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CABINET
29 JUNE 2015
(19.15 - 19.26)

PRESENT Councillors Stephen Alambritis (in the Chair), Mark Allison, Nick Draper, Caroline Cooper-Marbiah, Andrew Judge, Edith Macauley, Maxi Martin, Judy Saunders and Martin Whelton

Ged Curran (Chief Executive), Caroline Holland (Director of Corporate Services), Chris Lee (Director of Environment and Regeneration), Yvette Stanley (Director of Children, Schools and Families), Fiona Thomsen (Head of Shared Legal Services), and Chris Pedlow (Senior Democratic Services Officer).

ALSO PRESENT Councillors Suzanne Grocott and Peter Southgate.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1)

No apologies were received.

2 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST (Agenda Item 2)

No pecuniary declarations were made.

3 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (Agenda Item 3)

The Minutes of the meeting held on 8 June 2014 were agreed as a correct record.

4 SHARED INTERNAL AUDIT SERVICE AND UPDATE ON HR SHARED SERVICE (Agenda Item 4)

The Cabinet Member for Finance presented the report which was a two part report, one part sought approval for Council's Internal Audit Service, to join the shared Richmond and Kingston Council Audit team. It was explained that the aim of joining the joint service was to improve the efficiency and to expand upon the level of expertise level available to the Council. Also with an ever increasing number of joint services, having combined audit team investigating services made was a logical step to reduce duplication of investigations.

The other part of the report was to inform the Cabinet that notice had been served of the Council's intention to withdraw from the joint HR service with Sutton. It was noted that work had started on investigating further options for the HR services going forward, including a further joint service with other local London authorities.

RESOLVED

That Cabinet

- 1) notes the decision to serve notice of our intention to withdraw from the Sutton – Merton shared HR service and the plans of the council to explore alternative options over the coming months.
- 2) agrees to Merton joining the shared Richmond and Kingston Councils' Internal Audit Service

5 FINANCIAL MONITORING 2015-16 (MAY 2015) (Agenda Item 5)

The Cabinet Member for Finance presented the report which provided the regular monthly financial monitoring update for May 2015, the first update for the 2015/2016 financial year. The report detailed

- The income and expenditure at period 2 and a full year forecast projection.
- An update on the capital programme and detailed monitoring information;
- An update on Corporate Items in the budget 2015/16;
- Progress on the delivery of the 2015/16 revenue savings
- An update on the delivery of 2014/15 savings

It was noted that currently there was a forecast net overspend at year end of £1.285million.

RESOLVED

That Cabinet

1. notes the financial reporting data relating to revenue budgetary control, showing a forecast net overspend at year end of £1.285million, 0.83% of the net budget.
2. approves the following capital adjustments:

	2015/16	2016/17
St Mary's Expansion VAT Adjustment	£137,210	
Cricket Green Expansion (Grant)		£459,740
Colliers Wood Library Re-Fit	£200,000	
Colliers Wood Library Relocation		(£550,000)
Rediscover Mitcham (S106)	£507,280	
Quietways Cycle Routes (TfL)	£344,000	
Canons Parks for People	£124,000	£113,000
Street Lighting	£400,000	
Industrial Estates	(£200,000)	
Town Centre Investments	(£200,000)	
Total	£1,312,490	£22,740

3. notes:
 - i) the re-profiling from 2015/16 to 2016/17 of £2,366k in Children, Schools and Families and £1,046k in Corporate Services.
 - ii) that a report will be progressed to Council for the addition of Rediscover Mitcham to the capital programme and for the approval of the Education Section 106 funding already utilised to fund the capital programme.
4. approves the alternative revenue saving of £66,000 for Environment and Regeneration detailed in Appendix 6 to replace EN16 (previously agreed in 2013/14).
5. approves the release of up to £100k from the Council Board Issues reserve in relation to the Wimbledon Park Masterplan development.

6 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC (Agenda Item 6)

RESOLVED

That the public were excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following reports on the grounds that they were exempt from disclosure for the reasons stated in the reports.

7 SCHOOL CATERING CONTRACT (Agenda Item 7)

The Cabinet Member for Education presented the report which sought approval for the current school catering contract which was scheduled to end on 31 March 2016, to be extended by a further school term until 31 July 2016. The rationale for the extension was so that the contract would end in line with the end of the school year rather than at the end of the spring term. Also it was believed it would be of benefit to the procurement process when the Council goes out for full retendering of the school catering contract in 2016.

It was noted that the all the Head Teachers, who's school receive their school meals through the contract had been contracted on the proposal and were all in support of the proposed approach.

RESOLVED

That the current contract for the provision of school meals awarded on 21 January 2013 (for an initial period of three years from 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2016) be extended to 31 July 2016.

