

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

This is my report as the Leader of the Council on the work of the Cabinet. It is an overview of the business considered by the Cabinet at its meeting on 24 February 2021. However, it should be noted that six items of business; the Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2021/22, Capital Strategy 2021 to 2026, Capital Programme 2021/22, Pay Award 2021/22, Pay Policy Statement 2021/22 and detailed Revenue Budget for 2021/22, were recommendations to Council and therefore these have already been considered earlier on this agenda.

1. Recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the Draft Capital Strategy and the Detailed Revenue Budget.

- 1.1 Cabinet considered the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the Draft Capital Strategy and the Detailed Revenue Budget.
- 1.2 Cabinet thanked the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for her detailed report and agreed with all the Committee's recommendations.

2. Fees and Charges 2021/22

- 2.1 We considered the fees and charges for 2021/22 and agreed that the Council must perform a balancing act between maximising additional income that can be generated through fees and charges and setting fee levels which are sustainable whilst at the same time remaining mindful of the impact on residents and the local business community from any increases in fees and charges.
- 2.2 Cabinet agreed the fees and charges for 2021/22.

3. Annual Grants 2021/22 - Key Decision

- 3.1 Cabinet noted that the Council had maintained its funding for voluntary organisations again this year, making £209,600 available for allocation, along with a carry forward of £34,650 from last year, meaning a total of £244,250 was available to be allocated.
- 3.2 Cabinet considered and agreed the Annual Grant Awards 2021/22, noted the other sources of support available to the charity / voluntary sector, agreed to donate £3,000 to the Mayor's Charities from the grant fund and agreed that any unallocated monies from the Councillors' Better Neighbourhood Grant be transferred to the Grants Panel for allocation.

4. Capital Monitoring Q3 (Oct-Dec)

- 4.1 Cabinet noted that there had been some delays in the overall progress of capital schemes in 2020/21 due to the impact of COVID-19 and the agreed moratorium on three Staines-upon-Thames development schemes.

4.2 Cabinet noted the level of capital spend as at 31 December 2020.

5. Revenue Monitoring Q3 (Oct - Dec)

5.1 We reviewed the key variances in the report and noted the level of revenue spend as at 31 December 2020.

6. Managed Service for the Incubator

6.1 Cabinet considered the report to enter a contract to manage the Business Incubator where the operator would be responsible for marketing, advertising and, ensuring the premises are fully utilised and self-sufficient, maximising the space available and providing training and access to mentorships.

6.2 Cabinet noted that the incubator is likely to be self-sufficient but could also potentially provide a small revenue stream which could further sustain additional economic support for businesses in the Borough.

6.3 Cabinet agreed to enter a contract to manage the Business Incubator.

7. Establishing a Programme Board

7.1 Cabinet considered the draft terms of reference for the Assets Programme Board and agreed to establish the board as a Sub-Committee of Cabinet.

Councillor John Boughtflower
Leader of the Council

25 February 2021