

Cabinet

Tuesday, 28th July, 2020
4.00 - 4.20 pm

Attendees	
Councillors:	Steve Jordan (Leader of the Council), Flo Clucas (Cabinet Member Healthy Lifestyles), Chris Coleman (Cabinet Member Clean and Green Environment), Rowena Hay (Cabinet Member Finance) and Andrew McKinlay (Cabinet Member Development and Safety)
Also in attendance:	Gareth Edmundson, Chief Executive and Sarah Farooqi, One Legal

Minutes

1. APOLOGIES

Councillors Hegenbarth and Jeffries.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 July 2020 will be approved at the September meeting of Cabinet.

4. PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

There were none.

5. FINANCIAL OUTFURN 2019/2020 AND BUDGET MONITORING REPORT APRIL-JUNE 2020

The Cabinet Member Finance introduced the report and informed that there had been significant lobbying on behalf of councils to central government to ensure adequate funding was given to councils to cover their losses due to Covid-19, which were estimated at in excess of £10 billion across the sector by the LGA.

From March 2020 the council had identified significant adverse COVID-19 impacts on in year finances for both the General Fund and the HRA. Section 13 of this report set out some of those impacts where known and identified some mitigating action. Members were requested to review the Section 151's assessment of the going concern report alongside this report.

COVID-19 had created the most challenging financial environment that the council has ever faced. She noted that it was a remarkable feat in these extremely financially challenging times that the outturn position, whilst overspent by £47.5K, was as low as this. She wished to put on record her thanks to the finance team for sound prudent financial management.

The Cabinet Member informed that, due to the pressures of the year end process a detailed monitoring exercise had not been undertaken at this point in the year. However, the financial impact of COVID-19 had been closely monitored since March 2020, with the additional expenditure incurred and the forecast loss of income being reported to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) on a monthly basis.

Finally, she highlighted that the emergency would have a major impact on the ability to deliver the budget in 2020/21, as the loss of income and additional costs were expected to exceed government grant received. Some very difficult choices would have to be made in the near future.

Members wished to emphasise the importance of lobbying central government to tackle the losses and extra expenditure being incurred at this time and the impact this will have on the ability of the council to deliver service in the future.

The Leader commended the work of the Finance Team in balancing the books to the extent that had been achieved, and thanked the Cabinet Member Finance for her contribution.

RESOLVED THAT

1. the financial outturn performance position for the General Fund, summarised at Appendix 2 be received, and it be noted that whilst services have been delivered in 2019/20, there was an overspend of £47,518.56 against the approved budget which has been met from general balances (after carry forward requests).

Council be recommended to:

2. Note £191,552 of carry forward at Appendix 5.
3. Note the annual treasury management report at Appendix 7 and note the actual 2019/20 prudential and treasury indicators.
4. Note the capital programme outturn position as detailed in Appendix 8 and approve the carry forward of unspent budgets into 2020/21 (section 7).
5. Note the position in respect of Section 106 agreements and partnership funding agreements at Appendix 9 (section 9).
6. Note the outturn position in respect of collection rates for council tax and non-domestic rates for 2019/20 in Appendix 10 (section 10).
7. Note the outturn position in respect of collection rates for sundry debts for 2019/20 in Appendix 11 (section 11).
8. Receive the financial outturn performance position for the Housing Revenue Account for 2019/20 in Appendices 12 to 13 (as detailed in Section 12) and approves the carry forward, virement and reclassification of budgets in 2020/21 as set out in paragraphs 12.8 to 12.10.

9. Note the budget monitoring position to the end of June 2020 (section 13).

6. THE BURROWS PAVILION (AUTHORITY TO DISPOSE OF OPEN SPACE)

The Cabinet Member Finance introduced the report and highlighted that Leckhampton Rovers Football Club had grown considerably over the years. The report sought Cabinet approval for a 21 year lease for the pavilion and pitch licence at Burrows Playing Field.

This represented an exciting green space project which would be of great value to the local community and beyond.

Members welcomed the proposal.

RESOLVED THAT

1. The pavilion, outlined in red on the attached plan, Appendix 2, be disposed of by way of lease for a term of 21 years to Leckhampton Rovers Football at a market rent.
2. a Licence (a permission to use) be entered into with Leckhampton Rovers for the playing field, shown edged red on the attached plan.
3. a document that outlines an understanding between the Council and third parties in respect of improvements and ongoing maintenance of the playing field be entered into.
4. such documents be entered into as the Borough Solicitor deems necessary or desirable to reflect the terms negotiated, including any grant agreements with third party funders

7. BRIEFING FROM CABINET MEMBERS

The Cabinet Member Healthy Lifestyles reported that she had been working with councillors and others on a holiday hunger project in the town. Additionally, work was continuing on the No Child Left Behind Initiative to ensure a better future for those communities.

She informed that she had recently met with the Cheltenham Trust and commended it for the way it had been dealing with community need during the pandemic and also how the community had been benefitting from events being held at Pittville Pump room and Skilicorne Gardens.

The Cabinet Member Healthy Lifestyles also made Members aware of the work underway to use space at the airport to ensure donations could be stored prior to being delivered to households in need at this time.

8. CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS

Leader	Gloucestershire Economic Growth	https://democracy.cheltenham.gov.uk/ieDecisionDet
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Chairman