



Cabinet

16:30 to 17:35

18 December 2019

Present: Councillors Waters (chair), Harris (vice chair), Jones, Kendrick, Maguire, Packer and Stonard.

Apologies: Councillor Davis

Also present: Councillors Schmierer and Wright.

1. Public Questions/Petitions

There were no public questions or petitions.

2. Declarations of interest

At the start of item 10 below, Councillor Kendrick declared a pecuniary interest as he was the tenant of one of the flats within the report.

3. Minutes

RESOLVED to agree the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 13 November 2019.

4. Quarter 2 Corporate Performance report for 2019-20

Councillor Waters, leader of the council, introduced the report.

He highlighted the headlines at paragraph ten of the report and said that although the indicators showed a mixed picture, where necessary, there were processes in place to mitigate these.

In response to Councillor Schmierer's question regarding the percentage of tenants feeling safe and how these issues were being resolved, the director of neighbourhoods and people said that due to staffing gaps in the teams responsible, high risk cases of antisocial behaviour were having to be prioritised. The team was also dealing with more complex case, including county lines, and would be working closely with partner agencies on these.

RESOLVED to note process against the corporate plan priorities for quarter 2 of 2019-20.

5. To enter into a contract to enable the council to accept Housing infrastructure Funds in relation to Anglia Square– key decision

Councillor Waters, leader of the council, said that discussions had been delayed and therefore report would be deferred to the January meeting of cabinet.

RESOLVED to defer the report to the January 2020 meeting of cabinet.

6. Treasury management mid-year review report 2019-20

Councillor Kendrick, cabinet member for resources, presented the report.

In response to Councillor Schmierer's question the interim section 151 and chief finance officer said that the three Money Markets used by the council were AAA rated and used for short term cash holdings.

RESOLVED to:

- (1) Note the contents of the report and the treasury activity undertaken in the first six months of the 2019/20 financial year.
- (2) Recommend to council to approve an increase in the approved counterparty limit with the UK Debt Management Account Facility (DMAF) in the Treasury Management Strategy Statement from £15m to £30m to increase flexibility of holding cash short term (Para 11 and Appendix A); and
- (3) Recommend to council to approve a minor wording amendment to the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) policy statement to provide additional clarity (Para 48 and Appendix B).

7. Budget monitoring – period 7

Councillor Kendrick, the cabinet member for resources, presented the report. He highlighted the reasons for the underspends and variations.

RESOLVED to:

- (1) note the forecast outturn for the 2019/20 General Fund, HRA and capital programme;
- (2) note the consequential forecast of the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account balances;
- (3) approve the virements of budgets within the HRA, as detailed in paragraph 3
- (4) note the decisions taken by Norfolk Leaders in respect of the Business Rates Pool, as detailed in paragraph 12
- (5) note the General Fund capital programme use of the capital contingency fund, as detailed in paragraph 19; and

- (6) note the loan repayment from Norwich Regeneration Ltd, as detailed in paragraph 20

8. To award a contract for the structural remedial works – various properties

Councillor Harris, deputy leader and cabinet member for social housing presented the report. She reminded members that all works were subject to leaseholder consultation.

RESOLVED to award a contract for structural remedial works at various properties to JB Specialist Refurbishments Ltd.

9. To award a contract extension for structural and civil engineering consultancy services for planned works and responsive works

Councillor Harris, deputy leader and cabinet member for social housing presented the report.

It was noted that at paragraph 10 of the report, there was a misspelling of the company name which should read 'Conisbee'.

RESOLVED to award a contract extension for structural and civil engineering consultancy services for planned works and responsive works to Conisbee Ltd for the period 1 August 2019 to 31 July 2021.

10. Procurement of a housing structural repairs contract at Gamewell Close and Boundary Road

(Councillor Kendrick declared a pecuniary interest in this item and left the room for the debate and vote).

Councillor Harris, deputy leader and cabinet member for social housing presented the report.

RESOLVED to award the contract for housing structural repairs at Gamewell Close and Boundary Road to UK Gunitite Ltd.

(Councillor Kendrick was readmitted to the meeting).

11. Supplementary agenda – The award of contract for an external wide area network and internet services (WAN) – key decision

Councillor Kendrick, the cabinet member for resources, presented the report.

The director of resources said that the report had been scheduled to be taken to the meeting of cabinet held in January 2020 and advertised as such. The council was informed that if an order was not placed with Udata, the network provider, by 31 December, a termination process would begin. This meant that if the report was considered at the January meeting of cabinet, termination proceedings would already be in place and would need to be reversed which carried risk. The provision of a network was crucial to the work of the council to deliver services; therefore, the

report was included as an emergency item on the cabinet agenda for the December meeting.

Councillor Wright raised concerns that several late items had been added to cabinet agendas regarding aspects of IT provisions and questioned both the council's relationship with suppliers and internal processes and asked what could be done differently. The director of resources said that the council was aware that the contract with Udata was coming to an end in March 2020 and therefore believed that bringing the report to January council would be sufficient. Udata commenced termination processes 90 days prior to a contract ending but it was common for some suppliers to have a 30-60 day process. The procurement team would update the timetable for Udata contracts accordingly to ensure that the contract award would be presented to cabinet at the appropriate time at the end of the contract.

RESOLVED to award the contract for an external side areas network and internet services to Udata Infrastructure UK Limited for the four year period 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2024.

12. Exclusion of the Public

RESOLVED to exclude the public from the meeting during consideration of items *13 to *15 (below) on the grounds contained in the relevant paragraphs of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

***13. Commercial Property Investment Strategy**

Councillor Kendrick, the cabinet member for resources, presented the report.

Discussion ensued on the pre-scrutiny of the report and additional recommendations from cabinet and the scrutiny committee.

RESOLVED to:

- (1) Approve the proposed revisions to the Commercial Property Investment Strategy outlined at paragraph 16 of the report
- (2) Add a line for commercial property acquisitions to the corporate risk register; and
- (3) Add the Commercial Property Investment Strategy to the internal audit plan

***14. Adjustment to the HRA capital programme**

Councillor Harris, deputy leader and cabinet member for social housing presented the report.

RESOLVED to approve the recommendations as set out in the report.

***15. Managing assets (housing)**

Councillor Harris, deputy leader and cabinet member for social housing presented the report.

RESOLVED to approve:

- (1) disposal of the freehold interest in the asset on the open market; and
- (2) approve the capital receipt from the disposal to be reinvested in the housing capital program for improving, repairing and maintaining the housing stock or for building new council housing.

CHAIR