

CABINET**Tuesday, 29th November, 2022**

Present:-

Councillor P Gilby (Chair)

Councillors Holmes
J Innes
P Innes
Ludlow

Councillors Mannion-Brunt
Sarvent
Serjeant

Non-voting P Innes
Members

*Matters dealt with under the Delegation Scheme

52 **DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' AND OFFICERS' INTERESTS
RELATING TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

No declarations of interest were received.

53 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D Collins and Blank.

54 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED –

That the minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 1 November 2022 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

55 **FORWARD PLAN**

The Forward Plan for the four month period December, 2022 to March, 2023 was reported for information.

***RESOLVED –**

That the Forward Plan be noted.

56 **COUNCIL PLAN DELIVERY PLAN 2022/23 QUARTER 2**
MONITORING

The Executive Director presented a report on the progress made as at the end of the second quarter of the Council Plan delivery plan for 2022/23.

Appendix 1 of the officer's report showed the progress made against the 36 performance milestones being tracked during 2022/23. Solid progress was evidenced in relation to 88% of the milestones; most were already completed while others were expected to be completed during 2022/23. Progress against 9% of the milestones was rated as amber with just 1 milestone not expected to be completed during 2022/23 due to a lack of response to a tender process.

A further 20 performance measures were being tracked on a quarterly basis and positive progress was evidenced in respect of 16 or 80% of these measures.

It was reported that several of the milestones were also critical to delivery of the medium-term financial plan and ensuring the council's ongoing financial sustainability.

The Delivery Plan for 2022/23 would be the final delivery plan of the current four year Council Plan cycle, 2019 – 2023.

***RESOLVED -**

1. That members note the significant achievements against the priority areas within the Council Plan Delivery Plan.
2. That the Corporate Management Team leads for all amber rated milestones meet with relevant key officers to develop improvement strategies to support further progress in quarters 3 and 4.

REASON FOR DECISIONS

To progress delivery of the Council Plan 2019 - 2023 and maximise positive outputs and outcomes for our communities.

57 GENERAL FUND BUDGET MONITORING QUARTER 2 2022/23

The Service Director - Finance presented a report to provide Cabinet with an assessment of the Council's General Fund Revenue Account outturn position for the financial year 2022/23 based on activity to the end of period 6 (September 2022) and an early look at the emerging medium-term financial position. This was to meet the requirement in the Financial Procedure Rules to provide Council with regular updates on the Council's financial position.

The budget for the financial year 2022/23 was produced against the backdrop of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic and some of the medium and long-term effects of the pandemic relating to the demand for Council services were difficult to project. The budget assumed that income from fees and charges would return to pre-Covid levels from 2022/23 except for Sports Centre income which was anticipated would take one year longer to recover.

In the months since the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) was approved, the national fiscal and economic situation had changed dramatically and a number of in-year spending pressures had emerged.

Table 1 in the officer's report included a summary of the key variances for the financial year 2022/23.

The Council was committed to delivering services within the approved budget and the Corporate Leadership Team (CLT) had been working with budget holders to agree clear, robust, and immediate measures to address the adverse forecast.

Measures had included a line-by-line review of budgets, removal of all non-essential spending, a more rigorous approach to vacancy control, and maximising the use of grant funding and other funding sources. These measures, most of which were one off, would not impact on service delivery and had reduced the original forecast overspend to a more manageable in-year position.

Whilst there was an expectation that the Council would need to utilise a proportion of the Budget Risk Reserve to achieve a balanced outturn budget position for the financial year 2022/23, this would only be defrayed after close monitoring and identification of further mitigations. CLT and budget holders would continue to work with Cabinet Members towards delivering a balanced budget.

The Council's provisional settlement for 2023/24 was now expected on or before 21 December 2022. This would be reported to Cabinet in January along with the draft MTFP, which would confirm funding levels, pressures, and updated assumptions for the period 2023/24 through 2026/27. The report would also set out the Council's budget strategy and set out draft proposals to ensure a balanced budget could be set for 2023/24. The final MTFP would be considered at full Council on 22 February 2023.

***RESOLVED –**

1. That the position of the General Fund Revenue Account at the close of period 6 of the financial year 2022/23 be noted.
2. That the strategy for achieving a balanced budget outturn position for the financial year 2022/23 be supported.
3. That the emerging Medium-Term Financial Forecast beginning with the financial year 2023/24 be noted.

REASONS FOR DECISIONS

1. This periodic monitoring report summarises the current assessment of the Council's forecast outturn and set out the active management mitigations to be progressed to balance the 2022/23 budget. It also provides a robust basis for medium term financial planning.
2. This is the second monitoring report for the 2022/23 financial year and comes at a time when the Council is experiencing financial pressures due to the current economic situation, the scale of the in-year pay award, cost inflation and the ongoing impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

58 **DERBYSHIRE HOMELESSNESS AND ROUGH SLEEPING
STRATEGY 2022-27**

The Housing Options Manager presented a report seeking Cabinet support for Chesterfield Borough Council to adopt the Derbyshire Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2022-27.

The Council had adopted the current North Derbyshire Rough Sleeping Strategy 2021-23 in June 2021. The Strategy had been developed to manage the impacts of the Covid-19 Pandemic and had accelerated partnership working across the County, to include delivery of a multitude of services to protect rough sleepers from harm.

The knowledge and experience gained had been incorporated into the development of the new Strategy. Advice had also been sought from HomelessLink, a specialist homelessness consultancy and support agency.

There had been a considerable increase in demand for homelessness services, which were attributed to the legacy impacts of the pandemic, increases in the number of repossessions / evictions as a result of, cost of living pressures, notable changes in the complexity of each case and severe limitations on the availability of suitable alternative accommodation.

The Derbyshire Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2022-27 was attached as Appendix 1 to the officer's report.

The strategy included four clear priorities:

- Make homelessness everyone's responsibility through a system-wide approach
- Prevent homelessness and respond through early intervention and personalised solutions
- End rough sleeping and repeat homelessness

- Develop sustainable supported and settled housing solutions

***RESOLVED –**

That the Council adopt the Derbyshire Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2022-27.

REASONS FOR DECISION

1. Approval of the Derbyshire Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2022-27 will ensure that the Council continues to deliver prevention, intervention and recovery to ensure people at risk of, or experiencing homelessness and rough sleeping can access effective services and support.
2. By adopting this strategy, the Council will be able to meet the continuing challenges ahead including meeting the needs of those with multiple and complex needs, and the increases in the cost of living.
3. It is a legal requirement to have an agreed and published homelessness and rough sleeping strategy.