

MINUTE
of
CABINET

Minute of meeting held at 10.00am in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock on 7 March 2024.

Present:

Councillor Owen O'Donnell (Leader) Councillor Danny Devlin
Councillor Andrew Anderson (Vice Chair) Councillor Katie Pragnell

Councillor O'Donnell, Leader, in the Chair

Attending:

Steven Quinn, Chief Executive; Mark Ratter, Director of Education; Siobhan McColgan, Head of Education Services (Equality and Equity); Scott Simpson, Head Of Libraries & Information Services; Margaret McCrossan, Head of Accountancy (Chief Financial Officer); Phil Daws, Head of Environment (Strategic Services); Barbara Clark, Chief Accountant; Paul Parsons, Principal Accountant; John Burke, Democratic Services Officer; and Lesleyann Burns, Democratic Services Assistant.

Apologies:

None

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

775. There were no declarations of interest intimated.

GENERAL FUND CAPITAL PROGRAMME

776. The Cabinet considered a report by the Head of Accountancy (Chief Financial Officer) providing monitoring information on both income and expenditure as at 31 December 2023 against the approved General Fund Capital Programme, recommending adjustments were possible.

The report projected total expenditure of £45.192m and resources of £44.989m, predicting a budget shortfall of £0.203m. This was largely due to rising construction costs due to shortages of materials and labour and also bidders factoring in additional risk when pricing. The shortfall would be managed and reported within the final accounts for the year.

In discussing the report, the Principal Accountant agreed to provide further information to Councillor Devlin regarding the drop in expenditure related to the St Mark's Car Park.

The Cabinet:-

- (a) **recommended that Council** approve the movements within the 2023/2024 programme;
- (b) **recommended that Council** note the shortfall of £0.203m and that this would be managed and reported within the final accounts for the year; and
- (c) noted that the Principal Accountant would provide Councillor Devlin with further information regarding the drop in expenditure in relation to St Mark's Car Park.

HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME

777. The Cabinet considered a report by the Head of Accountancy (Chief Financial Officer) providing monitoring information on both income and expenditure as at 31 December 2023 against the approved Housing Capital Programme, recommending adjustments where required.

The report projected total expenditure of £5.609m and resources of £5.509m, predicting a budget shortfall of £0.100m. This was largely due to rising construction costs due to shortages of materials and labour and also bidders factoring in additional risk when pricing. The shortfall would be managed and reported within the final accounts for the year.

In discussing the report, the Head of Environment (Strategic Services) provided clarification on the current status of renewal of heating systems.

The Cabinet:-

- (a) **recommended that Council** approve the movements within the 2023/2024 programme; and
- (b) **recommended that Council** note the shortfall of £0.100m and that this would be managed and reported within the final accounts for the year.

EAST RENFREWSHIRE CULTURE AND LEISURE PUBLIC LIBRARY STRATEGY 2024-2029

778. The Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Education seeking approval for the draft Public Library Strategy 2024-2029.

The Council's previous Public Library Strategy had ran from 2019 to 2022. The report presented a draft strategy to cover the period 2024-2029 which set out the vision and strategic direction for public libraries, aligning closely with the aims of the "Forward Scotland's Public Library Strategy 2021-2025".

The draft Strategy was attached as Appendix 1 to the report and its contents were summarised in the report.

In discussing the report, Councillors were broadly supportive of both the Strategy and the operation of the Council's libraries and the job they did in communities. There was some discussion around the review of operating hours and consultation that would take place around that. It was also pointed out that a report on the Cultural Strategy would come to Cabinet in April/May of 2024.

The Cabinet:-

- (a) approved the draft Public Library Strategy 2024-2029; and
- (b) noted that a report on the Cultural Strategy would come to Cabinet in April/May 2024.

CHAIR

