

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

MINUTES of a meeting of the Cabinet held in the Darent Room, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone on Monday, 24 June 2019.

PRESENT: Mr P B Carter, CBE, Mrs C Bell, Miss S J Carey, Mr M C Dance, Mr R W Gough, Mr P M Hill, OBE, Mr E E C Hotson, Mr P J Oakford, Mr M Whiting and Miss C Rankin

ALSO PRESENT: Mr R L H Long, TD

IN ATTENDANCE: Ms P Ademuyiwa (Assistant Director, Front Door, Integrated Children's Services), Mrs A Beer (Corporate Director of People and Communications), Ms R Boboye (Service Manager for UASC 18+ Leaving Care Service), Mrs B Cooper (Corporate Director of Growth, Environment and Transport), Mr M Dunkley CBE (Corporate Director for Children Young People and Education), Mr V Godfrey (Strategic Commissioner), Mr A Scott-Clark (Director of Public Health), Ms P Southern (Corporate Director, Adult Social Care and Health) and Mr B Watts (General Counsel)

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

100. Apologies

(Item 1)

Apologies had been received from David Cockburn.

101. Minutes of the Meeting held on 25 March 2019

(Item 3)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 25 March 2019 were correctly recorded and that they be signed by the Chairman.

102. Revenue and Capital Budget Out turn 2018/19

(Item 4)

1. Mr Oakford (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Traded Services) introduced this report. This was the Council's 19th consecutive year of achieving an underspend and Mr Oakford recognised the work of officers and Members. The provisional outturn against the combined directorate revenue budgets was an underspend of -£7.326m (excluding schools and roll forward requests of £6.186m).

2. There had been a decrease in the financial pressure on the Asylum Service, there was an overspend of £600k which was an improvement of £2.2m since the 25 March report to Cabinet.

3. During 2018-19 the Council had found approximately £50m of savings, over the previous 8 years these savings equalled £640m and the approved net budget for 2019-20 included £73m of additional spending demands and costs.

4. Cath Head confirmed that the report asked for approval of £6.2m roll forward along with £70k to fund the tactical manager and emergency response standby cost.

5. Ms Head explained that there were 85 projects which had been rephased and the Council was in a good position with the £7.3m underspend.

RESOLVED that Cabinet:

i) **Note** the report, including the provisional outturn position for 2018-19 for both the revenue and capital budgets.

ii) **Agree** that £0.528m of the 2018-19 revenue underspending is rolled forward to fund existing commitments, as detailed in section 2 of Appendix 1.

iii) **Agree** that £3.825m of the 2018-19 revenue underspending is rolled forward to fund the re-phasing of existing initiatives, as detailed in section 3 of Appendix 1.

iv) **Agree** that £1.833m of the 2018-19 revenue underspending is rolled forward to fund the bids detailed in section 4 of Appendix 1.

v) **Agree** that the £0.070m of the remaining underspend funds the tactical manager and emergency response standby cost.

vi) **Agree** that the £1.070m remaining 2018-19 underspend is set aside in the earmarked reserve to support future years' budgets.

vii) **Agree** that the £29.268m of capital re-phasing from 2018-19 will be added into the 2019-20 and later years capital budgets, as detailed in Appendix 2.

viii) **Agree** the proposed capital cash limit changes outlined in Appendix 3.

ix) **Agree** the contributions to and from reserves as reflected in Appendix 6, which includes all appropriate and previously agreed transfers to and from reserves.

103. Quarterly Performance Report: Quarter 4 2018/19

(Item 5)

Vincent Godfrey (Strategic Commissioner) was in attendance for this item.

1. Miss Carey introduced this report which set out the key areas of performance for the authority. Of the 35 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) included in the report 22 were rated as Green, 10 were rated as Amber and 3 were rated as Red.

a. Customer Service

- i. customer complaints not being responded to in target had improved. The way in which customers were contacting the council continued to shift towards online methods.

b. Environment and Transport

- i. Waste Management – target exceeded with 99% of waste diverted from landfill.
- ii. Greenhouse gas emissions reduction was ahead of target and on track to deliver the five-year target.

2. This report would be discussed at County Council and during the year Governance and Audit had looked at data quality to reassure Members that the information was properly audited. Miss Carey congratulated KCC for having achieved so much alongside producing huge savings.

3. Vincent Godfrey commented that the report reflected strong performance with 22 of the 35 KPIs rated as Green. Of the 10 rated Amber, all of those had hit the floor standard, (the level of performance expected) but they had not hit the stretched target level to get to Green. There were 3 Red measures:

- a. “Percentage of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP) issued within 20 weeks”: KCC was not solely responsible for performance with this target, this was largely dependent on colleagues and future reports would show demarcation between health partners and the local authority.
- b. “Percentage of 16-18year olds who start an apprenticeship”: this had improved slightly, and there was a positive trend.
- c. “Number of admissions to permanent residential and nursing care for older people – rolling 12 months”: overall the trend was improving, however this KPI was marginally below target.

4. Of the 8 targets showing a worsening trend, 3 remained Green and 4 were very marginal.

5. The Leader commented on the utilisation of the Apprenticeship Levy, it was important to consider the totality of Apprenticeship Levy being paid by both private sector business and public bodies. It was concerning that the number of young apprenticeships had dropped nationally and KCC should monitor the 16-25 cohort to ensure the post 16 education supported apprenticeships.

6. Referring to EHCP it was important to differentiate between the responsibility of health care partners and KCC. It would be useful to monitor the number of EHCPs that led to a place in a special school, and how that compared to national figures. The issue of High Needs Funding in schools was an issue of great concern and this would be monitored.

7. Mr Whiting commented on page 75 of the report, which stated that the Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy was out for public consultation, Michael Payne would be taking the strategy to Kent Leaders on Thursday 27 June and it would go out for public consultation after that date.

8. Mr Gough referred to EHCP timeliness, he concurred that these were not plans solely put together by the local authority. There had been a deterioration in the timeliness of the production of the plans in the last two years and there had also been

a huge increase in demand. This placed financial strains on the authority and also caused great distress to parents.

RESOLVED that Cabinet note the Quarter 4 Performance Report.

104. Asylum Update

(Item 6)

Rita Boboye (Service Manager for UASC 18+ Leaving Care Service) and Penny Ademuyiwa (Assistant Director – Front Door) were present for this item.

1. Mr Gough introduced this report, there had been progress with increased funding support for 16 and 17 year olds, and there was now a £600k deficit in the Asylum service.

2. The latest figures showed that there were 281 Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC), this was a higher level than this time last year.

3. In response to a question Rita Boboye explained that a lot was being done to support Care Leavers, progress had been made with a reduction in the number of UASC who did not have Asylum status and with support from a point of contact in the Home Office. Funding had also been received from the Controlling Migration Fund (CMF) which enabled the recruitment of additional support for emotional wellbeing and floating support staff. Work was also being done with those young people who had 'appeal rights exhausted' and were being supported by the Local Authority. The Officers were part of an operational working group established by the Home Office focussing on the challenges being faced by local authorities supporting UASC care leavers and issues regarding funding gaps. Matters relating to the funding for Care Leavers remained outstanding and officers continued to lobby the Home Office to increase funding.

4. Mr Gough concurred that there were a number of variables involved in this process, with more young people converting to care leaver status would put upward pressure in the absence of any other action by central government.

5. Penny Ademuyiwa highlighted to Members the National Transfer Scheme (NTS), the UASC Governance Board on 12 June had received an options paper with proposals around how the NTS could work more efficiently. The CMF was being used for under 18 year olds helping them to integrate into the community.

6. Miss Carey referred to the report which suggested that an increase in criminal gangs operating in France might increase the number of UASC arrivals in Kent. Miss Carey asked for confirmation that there was sufficient sharing of information to prevent such criminal activity. Ms Ademuyiwa explained that this was a national problem in terms of exploitation of young people by gangs. Any intelligence received about any young person who might have been trafficked was flagged through the national referral mechanism. Information was shared with partner agencies and partners were doing what they could in terms of individual children. Ms Boboye confirmed that they were working on producing a Memorandum of Understanding alongside the Kent Enforcement Team.

7. The Leader thanked the guests for their work on this issue, and for the progress which had been made. This was a crucial issue for Kent by virtue of geography.

RESOLVED that Cabinet note the Asylum Update.