

Divisions-N/A

COUNTY COUNCIL – 12 December 2023

REPORT OF THE CABINET

Cabinet Member: Adult Social Care

1. Care Homes Purchasing Framework

(Cabinet, 21 November 2023)

Cabinet had before it a report recommending that the Council approved the principle of entering into an integrated care homes purchasing framework with the Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, and Berkshire West Integrated Care Board (ICB).

The purchasing framework would source residential and nursing home beds for over 18-year-olds in Oxfordshire and within a 10-mile radius of the County boundary. This would cover adults who had been assessed as eligible under either the Care Act 2014 or under the NHS Continuing Health Care (CHC) Framework and who require a care home placement to meet their care needs.

Under the proposed framework the Council would:

- a. Procure and maintain the care homes framework on behalf of both parties.
- b. Enter into framework contracts that provide for the purchase of both health and social care services
- c. Broker individual placements on behalf of the ICB
- d. Enter into call-off contracts in line with the care bandings set out in the model funded by adult social care and NHS Continuing Healthcare (CHC)
- e. Manage those call-off contracts including those funded by CHC.

Cabinet recognised the importance of the procurement in helping to meet the Council's strategic objectives, and approved the recommendations.

Cabinet Members: Community and Corporate Services & Finance

2. Business Services Transformation Programme Business Refocus

(Cabinet, 21 November 2023)

Cabinet had before it a report providing an update on the progress of the Business Services Transformation Programme and sought approval for a proposal to refocus, deliver improvements to existing human resources (HR), finance, payroll and procurement functions and processes and remain with Hampshire County Council's Integrated Business Centre (IBC).

This report also sought approval for the repurposing of £1.23m of the existing Cabinet approved £1.57m programme funding for delivery of the programme to date and to plan and deliver an Improvement Stage. The £1.57m was previously agreed

at Cabinet in April 2023 for programme resources to prepare detailed requirements for a transformation and procurement process.

Cabinet approved the recommendations..

Cabinet Member: Finance

3. Treasury Management Mid-Term Review

(Cabinet, 21 November 2023)

Cabinet considered a report on the Council's Treasury Management performance for the first half of the year (1 April to 30 September 2023) measured against the budget agreed by Council in February 2023

The activities covered the management of the organisation's borrowing, investments and cash flows, including its banking, money market and capital market transactions, the effective control of the risks associated with those activities, and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks.

Cabinet noted the report.

4. Budget & Business Planning Report - 2024/25 - November 2023

(Cabinet, 21 November 2023)

Cabinet had before it a report setting out the current pressures affecting the Council's directorates which would need to be considered as part of the Budget and Business Planning process for 2024/25 and the approach to required budget savings. Cabinet referred, in particular, to the measures being taken to address the current overspend in budgets within Children's Services.

Detailed revenue savings and capital proposals would be considered by the Performance and Corporate Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 8 December 2023 along with any updates on funding following the Government's Autumn Statement.

Updates to funding and any changes to proposals known by the end of December 2023 would be published on 11 January 2024 and considered by Performance and Corporate Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 19 January 2024. Comments from scrutiny as well as feedback from the public engagement and consultation exercise would be considered by Cabinet ahead of proposing their budget on 30 January 2024.

Cabinet noted the report and endorsed the approach to savings that will be developed further through the Budget & Business Planning Process.

5. Business Management & Monitoring Report - August/September 2023

(Cabinet, 21 November 2023)

Cabinet considered a report presenting the September 2023 performance, risk, and finance position for the council. The business management reports were part of a suite of performance, risk and budget documents which set out the council's ambitions, priorities, and financial performance.

Cabinet noted the report and welcomed, in particular, the reduction of the percentage of children in residential care in the County. Cabinet also approved the write off of five Adult Social Care contribution debts totaling £0.142m and the Supplementary Estimate request of £0.2m to fund the deficit balance for a school converting to academy status during 2023/24.

6. Capital Programme Approvals - November 2023

(Cabinet, 21 November 2023)

Cabinet had before it a report setting out requests for changes to the Capital Programme requiring Cabinet approval that will be incorporated into the agreed programme and included in the next quarterly update to the Capital Programme in December 2023.

Cabinet approved a development budget of £2.1m to progress the design phase for the 'Didcot Northern Perimeter Road Scheme 3', a scheme already in the capital programme and the submission of a bid to Active Travel England for an indicative funding amount of £2.38m for several defined active travel schemes.

LIZ LEFFMAN

Leader of the Council

November 2023