

Agenda Item 3

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CABINET

7 NOVEMBER 2022

(7.15 pm - 7.37 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 Sally Kenny and
Councillor Peter McCabe

PRESENT Councillor Natasha Irons and Councillor Andrew Judge
REMOTELY

ALSO PRESENT Hannah Doody (Chief Executive), Louise Round (Interim
Executive Director of Innovation and Change), 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), Mark Gaynor (Executive Director of
Housing and Sustainable Development), Roger Kershaw (Interim
Executive Director of Finance and Digital), John Morgan (Interim
Director, Community & Housing), Eben VanDerWesthuizen
(Policy planner Future Merton) and Amy Dumitrescu (Democracy
Services Manager)

IN Councillor Nick McLean
ATTENDANCE
REMOTELY

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1)

There were no apologies received. Councillors Irons and Judge attended remotely.

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 of the meeting held on 10 October 2022 are agreed as an accurate record.

4 RESPONSE TO SCRUTINY REFERENCE - COMMUNITY WASTE (Agenda Item 4)

The Cabinet Member for Local Environment, Green spaces and Climate Change presented the report advising that the recommendation from the Scrutiny panel had been looked at and was being taken forward, whilst assessing the best way it could

be implemented for Merton and ensuring it was reflective of the ongoing consultation on Waste services.

RESOLVED:

- A. That Cabinet noted the response to the recommendation made by the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel (the Panel)
- B. That Cabinet supported the recommendation made by the Panel

5 ADOPTION OF THE SOUTH LONDON WASTE PLAN AS PART OF MERTON'S LOCAL PLAN (Agenda Item 5)

The Cabinet Member for Housing and Sustainable Development presented the report and gave an overview of the recommendations, noting that if approved it would be one of the key documents guiding Planning decisions within the Borough, which was being updated as the current plan was no longer considered up to date. All 4 Boroughs within the South London Waste Partnership had worked on their respective plans as well as having been successful in a bid for Government funding to support the waste plan.

RESOLVED:

- 1. That Cabinet resolved to recommend adoption of the South London Waste Plan to Council (16 November 2022) as part of Merton's statutory Local Plan and subsequent updating of Merton's statutory Policies Map, subject to any amendments necessary in order to give effect to any recommendations contained in the Final Report from the Planning Inspectors and that authority to make such amendments be delegated to the Executive Director of Housing and Sustainable Development in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing and Sustainable Development.
- 2. That authority be delegated to the Executive Director of Housing and Sustainable Development to deal with all the necessary adoption documents and other consequential matters in accordance with the appropriate Regulations.

6 COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME 2023/24 (Agenda Item 6)

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Services presented the report which followed a recent consultation and would be considered by Council in November 2022. The scheme would be proposed to be kept in line with the Government scheme and for any in-year changes to be made as required.

The Cabinet Members for Civic Pride, Sport and Heritage and Health and Social Care spoke in support of the proposal.

RESOLVED:

- 1. That the updating revisions for the 2023/24 council tax support scheme detailed in the report be agreed, in order to maintain low council tax charges for those on lower incomes and other vulnerable residents.
- 2. That Cabinet agreed the proposed revisions to the 2023/24 scheme

7 TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID-YEAR REVIEW REPORT 2022/23
(Agenda Item 7)

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Services presented the report, providing an update on the Treasury Management performance.

The Interim Director Finance and Digital noted that whilst an increase in the interest rates caused pressures to the Council's budget in some ways, it had led to an increase in returns on the Council's investments.

RESOLVED:

- A. That Cabinet noted the update on Treasury Management performance for the half year to 30 September 2022 and agreed to submit this update to Full Council
- B. That Cabinet agreed to recommend to Council that it delegates authority to the Executive Director of Finance and Digital (S151 officer) to make short term treasury investment decisions, even if those investments would not currently be in accordance with the Council's Treasury Management Strategy, based on current market conditions/interest rates movements and funds availability to maximise investment returns. The Annual Treasury Management Strategy for FY2023/24 will be presented to the Council in March 2023.

8 AUGUST FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT (Agenda Item 8)

The Chair announced that items 8 & 9 would be taken together on the agenda.

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Services presented the reports for August and September, noting the headline overspend figures had improved, however departments were facing significant budgetary pressures. The Council had achieved a favourable variance of £3million against corporate items and an additional £0.4million from investments resulting from increased interest rates. The Cabinet Member thanked officers and Cabinet Members for their work.

The Cabinet Member for Transport spoke to thank the Cabinet Member and officers for their work.

RESOLVED:

- A. That Cabinet noted the financial reporting data for month 5, August 2022, relating to revenue budgetary control, showing a forecast net adverse variance at 31 August on service expenditure of £2.317m when corporate and funding items are included.
 - B. That CMT note the contents of Section 5 and approve the adjustments to the Capital Programme contained in Appendix 5b
- 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	Narrative
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Corporate Services	£	£	£	
Invest to save schemes – De-Carbonisation scheme	137,000			Additional spend covered by Grant
Business Systems – Environmental Asset Management	(240,000)	240,000		Reprofiled in line with projected spend
Business Systems – Revenue and Benefits	(700,000)	300,000	400,000	Reprofiled in line with projected spend
Business Systems – Spectrum Spatial Analyst Replacement (GIS)	(100,000)	100,000		Reprofiled in line with projected spend
Community and Housing				
Major Projects – Social Care H – Learning Disability Housing	(50,000)	(1,528,000)	1,578,000	Reprofiled in line with projected spend
Children, Schools and Families				
Unlocated Primary School Proj	(32,500)			Reprofiled in line with projected spend
Raynes Park – Schools Capital Maintenance	32,500			Reprofiled in line with projected spend
Medical PRU – PRU Expansion	30,000	(30,000)		Reprofiled in line with projected spend
Environment and Regeneration				
Pay and Display Machines	20,000			Virement from Car Park Upgrades
Car Park Upgrades	(20,000)			Virement to Pay and Display Machines
Parks – New Water Play Feature Wimbledon Park	43,000	(226,000)		Unspent SCIL Balance on Project Relinquished
Parks – Abbey Ward	8,240			Funded by NCIL
Parks – Figges Marsh	4,980			Funded by NCIL
Parks – Multi Use Sports Areas	6,400			Funded by NCIL
Parks – Wimbledon Park NCIL Ward	13,080			Funded by NCIL
Total	(847,300)	(1,144,000)	1,978,000	

9 SEPTEMBER FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT (Agenda Item 9)

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Services presented the report.

RESOLVED:

A. That Cabinet noted the financial reporting data for month 6, September 2022, relating to revenue budgetary control, showing a forecast net adverse variance at 30 September on service expenditure of £1.579m 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	Narrative
Corporate Services	£	£	
Civic Centre Cycle Parking	(60,000)	60,000	Reprofiled in line with projected spend

Children, Schools and Families			
Unlocated Primary School Proj	(264,550)	298,430	Virement & Reprofiled in line with projected spend
Hollymount – Schools Capital Maintenance	100,800		Virement in line with projected spend
Hatfeild – Schools Capital Maintenance	69,800		Virement in line with projected spend
Hillcross – Schools Capital Maintenance	(50,110)		Virement in line with projected spend
Joseph Hood – Schools Capital Maintenance	38,000		Virement in line with projected spend
Dundonald – Schools Capital Maintenance	(9,080)		Virement in line with projected spend
Pelham – Schools Capital Maintenance	(16,000)		Virement in line with projected spend
Wimbledon Chase – Schools Capital Maintenance	(65,390)		Virement in line with projected spend
Wimbledon Park – Schools Capital Maintenance	15,900		Virement in line with projected spend
Haslemere – Schools Capital Maintenance	52,300		Virement in line with projected spend
St Marks – Schools Capital Maintenance	16,300		Virement in line with projected spend
William Morris – Schools Capital Maintenance	13,600		Virement in line with projected spend
Raynes Park – Schools Capital Maintenance	(50,000)		Virement in line with projected spend
Whatley – Capital Maintenance	50,000		Virement in line with projected spend
CSF Safeguarding – Care Leavers Living Accommodation	(66,000)	66,000	Reprofiled in line with projected spend
Youth Provision – Pollards Hill Digital Divide	(210,000)	210,000	Reprofiled in line with projected spend
Environment and Regeneration			
Highways and Footways – Residential Secure Cycle Store	(25,670)	25,670	Reprofiled in line with projected spend
Highways and Footways – Accessibility Programme	130,000		Additional TfL Funding
Highways and Footways – Casualty Reduction & Schools	199,000		Additional TfL Funding
Cycle Route Improvements – Cycle Parking	75,000	5,000	Reprofiled in line with projected spend & Addit. TfL Funding
Cycle Rout Improvements – Cycle Improve Residential Streets	205,000		Additional TfL Funding
Mitcham Area Regeneration – Sandy Lane Public Realm	(200,000)	200,000	Reprofiled in line with projected spend
Wimbledon Area Regeneration – Crowded Places/Hostile Veh	(180,000)	180,000	Reprofiled in line with projected spend
	Budget 2022-23	Budget 2023-24	Narrative
Wimbledon Area Regeneration – Wimbl Hill Heritage Led Pblc Realm	(50,000)	50,000	Reprofiled in line with projected spend
Borough Regeneration – Merton Lost Rivers	(200,000)	200,000	Reprofiled in line with projected spend
Parks Investment – Myrna Close Public	48.800		Reprofiled in line with projected spend

Realm			
Borough Regeneration – 42 Graham Road	(50,000)	50,000	Reprofiled in line with projected spend
Borough Regeneration – Carbon Offset Funding	(50,000)	50,000	Reprofiled in line with projected spend
Parks Investment – Paddling Pools	(70,000)	70,000	Reprofiled in line with projected spend
Total	(602,300)	1,465,100	

10 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC (Agenda Item 10)

RESOLVED: That the public were excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following report on the grounds that it is exempt from disclosure for the reasons stated in the report.

11 CHAS 2013 (Agenda Item 11)

The report was discussed and the recommendations were agreed as detailed within the exempt minute.

RESOLVED:

That Cabinet agreed recommendations A – E as detailed within the exempt report