

All minutes are draft until agreed at the next meeting of the committee/panel. To find out the date of the next meeting please check the calendar of events at your local library or online at [www.merton.gov.uk/committee](http://www.merton.gov.uk/committee).

## CABINET

5 DECEMBER 2022

(7.16 pm - 7.48 pm)

PRESENT Councillors Councillor Ross Garrod (in the Chair),  
Councillor Eleanor Stringer, Councillor Stephen Alambritis,  
Councillor Billy Christie, Councillor Caroline Cooper-Marbiah,  
Councillor Brenda Fraser, Councillor Natasha Irons,  
Councillor Andrew Judge, Councillor Sally Kenny and  
Councillor Peter McCabe

Hannah Doody (Chief Executive), Adrian Ash (Interim Director, Environment and Regeneration), Zara Bishop (Communications Manager), Robert Cayzer (Interim Head of Cabinet Office), Elizabeth Fitzpatrick (Assistant Director for Education and Early Help), Roger Kershaw (Interim Executive Director of Finance and Digital), John Morgan (Interim Director, Community & Housing) and Louise Round (Interim Executive Director of Innovation and Change), Ros Selby (Communications Officer) and Amy Dumitrescu (Democracy Services Manager)

### 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1)

No apologies were received.

### 2 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST (Agenda Item 2)

There were no declarations of interest.

### 3 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (Agenda Item 3)

RESOLVED: That the minutes and the exempt minute of the meeting held on 7 November 2022 are agreed as an accurate record.

### 4 MERTON AS A BOROUGH OF SPORT (Agenda Item 4)

The Cabinet Member for Heritage and Sport presented the report providing an update on the work towards the administrations' priority of becoming a Borough of Sport. The Cabinet Member provided an overview of progress including investment in multi-use sports areas, current sporting activities within the Borough and events provided at the Boroughs libraries.

In response to questions, the Cabinet Member advised that all libraries were warm spaces and that all leisure centres also had warm spaces.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet noted the development of the Borough of Sport undertaken by officers and were advised of the forthcoming development work with

London Sport to create a strategy to deliver the council's ambition for the provision of physical and sporting activities in becoming a Borough of Sport.

## 5 RESPONSE TO SCRUTINY REFERENCE: HOUSING ENFORCEMENT (Agenda Item 5)

The Cabinet Member for Housing and Sustainable Development presented the report, noted that officers and members were working through the responses to the recommendations including the Tenants Champion role which was currently being undertaken by the Cabinet Member for Housing and Sustainable Development. IT was noted that the existing Housing Enforcement policy would be reviewed in line with best practice and guidance and a draft would be brought to Cabinet in 2023. The Cabinet Member advised that a series of regular 6 weekly meetings with senior officers from Clarion had been established to discuss operational issues. The Interim Director Adult Social Care, Integrated Care and Public Health advised members that following recent traffic events, enforcement and actions around mould in properties were being reviewed and a further paper on this would be brought to Cabinet.

In response to questions, the Cabinet Member advised that the Council was writing to every registered provider and looking to seek information from them on the prevalence of mould and related issues within their properties and the actions being taken. The Council would consider what further action to take once those responses had been received.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet noted the information contained in the report

## 6 BUSINESS PLAN 2023-27 (Agenda Item 6)

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Services presented the report noting the savings proposals and growth proposals for the following years budget. It was noted that there remained a £4.3million gap for the following year, although the £10m of additional inflationary costs had been budgeted for. Work was continuing to bring forward addition savings and income proposals and the Council was awaiting details of the financial settlement later in December 2022.

It was noted that the Business Plan would go through the Scrutiny panels in January.

RESOLVED:

1. That Cabinet considered and agreed the draft growth proposals (Appendix 4) put forward by officers and refers them to the Overview and Scrutiny panels and Commission in January 2023 for consideration and comment.
2. That Cabinet considered and agreed the new savings proposals for 2023/24 to 2026/27 (Appendix 5) and refers them to the Overview and Scrutiny panels and Commission in January 2023 for consideration and comment.
3. That Cabinet considered and agreed the new capital proposals for 2023/24 to 2026/27 and the draft Capital Programme 2023-2027 (Appendix 7) and refers them to the Overview and Scrutiny panels and Commission in January 2023 for consideration and comment.

4. That Cabinet agreed the proposed Council Tax Base for 2023/24 set out in paragraph 2.7 and Appendix 1.

5. That Cabinet noted that Equalities Impact Assessments for each saving, where applicable, will be included in the Member's Information Pack for consideration in future meeting

## 7 OCTOBER FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT (Agenda Item 7)

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Services presented the report noting that the net overspend had decreased. The projected departmental overspend was being closely monitored and progress would continue to be reported at the next Cabinet meeting.

### RESOLVED:

A. That Cabinet noted the financial reporting data for month 7, October 2022, relating to revenue budgetary control, showing a forecast net adverse variance at 31 October on service expenditure of £0.989m when corporate and funding items are included.

B. That Cabinet noted the contents of Section 5 and Appendix 5b of the report and approved the adjustments to the Capital Programme in the Table below:

	Budget 2022-23	Budget 2023-24	Budget 2024- 25	Budget 2025-26	Narrative
	£	£	£	£	
<b>Corporate Services</b>					
Works to Other Buildings- Boiler Replacement	(367,150)				Virement & Reprofiled in line with projected spend
Civic Centre - Comb. Heat and & Power System Replacement		450,000			Budget Relinquished as scheme will not provide value for money
Civic Centre - Absorption Chiller Replacement		275,000			Budget Relinquished as scheme will not provide value for money
Westminster Coroners Court	(273,260)				Virement in line with projected spend and increased by £106k
<b>Community and Housing</b>					
Libraries IT - Library Management System		(140,000)	140,000		Reprofiled in line with projected spend
<b>Children, Schools and Families</b>					
West Wimbledon- Schools Capital Maintenance	(18,610)				Virement & Reprofiled in line with projected spend
Wimbledon Chase- Schools Capital Maintenance	90,000				Virement in line with projected spend
Links- Schools Capital Maintenance	(32,850)				Virement & Reprofiled in line with projected spend
Singlegate- Schools Capital Maintenance	(40,000)				Virement in line with projected spend
St Marks- Schools Capital Maintenance	(50,000)				Virement in line with projected spend
William Morris- Schools Capital Maintenance	11,000				Virement in line with projected spend
Unallocated - Schools Capital Maintenance		65,750			Virement & Reprofiled in line with projected spend
Raynes Park- Schools Capital Maintenance	(11,000)				Virement in line with projected spend

Ricards Lodge- Schools Capital Maintenance	(6,410)				Virement & Reprofiled in line with projected spend
Rutlish- Schools Capital Maintenance	(7,880)				Virement & Reprofiled in line with projected spend
Mainstream SEN (ARP)- Raynes Park School Expansion 1	(15,000)	15,000			Virement & Reprofiled in line with projected spend
Perseid Lower- Perseid School Expansion	(50,000)	50,000			Virement & Reprofiled in line with projected spend
On Street Parking- P&D- -Pay and Display Machines	(106,780)	106,780			Reprofiled in line with projected spend
On Street Parking- P&D - ANPR Cameras Air Quality ...	(86,000)				Car mounted Cameras not cost effective post covid
Off Street Parking - P&D -Car Park Upgrades	(544,510)	544,510			Reprofiled in line with projected spend
Off Street Parking - Peel House Car Park	(700,000)	700,000			Reprofiled in line with projected spend
CCTV Investment- Dark Fibre		172,500			Reprofiled in line with projected spend- New Project 23-24
CCTV Investment- CCTV Business Continuity & Resilience	(172,500)				Reprofiled in line with projected spend
Fleet Vehicles - Replacement of Fleet Vehicles	(748,470)				Reprofiled in line with projected spend
Highways & Footways - AFC Wimbledon CCTV	(4,640)				Budget Relinquished - scheme finished
Highways & Footways - Vivacity Monitors	39,180				New S 106 Funding
Cycle Route Improvements - Cycle Access/Parking	34,000				Additional TfL Funding
Cycle Route Improvements - Cycling Improvements Residential Streets	125,000				Additional TfL Funding
Mitcham Area Regeneration- Rowan Park Community Facility Match Funding	(150,000)	150,000			Reprofiled in line with projected spend
Morden Area Regeneration - Morden TC Regen Match Funding		(2,000,000)		2,000,000	Reprofiled to 2025-26
Wimbledon Park Lake and Waters- Water Sports Fleet	10,000			(10,000)	Reprofiled in line with projected spend
Parks- New Wimbledon Park Water Play Feature			183,000		Reinstated Budget funded from SCIL
<b>Total</b>	<b>(3,075,880)</b>	<b>389,540</b>	<b>323,000</b>	<b>1,990,000</b>	

## 8 SECURE CHILDREN'S HOME FOR LONDON AND PAN-LONDON COMMISSIONING VEHICLE (Agenda Item 8)

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services presented the report which proposed a place of residence for all 32 London Boroughs to look after the needs of children with particularly complex needs including those at risk of serious harm. There was currently no appropriate placement in Borough and therefore children were being sent out of the Borough and often further afield. It was yet to be confirmed where it would be located.

Members thanked the Cabinet Member for the report and spoke in support of the proposal.

RESOLVED:

1.1 That Cabinet agreed that the Council becomes a member of a not-for-profit company, limited by guarantee, provisionally to be known as the Pan London Vehicle, to:

Recommendation A

- (i) Develop and then oversee the running of London's secure children's home provision for a five-year period from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2028, with a break-point after three years once the refreshed business case has been developed as well as the service pricing structure, commissioning approach, operating model, practice model and the SCH's location is confirmed. Once the provision has launched, membership will be at a fixed annual cost of £20K (subject to inflation adjustment), unless an alternative model for funding the PLV, that does not require annual subscription, is agreed by members during the development phase and
- (ii) Collaborate with other PLV members on future joint commissioning programmes. Commits in principle to joint oversight and risk/benefit sharing of the secure children's home provision, through the PLV, for a five-year period to 31st March 2028 (with three-year break point), that includes the build, service development and service commissioning phases, subject to ratification after the revision of the SCH business case, and renewable on a ten yearly cycle thereafter, with break-point after five years.

Recommendation B:

Delegates authority to Executive Director for Children, Lifelong Learning and Families in consultation with the Director of Finance and the Council's Monitoring Officer to:

- (i) Finalise the legal documents required to set up, join and run the PLV and
- (ii) Make the final determination on the Council's membership of the PLV, following completion of the revised SCH business case and, if appropriate, enter into all the legal agreements, contracts and other documents on behalf of the Council required to implement and run any aspect of the PLV arrangements.

9 SUPPLY OF GAS TO LONDON BOROUGH OF MERTON (Agenda Item 9)

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Services presented the report, noting that since the Council had ended the previous contract with Gazprom, it had been on a short term contract. The report therefore proposed a longer term contract for gas provision for two years with the option to extended for two further periods of

two years. It was noted that procurement had been through all the usual processes and the successful bidder had scored well.

RESOLVED:

A. That Cabinet Awarded a 2+2+2-year contract to bidder A for the supply of gas to sites covered by the corporate utility contract, starting from 1st April 2023.

B. That authority to take up the 2 optional 2-year extensions on the contract was delegated to the Interim Director of Innovation and Change in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Services.

10 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC (Agenda Item 10)

The Chair advised that the meeting was able to proceed entirely in public and therefore this item was not required.