

## CABINET

8 December 2021

### Present:-

Councillors R Croad, A Davis, R Gilbert, J Hart (Chair), S Hughes, J McInnes (Vice-Chair), A Saywell and P Twiss

### Apologies:-

Councillors A Leadbetter

### Members attending in accordance with Standing Order 25

In Remote Attendance - Councillors J Bailey, F Biederman, A Dewhirst, and C Whitton

In Person Attendance – Councillors A Connett and R Hannaford

\* 81

### **Minutes**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 10 November 2021 be signed as a correct record.

\* 82

### **Items Requiring Urgent Attention**

There was no item raised as a matter of urgency.

\* 83

### **Announcements**

There was no announcement by the Chair at this meeting.

\* 84

### **Petitions**

There was no petition received from a Member of the Public or the Council.

\* 85

### **Question(s) from Members of the Council**

There was no question from a Member of the Council.

\* **86** **Target Budget and Service Targets for 2022/2023**

(Councillors Biederman, Connett, Dewhirst and Hannaford attended in accordance with Standing Order 25(2) and spoke to this item).

The Cabinet considered the Report of the Director of Finance (DF/21/23) circulated prior to the meeting in accordance with regulation 7(4) of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 relating to the Budget Targets for 2022/2023.

The Targets had been set out in paragraph 2 and represented an overall increase of £48.7 million or 8.4%.

The Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement had not been announced but was expected the week commencing 13th December. The exact date was not known but Members noted that an update on the Provisional Settlement would be provided at the January Cabinet meeting.

As previously reported, significant pressures continued to be experienced and the unprecedented set of circumstances faced by the Country had led to demand growth, cost base increases and acute labour shortages. Adult Care and Health and Children's Services were continuing to experience in year operational pressures that were impacting financial performance.

It was proposed to further support time limited pressures, invest to save programmes and to provide these critical services with time to manage demand and transform further by utilising some of the Council's reserves and this commitment and its implications would be detailed within the budget papers in January.

The Capital Programme for 2022/23 to 2026/27 would also be presented to Cabinet at the February Budget meeting.

The proposed targets were set out in the table below.

|                                     | 2021/22         |        | Savings & additional<br>Income<br>Inflation &<br>Pressures | 2022/23<br>Budget | Net<br>change |       |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|--------|--|-------------------|---------------|-------|
|                                     | Adjusted Budget | *      |  |                   | £000          | £000  |
|                                     | £000            | £000   | £000   | £000              | £000          | %     |
| 1 Adult Care & Health               | 283,294         | 47,875 | (18,241)   | 312,928           | 29,634        | 10.5% |
| 2 Childrens Services                | 159,036         | 28,787 | (11,675)   | 176,148           | 17,112        | 10.8% |
| 3 Communities, Public<br>Health E&P | 40,280          | 3,809  | (2,846)  | 41,243            | 963           | 2.4%  |
| 4 Corporate Services                | 40,937          | 3,612  | (2,830)  | 41,719            | 782           | 1.9%  |
| 5 Highways,<br>Infrastructure D&W   | 57,124          | 3,349  | (3,149)  | 57,324            | 200           | 0.4%  |

|                |               |                 |                |               |             |
|----------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|-------------|
| <b>580,671</b> | <b>87,432</b> | <b>(38,741)</b> | <b>629,362</b> | <b>48,691</b> | <b>8.4%</b> |
|----------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|-------------|

\* Adjusted for permanent virements

The matter having been debated and other relevant factors as set out in the Director of Finance's Report and/or referred to above having been considered:

it was **MOVED** by Councillor Twiss, **SECONDED** by Councillor Hart, and

**RESOLVED**

- (a) that the expected timing of the Provisional Settlement be noted;
- (b) that the revenue spending targets for 2022/23 as set out in paragraph 2 of the Report, be approved; and
- (c) that the Capital Programme be determined by Cabinet on 11th February 2022.

\* **87      Approval of a Framework for prioritising 20mph projects**

(Councillors Bailey, Biederman, Connett, Dewhirst, Hannaford and Whitton attended in accordance with Standing Order 25(2) and spoke to this item).

The Cabinet considered the Report of the Chief Officer for Highways, Infrastructure Development and Waste, (HIW/21/82) on a proposed framework for assessing and prioritising requests for 20 mph speed limits, circulated prior to the meeting in accordance with regulation 7(4) of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

The Cabinet noted that the Newton Abbot 20 mph Pilot Scheme had been in progress since September 2019 and was intended to test whether introducing a default 20SPL would bring increased gains in a number of areas including road safety, active travel, reduced congestion and emissions and an increased sense of public safety.

Requests for new 20SPLs continued to be received and were being added to a waiting list. A budget was being sought for 20SPL schemes for 2022/23 from the Local Transport Plan or Section 106 contributions which should provide funding to progress a number of sites, depending on scale. The proposed system conformed to current policy but introduced a wider range of factors to reflect the potential benefits and allow schemes to be progressed where there was greatest benefit and need.

The proposal was that Members be invited to make representations for their communities where it was felt that the introduction of a 20SPL would be

beneficial; this may be for the whole community or a discrete part of the community. Requests would be reviewed against a framework, a copy of which was included at Appendix 1 to the Report and the proposals prioritised based on alignment with current Policy principles of - significant vulnerable road user activity and mean speeds were low (24mph or below).

The framework also included additional factors to ensure that resource was directed to where there would be the greatest benefit, including speed related casualty collision history, community support, active Community Speed Watch, deprivation Index ranking and existing Air Quality Management area. All schemes would also be considered via safety audit prior to progression.

A budget of £100k had been earmarked for 20SPLs for 2022/23 through the Local Transport Plan or Section 106 contributions.

It was expected that introducing appropriate 20SPLs would offer a positive environmental impact as well as assist in community cohesion and focus resources to areas where there was a higher risk of residents being affected by road safety matters.

The Cabinet noted that the proposal allowed for the gathering and prioritisation of requests for new 20SPLs from Members and communities which would remove the current frustration that all new schemes must await the outcome of the Newton Abbot 20 mph Pilot Scheme.

However, in the longer term, future changes to the speed Policy and any decision to roll out 20SPLs on a default basis would be informed by the Newton Abbot 20 mph Pilot Scheme.

The Cabinet Member advised he would take up the issue of establishing community speed watch schemes with the 'vision zero' group and that the assessment criteria would be regularly reviewed, hence the proposal of recommendation (b).

The matter having been debated and the options and/or alternatives and other relevant factors (e.g. financial, sustainability (including carbon impact), risk management, equality and legal considerations and Public Health impact) set out in the Chief Officer's Report and/or referred to above having been considered:

it was **MOVED** by Councillor Hughes, **SECONDED** by Councillor Hart, and

## **RESOLVED**

(a) that the framework for assessing and prioritising requests for 20 mph Speed Limits for use in the preparation of schemes for delivery in 2022/23 (pending agreement of budgets) be approved; and

(b) that amendments to the framework be delegated to the Chief Officer for Highways, Infrastructure Development and Waste in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Highway Management.

\* **88**      **Future of North Devon Link Service**

(Councillors Biederman, Hannaford and Whitton attended in accordance with Standing Order 25(2) and spoke to this item).

The Cabinet considered the Report of the Locality Director (Care and Health) (ACH/21/139) on proposals for the future of the North Devon Link Service, circulated prior to the meeting in accordance with regulation 7(4) of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

The Cabinet noted that the recommended future model for the North Devon Link Centre Service (NDLS) was based on findings from a service review (appendix 1), the impact of Covid-19 (appendix 2), and feedback received in the engagement (appendix 3) and consultation process (appendix 4).

The North Devon Link Service was unique to North Devon, established in 1992 as a County Council (DCC) in-house service. It supported people with a wide range of mild mental health needs, was open to all and was free to access. People using the service might also have autism, a learning disability, be homeless or receiving support for substance misuse.

There were four centres across North Devon (Barnstaple, Bideford, Holsworthy and Ilfracombe) supporting 264 registered service users. The service provided a traditional drop-in day service together with some outreach and group sessions. Whilst the service was the responsibility of the Council it was managed by Devon Partnership Trust (DPT) under a Section 75 Agreement. The service costed £480k per year to run (mostly staff costs), funded by the Council, which also owned the buildings.

Since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, the service had moved from face to face to virtual support, mostly by telephone. The 2019 review of the Service found that many of the services offered were not specialist and were also offered by the local community and voluntary sector and a further review was undertaken in May 2021 to understand the impact of Covid-19 on the service.

In line with local guidance and whilst Covid rates remained high in Devon, the buildings remain closed.

In terms of the proposals to redesign the service, there was a national focus on improving and developing community mental health services.

The Report outlined the engagement process with service users, stakeholders and staff between 9 August and 13 September 2021 and following this a

revised proposal was developed. A four-week public consultation took place between 23 September and 22 October 2021, alongside a staff consultation supported by Human Resources.

The Cabinet Member also met with local MPs and Local Members representing each of the four towns during the engagement period as well as contact with GP practices and three online public events and three staff consultation events.

The Report outlined the public consultation feedback from the 256 responses received as well as two on-line petitions. A consistent message in the feedback was that any significant change in the services offered would have a detrimental impact on the mental wellbeing of attendees.

The Locality Director's Report incorporated an Impact Assessment which had been circulated with the agenda for consideration at the meeting. This highlighted that the proposal to work with the community, staff and service users to develop alternative services would consider how to make the service more available and appealing to younger people. The proposal to reintroduce drop-in, albeit at a reduced level, would mean that some people with a mental health need may not be able to access the service as regularly as before, although potential mitigation of that impact would come from effective access to the wider mental health services across Northern Devon. However, no unmanageable impacts had been identified and a project group would be set up to implement and monitor the service and delivery.

The matter having been debated and the options and/or alternatives and other relevant factors (e.g. financial, sustainability (including carbon impact), risk management, equality and legal considerations and Public Health impact) set out in the Locality Directors Report and/or referred to above having been considered:

it was **MOVED** by Councillor McInnes, **SECONDED** by Councillor Hart, and

### **RESOLVED**

(a) that three of the four Link Centre buildings (Barnstaple, Bideford and Ilfracombe) re-open as soon as it is deemed safe to do so under Covid-19 guidelines;

(b) that the Holsworthy centre remain closed and the once-weekly morning drop-in session be moved to an alternative venue in the town;

(c) that a local implementation plan and timeframe for redesign of the service to be developed for each centre, including efficiency and management arrangements and Link Centre staff to increasingly focus on outreach support with the mental health social work teams;

(d) that work be undertaken with Link Centre staff, service users, local Councillors and local community and voluntary sector representatives to establish:

(i) the outreach services to be delivered in the wider community to ensure equity of provision across all of North Devon. This may include using other community facilities; and

(ii) which of the existing non-specialist services can be delivered by local community providers, which will need to be cost-effective and within the available budget;

(e) that each local implementation plan assesses the potential for wider community use of the building in partnership with local stakeholders; and

(f) that progress on each of the four local implementation plans be reported to the Health and Adult Care Scrutiny Committee at its meeting scheduled for 21 March 2023.

*(NB: The Impact Assessment referred to above may be viewed alongside Minutes of this meeting and may also be available on the [Impact Assessment Webpages](#)).*

\* 89 **Corporate Infrastructure and Regulatory Services Scrutiny Committee - Treasury Management Stewardship - Mid Year Position**

(Councillors Connett, Dewhirst and Hannaford attended in accordance with Standing Order 25(2) and spoke to this item).

The Cabinet considered the Report of the Director of Finance (DF/21/11) on the Treasury Management Mid-Year Stewardship 2021/22, which updated on key matters arising from the Council's Treasury and Debt Management activities during the first seven months of the 2021/22 financial year, the Report having also been considered and endorsed by the Corporate Infrastructure and Regulatory Services Scrutiny Committee on 18 November 2021 (Minute \*23 referred).

The Report outlined the Borrowing Strategy and its aims for 2020/21 – 2023/24; Analysis of Long Term Debt; Investment Strategy, the Minimum Revenue Provision; the Council's compliance with the Prudential Indicators as laid out in the CIPFA Code of Practice; and Prospects for 2022/23.

In summary, the Report stated that no long-term or short-term borrowing had been undertaken to date in 2021/22, and the expectation was that no new borrowing would be required during the remainder of the 2021/22 financial year; and that investment income at the end of October stood at around £580,000 compared to the budget target for the year of £800,000.

Looking ahead, there might be a small increase in the rates available for treasury investments in 2022/23, but rates would remain very low. The Council, therefore would need to manage its capital programme carefully to ensure it remained affordable within the policy of not taking out further external debt.

The matter having been debated and other relevant factors set out in the Director's Report and/or referred to above having been considered:

it was **MOVED** by Councillor Twiss, **SECONDED** by Councillor Hart and

**RESOLVED** that the Corporate Infrastructure and Regulatory Services Scrutiny Committee be thanked for their review of the Mid-Year Stewardship Report for the 2021/22 financial year and it be further endorsed and welcomed.

\* **90**      **Children's Scrutiny Committee - In Year Budget Position**

(Councillors Connett, Dewhirst and Hannaford attended in accordance with Standing Order 25(2) and spoke to this item).

The Children's Services Scrutiny Committee on 9 November 2021 had considered the Report of the Chief Officer for Children's Services (CS/21/17) on the In Year Budget Position and had **RESOLVED** '(a) that the Committee thanks the Cabinet Member and the Chief Officer for their prudent financial management over a very difficult year; and (b) that the Committee asks Cabinet to ensure sufficient funding for Children's Services in the 2022/23 Budget to take account of rising demand, pressure on services, ongoing improvement related projects and to minimise future overspend and further asks that there is sufficient capacity in the Council to complete a process-mapping exercise of the Eclipse Social Care Case Management System.

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Hart, **SECONDED** by Councillor McInnes and

**RESOLVED**

(a) that the work of the Chief Officer and Cabinet Member in their prudent financial management over what has been a very challenging year be recognised and they be thanked for their efforts as well as the work of the Children's Scrutiny Committee in holding both to account; and

(b) that Cabinet furthermore places on record its thanks the Children's Scrutiny Committee for their comments and will be working through the budget setting process to ensure, as far as practicable, that the 2022/23 budget takes account of rising demand, pressures on services and the planned improvement projects to minimise any future overspend.



\* 91 **Torbay and Devon Safeguarding Adults Partnership - Annual Report**

(Councillors Connett, Hannaford and Whitton attended in accordance with Standing Order 25(2) and spoke to this item).

The Cabinet considered the Report of the Chair of the Torbay and Devon Safeguarding Adults Partnership (TDSAP) and the Chair of the Board, Paul Northcott, attended the meeting remotely to present the Report. The Cabinet noted it was a statutory requirement, under the Care Act 2014, for each Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) to produce and publish an Annual Report and present this to Health and Wellbeing Board(s). As in previous years, the TDSAP also presented the Annual Report to the relevant Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet.

The TDSAP acted as the key mechanism for agreeing how agencies worked together to safeguard and promote the safety and wellbeing of adults at risk and/or in vulnerable situations. It did this by co-ordinating what each of the TDSAP partners did and ensured that they do it effectively.

The full Annual Report, which had been circulated with the agenda summarised the safeguarding activity undertaken throughout 2020-21, including the work of the various sub groups.

The Report would be published on the website, alongside full details of Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs), which had been published during this and previous years. Work was also currently underway to produce easy read versions of the Report.

The period covered by the Report ended on 31 March 2021. Covid-19 had had an impact on the work of the partnership and had brought many challenges. However, despite these additional pressures, all partners had continued to work effectively together and responded well when being held to account. Partners had shown continuous commitment to the key strategic areas and provided a good level of assurance throughout the year.

The TDSAP was also required to produce a Strategic Business Plan and the plan for 2021–2024 had been developed and published - [Strategic Business Plan 2021-2024 - Torbay and Devon Safeguarding Adults Partnership](#)

More detailed information about the work of the TDSAP was available on the TDSAP website: [Home - Torbay and Devon Safeguarding Adults Partnership](#)

It was **MOVED** by Councillor McInnes, **SECONDED** by Councillor Hart, and

**RESOLVED** that the TDSAP be thanked for their work and the production of an informative Annual Report.

\* **92**      **Question(s) from Members of the Public**

There was no question from a Member of the public.

\* **93**      **Minutes**

Councillors Connett and Hannaford attended in accordance with Standing Order 25(2) and spoke to this item).

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Hart, **SECONDED** by Councillor McInnes, and

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the following be endorsed and any recommendations to Cabinet therein be approved:

Devon Education Forum – 17 November 2021  
*Including endorsement of Minute 17(a) and 17(b) in relation to proposals for the 2022-23 Schools Revenue Funding Formula.*  
Farms Estate Committee – 29 November 2021

The Cabinet noted that the Devon Audit Partnership of 15 November 2021 had been inquorate and any required decisions would be resubmitted to the next meeting.

\* **94**      **Delegated Action/Urgent Matters**

The [Registers of Decisions taken by Members and under the urgency provisions or delegated powers](#) were available for inspection, in line with the Council's Constitution and Regulation 13 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012. [Decisions taken by Officers](#) under any express authorisation of the Cabinet or other Committee or under any general authorisation within the Council's Scheme of Delegation set out in Part 3 of the Council's Constitution.

\* **95**      **Forward Plan**

Councillor Hannaford attended in accordance with Standing Order 25(2) and spoke to this item).

In accordance with the Council's Constitution, the Cabinet reviewed the [Forward Plan](#) and determined those items of business to be defined as key and framework decisions and included in the Plan from the date of this meeting onwards reflecting the requirements of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

The Cabinet noted the addition to the January Cabinet meeting relating to Skypark Development Partnership Joint Venture and an update to proposals (Part 2).

**NOTES:**

1. *Minutes should always be read in association with any Reports for a complete record.*
2. *If the meeting has been webcast, it will be available to view on the [webcasting site](#) for up to 12 months from the date of the meeting*

\* **DENOTES DELEGATED MATTER WITH POWER TO ACT**

The Meeting started at 10.30 am and finished at 12.21 pm