

STRATEGY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

8 June 2020 at 7.30 pm

MEMBERS: Councillor Ruth Dombey (Chair), Councillor Jayne McCoy (Vice-Chair) and Councillor Manuel Abellan (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Jenny Batt, Sunita Gordon, Amy Haldane, Marian James, Steve Penneck, Mo Saqib, Tim Crowley, Tom Drummond, Neil Garratt, David Hicks, Holly Ramsey and Tim Foster

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair, Councillor Ruth Dombey, welcomed those present.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4. ANY URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

5. MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 30 March 2020 be agreed as an accurate record and the decisions of that meeting confirmed.

6. UPDATE ON THE COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 THREAT

The Chief Executive introduced the report and paid tribute to Council staff whose work had enabled the Council to maintain the vast majority of services. The Leader echoed that thanks particularly the willingness of staff to be redeployed to frontline services and their adaptability to new ways of working.

In discussion members highlighted the Care Homes Plan, the role of partners (particularly the voluntary sector), the amount of increased claims for Universal Credit and the financial

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impact as set out in Appendix A of the report. Members requested a regular update on the financial impact of COVID-19.

In response to questions relating to the Discretionary Business Grant Fund Officers advised that the fund would go live tomorrow and the aim was to make decisions as quickly as possible after the deadline to ensure that funds were available to eligible businesses as quickly as possible. A form was required to assist in assessing applications against the criteria and to check availability. Support would be available through Opportunity Sutton if businesses had difficulty providing the information required through the application process.

Officers advised that the impact on the hardship fund would be monitored along with other financial support mechanisms which were available to support residents in particular difficulty.

An amendment to recommendation 2.4 in relation to the benefit of the scheme was accepted.

RESOLVED:

1. That the actions detailed in the report be noted and endorsed.
2. That the COVID-19 Discretionary Business Grant Fund for Sutton as set out in Appendix B to the report be approved.
3. That the mechanism for the administration of additional care market funding as set out in section 6.13 of the report be noted.
4. To support the response to London-wide work to prioritise walking and cycling in London and facilitate social distancing in our streets and open spaces as described in sections 5.17-5.19 of the report and the proposals for longer term changes to the road network in line with the principles set out in section 5.17 of the report, where each proposed scheme's benefit is made clear during the design stage and delivered in practice.

7. FINANCE PERFORMANCE - 2019/20

The Strategic Director of Resources introduced the report.

RESOLVED:

1. That the overall total General Fund revenue financial outturn underspending of £0.510m, or 0.4% of the Net Budget Requirement be noted.
2. That the transfer of £428,128 to the Risk Reserve, with the balance from the underspending accruing to the General Fund Balance be approved. This will ensure the General Fund Balance remains at 5% of the Council's Net Budget Requirement for 2020/21.
3. That the key 2019/20 revenue budget variations as presented at Appendix A to the report be noted.

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4. That the carry forwards totalling £0.867m of unspent revenue budgets to be held in earmarked reserves be agreed as summarised in paragraph 5.4 and detailed in Appendix B of the report.
5. That the earmarked reserve year-end adjustments in 2019/20 as summarised in paragraphs 5.1 to 5.7 of the report be noted.
6. That the proposed net increase of £4.324m to the Capital Programme 2020/21 summarised in Appendix C of the report be agreed. Which is mainly due to expenditure being rephased from 2019/20.

8. LONDON CANCER HUB - UPDATE

The Strategic Director of Resources introduced the report

Members commented on how life sciences would be an important part of the economy, the viability of the scheme and noted the potential to develop local transport infrastructure in connection with the site.

An amendment to recommendation 2.2 in relation to the involvement of local ward members, residents and resident associations was accepted as was an additional recommendation in relation to transport provision.

RESOLVED:

1. That the direct delivery of the next phase of development at the London Cancer Hub, as set out in the report, be approved.
2. That authority be delegated to the Strategic Director of Resources to award all contracts necessary to deliver the next phase of development at the London Cancer Hub, including demolition and public realm works on site and construction works to convert Cumbrian House into an innovation hub, in collaboration with local ward councillors, local residents and the local resident associations
3. That the sealing of the Strategic Investment Pot grant agreement between the City of London Corporation and the Council, for the London Cancer Hub award of £8.38m, be approved.
4. That Officers be required to bring forward further information relating to the transport issues on the site together with the potential sources of finance available.

9. EDUCATION UPDATE REPORT

The Assistant Director of Education and SEND introduced the report.

Members highlighted the improvement journey in relation to SEND and discussed how the relationship with parents could be improved.

RESOLVED:

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That the outcome of the Revisit by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) following the Written Statement of Action and the progress made in the Local Area since that time be noted.

The meeting ended at 9.32 pm

Chair:

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Date:

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