

EXECUTIVE

MONDAY 10 DECEMBER 2018 AT 4.00 PM

PRESENT:

Councillor Glover (Leader / Chairman)
Councillor Miss Sherriff (Communities, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder)
Councillor Southward (Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder)
Councillor Glendinning (Economy, Enterprise and Housing Portfolio Holder)

OFFICERS:

Town Clerk and Chief Executive
Deputy Chief Executive
Corporate Director of Governance and Regulatory Services
Corporate Director of Finance and Resources
Corporate Director of Economic Development

ALSO PRESENT:

Councillor Mrs Birks (Chairman of the Business and Transformation Scrutiny Panel)
Councillors Allison, Mrs Bowman and Nedved (Observers)

WELCOME

The Leader welcomed all those present to the meeting.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Dr Tickner (Deputy Leader, and Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder); and Councillor Ms Quilter (Culture, Heritage and Leisure Portfolio Holder).

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest affecting the business to be transacted at the meeting.

PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED – That the Agenda be agreed as circulated.

BUDGET PROCESS 2019/20

EX.118/18 BUDGET UPDATE - REVENUE ESTIMATES 2019/20 TO 2023/24 (Key Decision – KD.19/18)

Portfolio Finance, Governance and Resources

Relevant Scrutiny Panel Business and Transformation

Subject Matter

Pursuant to Minute EX.99/18, the Leader submitted report RD.29/18 providing an update to the Corporate Director of Finance and Resources' report to the Executive of 12 November 2018 (RD.22/18).

Summarised within the report were the revised revenue base estimates for 2018/19, together with the base estimates for 2019/20 and forecasts up to 2023/24 for illustrative purposes.

The Leader informed the meeting that a number of significant factors affecting the budget remained outstanding, in particular, the Local Government Finance Settlement, due on 6 December 2018, but which had been deferred. Further information had been incorporated in the Budget or would be available in January 2019.

He added that future planning remained challenging with key information from Government still to be provided:

- Local Government Funding Announcement referenced above
- Business Rate Retention – the response on the pilot application remained outstanding. The bid submitted was strong and it was hoped that a positive response would be forthcoming
- 2019 Comprehensive Spending Review
- Fair Funding Review

It was further understood that the Brexit vote had been deferred.

The Leader emphasised that the maintenance of adequate reserves would be essential in protecting services and ensuring the financial stability of the Council.

Set out at Section 4 was an overview of the outstanding key issues and resource assumptions, with details of the potential new spending pressures that needed to be considered also provided at Section 5.

In terms of savings and additional income proposals, the report recorded that the current MTFP included a savings requirement to be found by 2018/19 of £1.237 million (£1.129 million for Transformation and £0.107 million for Base Budget Review). Further savings / additional income had already been identified in the budget process for 2019/20 to date, details of which were set out at Section 6.

The Council's current levels of balances set out at Appendix A included the impact of the proposed pressures and savings outlined in the report. The Projects Reserve had been used as a first call for the current projected revenue budget deficit however, maintaining the current level of reserves was dependent upon the achievement of the transformation savings. A risk based

review of reserve levels had been undertaken which showed that the minimum level of General Fund Reserves should remain at £3.3 million.

The Leader then formally moved the recommendations, which were formally seconded by the Communities, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder.

Summary of options rejected None

DECISION

That the Executive:

- (i) noted the revised base estimates for 2018/19 and base estimates for 2019/20;
- (ii) noted that the estimates in the report were draft and would be subject to the confirmation of Local Government Finance Settlement in December 2018;
- (iii) noted the current MTFP projections, which would continue to be updated throughout the budget process as key issues become clearer and decisions were taken;
- (iv) noted the budget pressures/savings needing to be taken into account as part of the 2019/20 budget process;
- (v) noted the Statutory Report of the S.151 Officer outlining the risks associated with the draft budget figures and that minimum reserves may need to be reviewed in the future depending upon the outcome of the Local Government Finance review.

Reasons for Decision

To ensure that a balanced budget is set

EX.119/18 REVISED CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2018/19 AND PROVISIONAL CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2019/20 TO 2023/24
(Key Decision – KD.19/18)

Portfolio Finance, Governance and Resources

Relevant Scrutiny Panel Business and Transformation

Subject Matter

Pursuant to Minute EX.104/18, the Leader submitted report RD.30/18 which, as Members would be aware, provided an update to the Corporate Director of Finance and Resources' report to the Executive of 12 November 2018 (RD.23/18) included within the book of Budget reports. The latter report had been the subject of scrutiny.

The report set out the proposed capital programme for 2019/20 to 2023/24 in the light of new capital proposals identified, and summarised the estimated capital resources available to fund the programme.

The resources available to support the capital programme could only be estimated during the year. The final position was dependent in particular on how successful the Council had been in achieving Capital Receipts from the sale of assets against its target.

The cost of externally borrowing £1m to fund the capital programme would result in a charge to the revenue account in the next full year of approximately £62,000. That was made up of £32,000 for the cost of the interest payable (3.2% of £1m equated to £32,000) and a principal repayment provision of 3% of the outstanding sum (3% of £1m equated to £30,000).

Referencing Appendix A, the Leader highlighted that the Executive was asked to approve the removal of two schemes from the 2018/19 capital programme and future years; and to make recommendations to Council regarding the re-profiling of £380,000 from 2018/19 to 2019/20.

The Leader then formally moved the recommendations, which were formally seconded by the Communities, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder.

Summary of options rejected None

DECISION

That the Executive:

- (i) Noted the revised capital programme and relevant financing for 2018/19 as set out in Appendices A and B including approving the removal of two schemes from the capital programme in 2018/19 and future years, and made recommendations to Council to re-profile £380,000 from 2018/19 to 2019/20;
- (ii) Had given consideration and views on the proposed capital spending for 2019/20 to 2023/24 given in the report in the light of the estimated available resources;
- (iii) Noted the views expressed by the Scrutiny Panels, and that any capital scheme for which funding had been approved by Council may only proceed after a full report, including business case and financial appraisal, had been approved.

Reasons for Decision

To ensure that a balanced budget is set

EX.120/18 DRAFT TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT, INVESTMENT STRATEGY AND MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION STRATEGY 2019/20
(Key Decision – KD.19/18)

Portfolio Finance, Governance and Resources

Relevant Scrutiny Panel Business and Transformation

Subject Matter

Pursuant to Minute EX.106/18, the Leader submitted report RD.31/18 setting out the Council's draft Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2019/20 in accordance with the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management.

He informed Members that the Investment Strategy and the Minimum Revenue Provision Strategy for 2019/20 were incorporated as part of the Statement, as were the Prudential Indicators as required within the Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities.

The report would be considered by the Audit Committee; and the Business and Transformation Scrutiny Panel on 17 December 2018 and 3 January 2019 respectively.

In conclusion, the Leader formally moved the recommendation, which was formally seconded by the Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder.

Summary of options rejected None

DECISION

That the Executive noted the draft Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2019/20, which incorporated the Investment Strategy and the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Strategy, together with the Prudential Indicators for 2019/20 for draft budget consultation purposes as set out in Appendix A and the Treasury Management Policy Statement as set out at Appendix D to Report RD.31/18.

Reasons for Decision

To enable the Executive's draft Budget proposals to be prepared for consultation purposes

EX.121/18 REVIEW OF CHARGES 2019/20
(Key Decision – KD.19/18)

Portfolio Cross-cutting

Relevant Scrutiny Panel Health and Wellbeing; Economic Growth; Business and Transformation

Subject Matter

Pursuant to Minutes EX.100/18, EX.101/18, EX.102/18 and EX.103/18, further consideration was given to the Charges Reviews in respect of charges falling within the responsibility of the Community Services; Economic Development; Governance and Regulatory Services Directorates; and the Licensing Section. The proposed charges were contained within Reports CS.31/18, ED.37/18; GD.72/18 and GD.87/18.

Extracts from the Minutes of the meetings of the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel on 15 November 2018 (HWSP.71/18); Economic Growth Scrutiny Panel on 22 November 2018 (EGSP.85/18); and Business and Transformation Scrutiny Panel on 29 November 2018 (BTSP.82/18) in respect of the proposed charges were submitted.

The Leader advised that a number of comments had been made as a result of the scrutiny alluded to. Having given consideration to the key observations, recommendations and options, the Executive responded in the following terms:

- **Sands Centre Car Parking**

The Executive Budget proposals 2019/20 (to be tabled later in the meeting) included the removal of parking charges after 6pm with effect from 1 April 2019. The Executive was aware of the potential impact of construction on site emanating from the Sands Centre redevelopment and had undertaken to keep the charges introduced last year under review.

The Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder had taken a decision (PF.006/18) not to apply the car parking charges applicable to the Sands Centre car park between the hours of 18:00 and 23:59 each day, effective from Friday 14 December 2018 (subject to no call-in being received) until such time as the charges and charging hours for 2019/20 were implemented (which, for the avoidance of doubt, would not include a charge for the said hours).

That decision had been taken with the aim of supporting local businesses and the Sands Centre by encouraging evening visits to the City Centre.

- **Stray Dog Charges**

Current charges did not reflect the actual cost to the Council of dealing with stray dogs. The proposed increases dealt with that and sought to recover the associated cost.

The Leader added that there was also a missing entry in the table on page 57 of the Budget Book – no charge was shown for the existing charge for dogs returned directly home and not kennelled. That should have been an existing charge of £30.

Around 150 stray dogs (down from over 360) were kennelled each year and a very small number of those were repeat incidents and so the Schedule now proposed an increased charge for repeat incidents to encourage more responsible dog ownership.

Scrutiny had raised the question of the possibility of different charging levels between chipped and non-chipped dogs. It was, however, now a legal requirement for all dogs to be chipped; and the owners of any stray dogs picked up and found not to be chipped were liable to a fixed penalty charge of £100 in addition to the charges contained within the report.

The City Council had provided chipping in partnership with the Dogs Trust and would look to continue that work.

- **Replacement Recycling Receptacles**

Scrutiny had raised a question about whether it was appropriate to give discretion with regard to raising charges for replacement recycling receptacles. The Executive took on board those comments and asked for further information; and had been advised that discretion had very rarely needed to be exercised and only then in very exceptional circumstances. As a result, the Executive had agreed that the ability to show such discretion should be retained in exceptional circumstances.

Subject to the above, the Leader formally moved the Scrutiny Panel Minutes and the level of charges to be applied as not yet resolved for the Community Services; Economic Development; and Governance and Regulatory Services Directorates; and the Licensing Section.

The Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder formally seconded the recommendation.

Summary of options rejected a number of alternative charges as detailed in the above reports

DECISION

1. That the fees and charges for 2019/20 relating to those services falling within the responsibility of the Community Services Directorate (set out in Report CS.31/18 and relevant Appendices) be approved with effect from 1 April 2019, subject to:
 - Inclusion of the existing charge of £30 for dogs returned directly home and not kennelled within the table at page 57 of the Budget Book.
2. That the fees and charges for 2019/20 relating to those services falling within the responsibility of the Economic Development Directorate (set out in Report ED.37/18 and accompanying Appendices) be approved with effect from 1 April 2019.

3. That the fees and charges for 2019/20 relating to the areas falling within the responsibility of the Governance and Regulatory Services Directorate, as set out in Report GD.72/18 and accompanying Appendices, be approved with effect from 1 April 2019.
4. That the Executive noted the Licensing Charges which had been approved by the Regulatory Panel on 17 October 2018; and that the fees under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 had been determined for a three year period on 1 August 2016.
5. That the Scrutiny Panels be thanked for their consideration of and contribution to the matter.

Reasons for Decision

The proposed charges and options reflected the Corporate Charging Policy as set out in the Medium Term Financial Plan, whilst attempting to recognise service pressures and trends

The Leader thanked Scrutiny Panel Members for their very robust work in scrutinising the budget reports. The Executive Budget Proposals 2019/20 issued for consultation would be tabled at the next item of business and the Executive looked forward to receiving further comments throughout the budget consultation process.

EX.122/18 EXECUTIVE RESPONSE ON THE 2019/20 BUDGET (Key Decision – KD.19/18)

Portfolio Finance, Governance and Resources

Relevant Scrutiny Panel Business and Transformation

Subject Matter

The Leader reported that the Executive was issuing their 2019/20 Budget Proposals for consultation, copies of which were tabled. He expressed thanks to the Corporate Director of Finance and Resources and her team for providing the budget summary.

Over the next four weeks, the Executive would be consulting on its budget proposals with businesses, trade union representatives and its residents. The deadline for comments was 9.00 am on 14 January 2019. The Executive would respond to consultees' feedback at its meeting on 16 January 2019.

In presenting the Executive Budget Proposals, the Leader stated that continued underfunding of Councils by central government, together with the uncertainty of future funding, made the challenge of balancing local budgets more difficult with each year that passed.

The Executive continued to focus on protecting front line services and looking after the most vulnerable people in our communities, together with delivering their ambitious plans for the future: growing the local economy; providing good quality jobs and homes; improving the local environment and health and wellbeing facilities for all their residents and visitors.

They recognised that it was not only Council budgets that were stretched, household budgets were too. Government caps on District Council council tax increases suggested up to 3% but, recognising pressure on residents, the Executive would cap the increase at the same level as last year. That would mean an increase of £5 per year for a Band D property (10p per week) and £3.33 per year for a Band A property (6p per week).

As part of future planning, the MTFP last year identified a possible saving of up to £300k per year from the grant to Tullie House. However, that was to be subject to discussion and joint planning with the Tullie House Board. Whilst that did not affect the budget for 2019/20, he could advise that an agreement had been reached on a lower level and phased reduction in the grant with effect from 2020/21. That would be covered in more detail in the later item on the agenda, but it should be noted at this point that it would add another budget pressure of £350k for the Council across 2020/21 and 2021/22.

As part of their Budget last year the Executive reviewed and reduced car parking charges. That had supported city centre businesses and helped to increase footfall. To build on that success, the Executive did not intend to increase parking charges and they would be frozen at current levels for 2019/20.

A £250k fund would be provided for Economic Development initiatives, building on the Executive's success so far – that could include the creation of a Business Improvement District subject to business support; further growing Carlisle Ambassadors, proposals for St Cuthbert's Garden Village and promoting the Central Plaza development opportunity.

With a national government in utter chaos, it was local councils that were providing stable leadership for their communities and planning and building for the future. Carlisle had a clear vision and ambition and the Executive was delivering that leadership,

As a listening Council, the Executive welcomed the views of local residents and businesses to help shape the decisions they made, and they looked forward to receiving feedback on their budget proposals for the coming year.

The Corporate Director of Finance and Resources drew Members' attention to a typographical error on page 17, point 2 of the Executive Budget Proposals – "2018/19" should in fact have read "2019/20". That would be corrected prior to the budget proposals being issued for consultation.

Subject to the correction highlighted by the Corporate Director, the Leader formally moved the recommendation, which was formally seconded by the Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder.

Summary of options rejected a number of options which had been considered as part of the Council's 2019/20 budget deliberations as identified in various reports

DECISION

That subject to the correction set out above, Executive's draft Budget proposals, as tabled at the meeting and appended to these Minutes as Appendix A, be agreed and circulated for consultation.

Reasons for Decision

To produce the draft Budget proposals for consultation purposes

CALL-IN

The Leader announced that The Mayor had, on 30 November 2018, agreed that the following items should be exempt from call-in for the reasons stated:

- Tullie House Business Plan 2019/20 – 2020/21: call-in procedures would delay submission of the matter to Council on 8 January 2019, when Council will be asked to agree core funding for the Trust, thereby prejudicing the Council's interests.
- Warm Homes Fund Grant Award: call-in procedures would delay acceptance of the grant and signature of the contracts by the required deadline of 14 December 2018, thus prejudicing the Council's interests.

PROCEDURES PRIOR TO PRIVATE MEETINGS

It was further noted that Regulation 5 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 prescribed that, at least 28 clear days before a private meeting, the decision-making body must make available / publish a notice of its intention to hold the meeting in private.

The Corporate Director of Governance and Regulatory Services required to submit an urgent private report to this meeting (Agenda item B.1 – Asset Disposal Plan). The decision required to be taken today in order that progress of the Asset Disposal Plan may be aligned with the Budget.

Since compliance with the above regulation was impracticable, the Chairman of the Business and Transformation Scrutiny Panel had agreed that the decision was urgent and could not reasonably be deferred, and that the matter could be dealt with today. A Notice setting out the reasons for urgency had also been published in compliance with the Regulation.

EX.123/18 **TULLIE HOUSE BUSINESS PLAN 2019/20 – 2020/21 (Key Decision – KD.16/18)

(In accordance with Paragraph 15(i) of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, the Mayor had agreed that call-in procedures should not be applied to this item)

Portfolio Culture, Heritage and Leisure

Relevant Scrutiny Panel Health and Wellbeing

Subject Matter

The Leader submitted report CS.35/18 introducing the Tullie House Museum and Art Gallery Trust (THT) 2019-2021 Business Plan.

Members were reminded that the purpose of the report was to allow consideration of the Business Plan in order that the Council may, in due course, agree core funding for the Trust. That was in line with Section 5 of the Partnership Agreement between the Council and the Trust which stated that the Business Plan submitted by the Trust to the City Council should be used as the basis for agreeing future years funding.

Also included within the report was an action plan which demonstrated the manner by which Tullie House Trust would deliver its eight strategic objectives that underpinned its two strategic aims of financial sustainability and community engagement (Appendix 1), and the Tullie House Trust staffing structure (Appendix 2).

The Leader indicated that, as mentioned earlier in the meeting, extensive work had been undertaken in conjunction with Tullie House with regard to the Business Plan and associated options. Last year the MTFP had identified a possible saving of up to £300k per year from the grant paid by the Council.

Tullie House was going through a master planning exercise and the Leader referenced the very positive recent events and exciting developments identified. Consideration required to be given to funding proposals as part of that exercise.

The matter had been the subject of thorough consideration by the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel on 15 November 2018, at which time the Deputy Chief Executive and a Trust Board Member had presented the Business Plan to the Panel.

The Chairman of the Scrutiny Panel had been invited to address the Executive on the matter today, but was not in attendance.

The Leader summarised the interesting observations raised as detailed within Minute HWSP.70/18. He highlighted in particular a Member's comment that, were the Panel to put emphasis on the Trust's proposal, it would need to take into account the need for the Council to balance its own budget. Another Member commented that much focus had been placed on increasing income, his view being that the Trust should also seek to reduce its costs.

The Panel had resolved:

"1) That the Panel were sympathetic to the Tullie House Trust's proposal in relation to the level of its core grant funding; however, it recognised accepting the proposal would mean additional savings would be required in the Council's Budget.

2) That the implementation of the Business Plan be monitored to ascertain whether the increased incomes the Trust anticipated were realised.

3) That the Tullie House Business Plan 2019 – 2021 report (CS.34/18) be noted."

A copy of the Minute Excerpt had been circulated.

The Leader reiterated that a possible saving of up to £300k per year from the grant to Tullie House had been identified. However, following detailed discussions, agreement had been reached on a lower level and phased reduction in the grant with effect from 2020/21.

Taking on board the comments of the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel, the Business Plan and ongoing master planning work, the Executive supported a grant reduction: £100,000 in 2020/21, further reduction of £50,000 in the following year, with the full grant reduction of £300,000 in year 3.

The Tullie House Trust Board was confident that they could achieve that reduction in years 1 and 2, with year 3 being kept under review.

The Leader concluded his presentation by formally moving recommendations 1 and 2 (as recorded within the report), together with the proposals regarding the level of core grant to be provided set out above.

The Communities, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder then formally seconded the recommendations.

Summary of options rejected other options on the level of core grant to be provided

DECISION

That the Executive:

1. Had considered the Tullie House Business Plan (2019-2021) and the action plan, and referred that on to full Council for their views.
2. Had considered the proposals made by the Tullie House Board for core funding from the year 2020/21 as at page 15 of the Business Plan whilst taking into account the resolutions from the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel of 15 November 2018.
3. Having considered the Business Plan and core funding proposals made by the Board, made a recommendation to Full Council (8 January 2019) on the level of core grant to be provided in 2020/21 and the indicative levels for 2021/22 and 2022/23; with the Executive supporting a grant reduction: £100,000 in 2020/21, further reduction of £50,000 in the following year, with the full grant reduction of £300,000 in year 3.

Reasons for Decision

The recommendations allowed the report, the associated Business Plan and core funding to be approved in line with the Partnership Agreement

EX.124/18 **WARM HOMES FUND GRANT AWARD

(Key Decision)

(With the consent of the Chairman, and in accordance with Rule 15 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules; and Regulation 10 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 this item was included on the Executive Agenda as a Key decision, although not in the Notice of Executive Key Decisions)

(In accordance with Paragraph 15(i) of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, The Mayor had agreed that call-in procedures should not be applied to this item)

Portfolio Economy, Enterprise and Housing

Relevant Scrutiny Panel Health and Wellbeing

Subject Matter

The Economy, Enterprise and Housing Portfolio Holder reported (GD.92/18) that the Warm Homes Fund (WHF) was a £150million fund administered by Affordable Warmth Solutions (AWS) across England, Wales and Scotland, primarily designed to address fuel poverty and poor energy efficiency of housing stock. The Fund incentivised the installation of affordable heating solutions in households which did not use mains gas as their primary heating fuel. It was envisaged that the Fund be used to supplement local strategic plans and other funds available. The aims of the Fund were to reduce bills, increase comfort in non-gas fuel poor households, and improve health outcomes for some of those with the most severe levels of fuel poverty.

It was anticipated that the bid, under Category 1: Urban homes and communities, would involve 200 new gas heating systems to private sector homes to provide space heating and domestic hot water. It could also include heat network solutions. Under that category new gas connections would continue to be undertaken by Gas Distribution Networks and funded through the Fuel Poor Network Extension Scheme.

The City Council (through its Homelife HIA Team) made an application to the Warm Homes Fund on 27 September 2018 in accordance with the grants and external funding procedure using the Corporate Director of Governance and Regulatory Services' delegated authority to apply for grant funding.

The Portfolio Holder then provided an overview of the project delivery; partners; and funding recorded at Section 2, before formally moving the recommendations.

The Communities, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder formally seconded the recommendations.

Summary of options rejected the award of funding be not accepted

DECISION

That the Executive:

1. Accepted the £538,000 Award of Funding from the Warm Homes Fund and authorised the Corporate Director of Governance and Regulatory Services to enter into the legal agreement upon him being satisfied as to the terms and conditions thereof.
2. Delegated responsibility for the spend of the grant to the Corporate Director of Governance and Regulatory Services.

Reasons for Decision

The Warm Homes funding could be used as an additional resource and offer to complement the other sources of grant funding Homelife had access to, to improve the housing stock of privately rented and privately-owned homes in Carlisle and District area

The scheme encouraged energy suppliers and installers to offer first time gas central heating and an opportunity for homes that were viable for connection to the mains gas network to get connected for free

Thrift energy was using local contractors and offering upskilling and training to become ECO installers, which benefitted the local economy as a social benefit

The marketing leads generated by the project would raise awareness of the services offered by the City Council's Home Improvement Agency and generate more discretionary grant applications

The awarding company Affordable Warmth Solutions (AWS) had requested that the City Council confirm acceptance of the grant and signed contracts by Friday 14 December 2018 or the offer may be withdrawn

AWS had also requested that it is made clear that the outcome of the bid is subject to contract on any communications outside the organisation and the delivery partners

EX.125/18 NOTICE OF EXECUTIVE KEY DECISIONS
(Non Key Decision)

Portfolio Cross-Cutting

Relevant Scrutiny Panel Health and Wellbeing; Economic Growth;
Business and Transformation

Subject Matter

The Notice of Executive Key Decisions, dated 9 November 2018, was submitted for information.

Summary of options rejected None

DECISION

That the Notice of Executive Key Decisions dated 9 November 2018 be received.

Reasons for Decision

Not applicable

EX.126/18 SCHEDULE OF DECISIONS TAKEN BY OFFICERS
(Non Key Decision)

Portfolio Cross-cutting

Relevant Scrutiny Panel Health and Wellbeing; Economic Growth;
Business and Transformation

Subject Matter

Details of decisions taken by Officers under delegated powers were submitted.

Summary of options rejected None

DECISION

That the decisions, attached as Appendix B, be noted.

Reasons for Decision

Not applicable

EX.127/18 JOINT MANAGEMENT TEAM
(Non Key Decision)

Portfolio Cross-cutting

Relevant Scrutiny Panel Health and Wellbeing; Economic Growth; Business and
Transformation

Subject Matter

The Minutes of the meeting of the Joint Management Team held on 12 November 2018 were submitted for information.

Summary of options rejected none

DECISION

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Joint Management Team held on 12 November 2018, attached as Appendix C, be received.

Reasons for Decision

Not applicable

EX.128/18 PERFORMANCE REPORT QUARTER 2 2018/19
(Non Key Decision)

Portfolio Finance, Governance and Resources

Relevant Scrutiny Panel Health and Wellbeing; Economic Growth; Business
and Transformation

Subject Matter

The Leader submitted report PC.24/18 containing the Quarter 2 2018/19 performance against the current Service Standards, together with a summary of the Carlisle Plan 2015-18 actions as defined in the 'plan on a page'. Performance against the 2018/19 Key Performance Indicators was also included.

The Leader referred Members to Carlisle Plan Key Action 26 - Continue to implement the Green Infrastructure Strategy to make our green spaces safe and exciting for our residents and visitors, enhancing Carlisle's reputation as a green, welcoming city for people and business that encourages inward investment, raise property values and increase productivity. He explained that the specific task related to construction of the Crindledyke cycleway, which project had been completed on time and to budget in Quarter 2. It was therefore proposed that the Key Action be closed.

In conclusion, the Leader formally moved the recommendations, which were formally seconded by the Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder.

Summary of options rejected None

DECISION

That the Executive:

1. Had given consideration to the performance of the City Council as presented in the report with a view to seeking continuous improvement in how the Council delivered its priorities.

2. Agreed to the closure of Carlisle Plan Key Action 26: *Continue to implement the Green Infrastructure Strategy to make our green spaces safe and exciting for our residents and visitors, enhancing Carlisle's reputation as a green, welcoming city for people and business that encourages inward investment, raise property values and increase productivity.* The specific task was the construction of the Crindledyke cycleway. The project was completed on time and to budget in Quarter 2. Whilst the Strategy is ongoing for several years, this cycleway project is complete and no further large projects are imminent.

Reasons for Decision

To comment on the Quarter 2 Performance Report and agree to the closure of Carlisle Plan Key Action 26

EX.129/18 CUMBRIA CARE LEAVERS COUNCIL TAX DISCOUNT SCHEME (Non Key Decision)

Portfolio Finance, Governance and Resources

Relevant Scrutiny Panel Business and Transformation

Subject Matter

The Leader reported (CE.11/18) that provisions under Section 13A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 enabled billing authorities to determine certain categories where discounts could be granted in respect of council tax liability. A number of Councils had introduced measures to exempt Care Leavers from council tax following representations made relating to recommendations made in the Government's Care Leavers strategy "Keep On Caring" published in July 2016.

Nationally the Children's Commissioner for England had contacted local authorities to highlight the need to consider offering assistance to Care Leavers as they moved into independence without family members to fall back on for guidance and support.

The Leader highlighted the support provided by Cumbria County Council adding that, due to the representations received, the matter had been considered by the six Districts who all wished to support Care Leavers resident in Cumbria up to the age of 25 by introducing, with effect from April 2018, a 100% discount from Council Tax in the circumstances identified at paragraph 2.2.

Following collaboration by the Cumbria Revenues Practitioners Group and relevant Finance Officers from Cumbria County Council, a policy had been drafted for approval by each District detailing the procedures and criteria for a discount, whilst safeguarding the interests of local taxpayers (Appendix 1 referred). The principles of the proposed policy were considered and supported by the Strategic Policy Finance Group (SFPG) during summer 2018 and, after consideration of the legislative provisions, approval of the scheme by the Executive was deemed appropriate.

It was noted that the Cumbrian Councils continued to provide a means tested, 100% Council Tax Reduction Scheme. Whilst that offered support, assistance based on the status as a Care Leaver would ensure that a consistent discount, irrespective of income, was available up to the age of 25.

Members' attention was further drawn to the proposed application form (Appendix 2); draft Data Sharing Agreement with Cumbria County Council (Appendix 3); and the financial considerations and risks identified at Sections 3 and 4 of the report.

The Leader then formally moved the recommendations, which were formally seconded by the Communities, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder.

Summary of options rejected to refuse approval for the introduction of the scheme

DECISION

That the Executive:

1. Pursuant to section 13A(1)(c) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, approve the introduction of the Council Tax Discount scheme for eligible Care Leavers within the District shown as appendix 1 to the Report; and
2. Pursuant to section 13A(7) for the same Act, determine that Care Leavers are a class of case for the purpose of exercising the power under the said section 13A(1)(c).

Reasons for Decision

The introduction of the Care Leavers Council Tax Discount is fully supported across Cumbria.

PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED – That in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the Public and Press were excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraph number (as indicated in brackets against the minute) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the 1972 Local Government Act.

EX.130/18 ASSET DISPOSAL PLAN

(Non Key Decision)

(Public and Press excluded by virtue of Paragraph 3)

(In accordance with Regulation 5 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements)(Meetings and Access to Information)(England) Regulations 2012, the Chairman of the Business and Transformation Scrutiny Panel had agreed that the decision in relation to this item of business was urgent and could not reasonably be deferred)

Portfolio Finance, Governance and Resources

Relevant Scrutiny Panel Business and Transformation

Subject Matter

The Leader submitted private report GD.91/18 concerning proposals to refresh the Asset Disposal Plan.

The report recorded that the review of the Council's property portfolio, undertaken in 2010, organised the assets into three distinct categories. A number of assets were identified as surplus to requirements and a disposal programme was implemented. To date 38 properties had been sold generating in excess of £10.1m gross receipts.

The review started with the current asset register; each asset being reviewed to assess whether the asset was still required for operational needs, income generation or economic development purposes and the rationale for retaining or disposing of the asset was included in appendix 1. A review was also undertaken of the remaining disposal programme. As part of the process a number of assets were identified as suitable for community asset transfer and they would be reviewed further and brought to Members in due course.

The assets identified as suitable for disposal were set out at Appendix 2 to the report; details of the timescale, resource and budgetary implications of the proposals were also provided.

The Business and Transformation Scrutiny Panel had scrutinised the matter (Minute BTSP.91/18) and resolved: That the Panel scrutinised the proposals in the Asset Disposal Plan for consideration by the Executive (GD.90/18).

An excerpt from the minutes, setting out the Panel's observations, on the matter was also submitted.

Speaking at the invitation of the Leader, the Chairman of the Business and Transformation Scrutiny Panel informed the Executive that the Panel had scrutinised the matter on 29 November 2018 and she wished to express thanks to the Property Services Team for the work they had undertaken around the identification / viability of assets.

The Chairman provided an overview of the Panel's discussions regarding the sale of certain individual assets and their value as listed within the report. It was felt that any disposals should come back to the Executive with impact assessments to ensure that returns were maximised.

In conclusion, the Chairman said that overall the report was comprehensive and very well structured.

The Leader responded by thanking the Scrutiny Panel for the very thorough scrutiny undertaken and the Property Services Team for their work. He outlined for Members the three distinct asset categories alluded to above and the progress achieved to date around the disposal of assets. Economic development initiatives, such as the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal and southern link road would be of key importance.

The Leader was happy to provide assurance that reports would come back before the Executive for final consideration prior to the disposal of assets. The position would be closely monitored so that the best possible outcome could be achieved for the Council, businesses and local residents.

The Leader concluded by formally moving the recommendations, which were formally seconded by the Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder.

Summary of options rejected the revised Asset Disposal Plan should not be approved

DECISION

That the Executive:

1. Had considered the feedback from the Business and Transformation Scrutiny Panel and thanked Panel Members for their input.
2. Approved the revised Asset Disposal Plan and the retention of 4% of the capital receipts to fund the resources specified in Section 4 of Report GD.91/18.

Reasons for Decision

As detailed within the report

EX.131/18 LEADER'S COMMENTS

The Leader stated that this was the last meeting of the Executive during the current calendar year. Accordingly, he wished to place on record thanks to all for the hard work undertaken.

The Leader extended best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

[The meeting ended at 4.40 pm]