

CABINET

Tuesday, 19 March 2024

REDCAR & CLEVELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL

Decision Record

Decision-making body: Cabinet

Location: Civic Centre, Ridley Street, Redcar TS10 1TD

Date: Tuesday, 19 March 2024

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| Present | Councillor A Brown (Chair) Councillors U Earl, C Massey, L Pallister, C Quartermain, C Richardson and B Suthers. |
| Officials | B Archer and F Anderson. K Boulton S Fenwick, S Newton, J Sampson, C Styles, |
| In attendance | Councillors I Hart, J Joy, K King, G Nightingale and M Ovens. |
| Apologies for absence | Councillors L Belshaw and A Brook. |
| Minutes | RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 6 February 2024 be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record. |
| Declarations of Interest | None |

These minutes were published on 21 March 2024
by the Governance Director

CABINET

Tuesday, 19 March 2024

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| Item/report: | 42 Organisational Plan 2024 to 2027 |
| Reporting source: | Managing Director (Head of Paid Service) |
| Record of decision: | RESOLVED that the Organisational Plan for 2024-27, and the subsequent reporting of progress to commence from quarter 1 of the financial year be approved. |
| Reason for the decision: | <p>This report sought Cabinet's approval to the Organisational Plan for 2024 to 2027.</p> <p>Members were reminded that the Organisational Plan underpinned the delivery of the recently agreed Corporate Plan and which set out the priorities for the Borough for 2023 - 2027. This Plan therefore sought approval to put in place a mechanism for reporting on, delivering upon and monitoring those agreed priorities.</p> |
| Assessment of options: | Whilst developing the Organisational Plan it had been necessary to strike a balance between ambition and aspiration in the development of key strategy at the same time as being pragmatic given the financial context the organisation was operating within. Clear, defined strategic direction was fundamental to the delivery of meaningful, positive change in the borough, and it was important to be realistic to the pace and extent this could be achieved within available resource. |
| Declared conflicts of interest: | None |
| Date and time by which call-in must be exercised: | Midnight on 28 March 2024 |

CABINET

Tuesday, 19 March 2024

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| Item/report: | 43 Libraries Review |
| Reporting source: | Executive Director for Adults and Communities |
| Record of decision: | RESOLVED that Cabinet: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Approves the Libraries Review final proposals to;<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Implement the new vision and priority areas and to close Roseberry Library and Brotton Library;• To progress new management and operational arrangements for Grangetown Library retaining the statutory library offer;• Retain the statutory service in Dormanstown but managed by volunteers;• Progress to securing a VCS (voluntary and community sector) organisation to cover the Laburnum Library building but to retain a statutory book lending offer within the current library space; and,• Introduce the new opening hours, remove late fees and in service book reservation fees, as detailed in the report.2. Agrees that a period of transition and partnership be built into the options to transition into voluntary run services and venues for Laburnum Library, Dormanstown Library and Grangetown Library. |
| Reason for the decision: | <p>This report set out the final proposals that would enable the Council to realise the significant budget savings required of the Library Service. It also enabled the delivery and development of a comprehensive and efficient, fit for purpose Library Service for our residents and communities.</p> <p>The report also gave a summary of the work undertaken to date and an overview of the Phase 2 consultation. It detailed the final proposals and referred to any changes made from the proposals that went under public consultation.</p> |
| Assessment of options: | A wide range of options were explored when considering this report. |
| Declared conflicts of interest: | None |
| Date and time by which call-in must be exercised: | Midnight on 28 March 2024 |

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Tuesday, 19 March 2024

Item/report: 44 **Review of Vegetation Management**

Reporting source: Executive Director for Growth, Enterprise & Environment

Record of decision: **RESOLVED** that Cabinet:

1. Notes the contents of the report and its appendices, including the significant impact on cost, sustainability, and service delivery of a decision to impose a complete ban on chemical use; and,
2. Approves:
 - a. The use of glyphosate to manage vegetation on hard surfaces to maintain adopted highways to a safe standard (roads, footpaths etc.);
 - b. A continuation of the current programme to limit, reduce and stop the use of glyphosate where it reasonably practicable to do so. (tree bases, obstacles in grass areas, shrub beds etc.);
 - c. The adoption of a Policy to incrementally reduce glyphosate use in parks and public open spaces (including cemeteries), as detailed in the report (not reproduced, except for the management of invasive non-native plant species.

Reason for the decision:

This report reminded Cabinet of a motion that was agreed by the Borough Council on 21 December 2023, which noted “public and occupational health concerns about glyphosate exposure and the need to protect habitat and biodiversity” and called upon the Council to:

- Bring forward an action plan and timetable for bringing Glyphosate down to zero, in the spraying of glyphosate on such land;
- Stop the use of Glyphosate by all Council contractors and employed staff on public and council owned land by December 2024; and,
- Where there are problems with invasive species such as Japanese Knotweed and where there is a duty to eradicate, then glyphosate may be used until an acceptable non-chemical alternative becomes available.

Cabinet were advised that the Council undertook vegetation management on Council owned land to ensure that it met its duties to maintain adopted highways and public open spaces to a standard that ensures the health and safety of the public, and to maintain expected standards for the appearance of the borough.

The report therefore set out the Council’s response to the motion, including its current approach to vegetation management and the available alternative options.

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| Assessment of options: | A wide range of options have been explored whilst considering this report. |
| Declared conflicts of interest: | None |
| Date and time by which call-in must be exercised: | Midnight on 28 March 2024 |

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Tuesday, 19 March 2024

Item/report: 45 **Education Results Across All Key Stages 2022**

Reporting source: Executive Director for Children and Families

Record of decision: **RESOLVED** that Cabinet notes:

- a. The excellent progress and attainment in the primary sector at KS2;
- b. The continued improvement in attainment levels at KS4 in secondary school;
- c. That the gap between the disadvantaged and non disadvantaged at KS4 remains; and,
- d. The results at post 16.

Reason for the decision: This report provided Cabinet with an overview of the Education results, assessments and exams, across all Key Stages. (Early Years to Key Stage 5) for pupils in Redcar and Cleveland for the academic year ending in 2023.

Cabinet were advised that all primary results continued to be above the National Average with progress scores at Key stage 2 remaining above national. Good progress had also been made by the secondary schools to close the gap with the national averages and the Local Authority Attainment 8 figure now sits in line with national. In addition, 4 schools have progress 8 figures that are broadly in line with the national average. Post 16 outcomes have dipped and are sitting just below national averages.

Assessment of options: There were no options to consider as this was a factual report.

Declared conflicts of interest: None

Date and time by which call-in must be exercised: Midnight on 28 March 2024

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Tuesday, 19 March 2024

Item/report: 46 Financial Update - Quarter 3 - 2023/24

Reporting source: Finance Director (Section 151 Officer)

Record of decision: **RESOLVED** that Cabinet:

1. Notes the forecast outturn position on the revenue budget and capital investment plan;
2. Approves the revised position at Quarter 3 for Prudential Indicators used to measure performance for the Council's Treasury Management arrangements as set out in Appendix 4 (not reproduced);
3. Approves the itemised list of revenue budget virements as set out in Appendix 5 (not reproduced);
4. Approves the proposed debts for write off which are over £10,000 in value and require approval by Cabinet under the Council's Financial Procedure Rules; and,
5. Approves the amendments to fees and charges from 1 April 2024 in relation to the disposal of domestic DIY waste at Household Waste Recycling Centres.

Reason for the decision: The report provided Cabinet with a forecast year-end position for the Council as at Quarter 3 of the 2023/24 financial year; covering the revenue budget, the collection fund, revenue reserves, the capital investment programme, the arrangements for Treasury Management, a request to Cabinet to write off a number of debts which exceeded a value of £10,000 owned by each debtor and approval to amend various fees and charges.

Cabinet were advised that this forecast financial position needed to be considered within the context of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy for 2024/25 to 2028/29, which was approved at the Borough Council meeting on 29 February 2024.

Assessment of options: A wide range of options were explored when considering this report.

Declared conflicts of interest: None

Date and time by which call-in must be exercised: Midnight on 28 March 2024

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Tuesday, 19 March 2024

| | |
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| Item/report: | 47 Children's Services Resources and Efficiency Peer Review |
| Reporting source: | Executive Director for Children and Families |
| Record of decision: | RESOLVED that Cabinet endorses the approach to taking forward the recommendations as set out within the report, arising from the Children's Services Resources and Efficiency Peer Challenge. |
| Reason for the decision: | <p>This report reminded Cabinet that the Peer Challenge took place from 7th to 9th November 2023, with a team of senior officials spending time on site to meet elected members, partners, resident focus groups, senior officers and over 70 practitioners working within Children's Services.</p> <p>This was supplemented by a wide range of documents which provided necessary context on Children and Families.</p> <p>This process culminated in a report being produced which highlighted good practice as well as making several recommendations for improvement.</p> |
| Assessment of options: | Commissioning the Children's Services Resources and Efficiency Peer Challenge was voluntary. It was a proactive step to seeking an external perspective on whether any changes could be made which would mitigate the financial pressures being experienced by Children's Services. |
| Declared conflicts of interest: | None |
| Date and time by which call-in must be exercised: | N/a |

Item/report: 48 Information Items

Record of decision: **RESOLVED** that the following items be approved and noted where necessary:

Delegated decisions:

- Adults and Communities Directorate
- Children and Families Directorate
- Growth, Enterprise and Environment Directorate
- Resources Directorate