

Report from the Leader of the Council on the work of the Cabinet

Meeting held on 4 December 2019

This is my report as the Leader of the Council on the work of the Cabinet. It is an overview of the main items of business considered by the Cabinet at its meeting on 4 December 2019.

One further report was considered at this meeting in relation to the calendar of meetings for 2020-2021 which was a recommendation to Council and therefore has been dealt with earlier on this agenda.

1. Recommendation from Audit Committee on Corporate Risk Register

- 1.1 We approved the Corporate Risk Register as recommended by the Audit Committee.

2. Outline Budget 2020/21 to 2023/25

- 2.1 We considered a report on the outline budget for 2021/21 to 2023/24 which outlined the current expected budget gaps for 2020/21 and the following three years.
- 2.2 The Cabinet was concerned to learn that there would be an impact on the detailed budget arising from the Pension fund review which requires a significant increase to employer contributions. This had not previously been flagged as anticipated by the actuaries or pension fund administrators when the Outline Budget was considered and the reasons for the proposed increase and options for managing impact on the Budget were being explored with actuaries.
- 2.3 We agreed to receive a further report on the Outline Budget for 2020/21 to 2023/24 addressing the impact arising from the Pension fund review, at the next meeting of Cabinet on 29 January 2020.

3. Financial Monitoring Reports

- 3.1 We considered the capital and revenue monitoring reports for the period April to September 2019 and agreed to note the current level of capital and revenue spend.

4. Urgent action

- 4.1 The Chief Executive, in conjunction with myself, on 7 November 2019 agreed a letting within the fourth floor of the Thames Tower Building, Reading. The matter was considered as urgent action because the proposed tenant required completion of the letting before the Cabinet was next due to meet.

5. Acquisition of property 'Y'

- 5.1 Cabinet considered an exempt report on the acquisition of an asset in the borough to provide 43 apartments for affordable rent with 27 car parking spaces.
- 5.2 Cabinet expressed concern that liability for external building maintenance, including a contribution towards grounds maintenance, rested with the leaseholder.
- 5.3 We requested further clarity on the scope to change the position in relation to the estate service charge and agreed to delegate the decision to proceed with the acquisition to myself as Leader.

Councillor Ian Harvey
Leader of the Council

19 December 2019