corporate Governance and Overview & Scrutiny (Economic Well-Being) Panels (Item Nos. 24 and 23 respectively of their Reports refer)**, Executive Councillors have agreed to retain a fraud presence post SFIS but have asked that Officers continue to pursue consideration of shared service options with partner authorities by 2016.

**30. CORPORATE PLAN – PERFORMANCE MONITORING/
QUARTER 2**

Having carefully considered the comments of the Overview & Scrutiny Panels relevant to the remits of the respective Panels, the Cabinet has reviewed and noted progress achieved against key activities and performance data contained in the Council's Corporate Plan over the period 1st July to 30th September 2014.

In general, the Cabinet acknowledged that the performance management framework will continue to evolve over time and that indicators might vary to reflect changes to corporate priorities and to achieve value for money objectives.

In terms of specific comments, the Cabinet noted that an updated customer engagement/services strategy will be submitted to a future meeting, that in view of the increase in staff sickness, managers will be further trained and supported to ensure consistent implementation of the sickness absence policy and that Officers are looking at ways under new and existing legislation to respond to fly tipping and litter nuisance.

31. SHARED SERVICE – BUILDING CONTROL

The Cabinet has been acquainted with progress achieved towards an agreement with South Cambridgeshire District Council on the implementation of a shared service arrangement for the Building Control function and the potential to extend the arrangement to Cambridge City Council. Executive Councillors have noted the potential for savings of £100,000 which could result by bringing the two services together and the opportunity that existed, by strengthening the quality and resilience of the service, to generate additional income of £60,000 per annum. However, Executive Councillors have requested that a full business case for the proposal and that involving Cambridge City Council should be further developed with detailed budgetary implications for presentation to their meeting in March 2015. Having commended the positive views and the support of the **Overview & Scrutiny Panel (Environmental-Well Being) (Item No. 22 of the Report of their meeting refers)**, the Cabinet has

- agreed the formation of a shared Building Control Service between South Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire with South Cambridgeshire acting as Lead Authority for the first phase of the implementation and authorised the Corporate Director (Delivery), after consultation with the Executive Councillor for Planning & Housing Strategy, to implement the service between the two Councils on the basis of an approach described as Option 1;
- noted the intention to use the Transformation Challenge Award to fund the short term costs necessary to implement the shared service as determined by the Shared Service Board;

- requested that appropriate action be taken to progress a business case with Cambridge City Council and reporting on an eventual shared service involving all three partners by Spring 2015; and
- authorised South Cambridgeshire District Council to act as lead authority, to attend the Shadow Regional Board for Building Control on behalf of the District and Cambridge City Council and to explore the potential for a regional partnership on the understanding that any such future organisational arrangements be mutually agreed by all three authorities as appropriate.

J D Ablewhite
Chairman