

Executive

5 February 2020

Draft Extract

EXE 74 Adoption of the West of England Joint Local Transport Plan 4 (JLTP4) (Agenda Item 13)

Councillor Tonkin presented the report. He thanked the public speakers for their comments at the start of the meeting. He also thanked officers for their work on the report. He outlined the background to the JLTP4, a joint plan prepared with North Somerset Council's West of England partners, consisting of Bath & North-East Somerset Council, Bristol City Council, South Gloucestershire Council and the West of England Combined Authority (WECA). He explained why it was necessary to update the current JLTP3, adopted in 2011 and last updated in 2013, and stated that the JLTP4, if adopted, would set out our transport policies, priorities and plans for the period 2020 to 2036, matching the timescales of the withdrawn Joint Spatial Plan (JSP). He referred to the benefits of pressing ahead with the adoption of the JLTP4 as an interim plan without an updated local or regional development strategy. Work would begin almost immediately on a new JLTP5, to align with emerging development planning (i.e. the emerging Local Plan for North Somerset) but also to address the climate emergency and the aim to become carbon neutral by 2030.

Councillor Tonkin referred to the timescale for the adoption of the JLTP4 and the need for each of the West of England authorities to approve it in order for it to become the adopted transport plan for the region. He proposed that given there was some confusion around the content of the JLTP4 the report be referred to Council on 18 February but in the meantime an all member briefing be arranged for 13 February at 4pm to allow officers to present more information on the plan and to further engage with members.

In discussing the report members welcomed the proposed member briefing in order to clarify the concerns raised, to address the relationship between the JSP and the JLTP4 and to ensure members were fully briefed to enable them to take an informed decision on the JLTP4. Reference was made to the lack of government funding for local bus services and the crippling effect this was having on local residents and the economy which needed to be addressed. Reference was also made to the importance

of providing adequate electricity charging points to ensure maximum connectivity and the need of this to be addressed this within the relevant planning documents.

Resolved:

(1) that the Joint Local Transport Plan (JLTP4) be referred to Council for adoption, following an all member briefing on Thursday 13 February 2020 at 4.00pm; and

(2) that authority be delegated to the Director of Development and Environment, in consultation with the Executive Member for Transport, to approve any required minor amendments to the JLTP4 prior to sign off by the West of England Combined Authority Joint Committee.

Reasons for the decision:

As set out in the report and discussed above.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

As set out in the report and discussed above.

EXE Treasury Management Strategy 2020/21 (Agenda Item 14)

75

Councillor Cartman presented the report. He drew members' attention to the Treasury Management Strategy as set out in Appendix 1 and to the Council's net debt of £75m and total investments of £109m and referred to the importance of ensuring these were effectively managed in line with the council's corporate aims and objectives, with guidance from the council's specialist external advisors. The council's investment portfolio was not considered to be high risk and was providing returns in line with the risks taken. He also referred to the council's borrowing strategy as set out in paragraph 3.4, with new borrowing required to finance additional capital expenditure on proposed schemes which was affordable and within the CIPFA guidelines.

It was noted the Treasury Management Strategy would be reported to the Audit Committee and any comments would be reported back to the Executive as appropriate.

Recommended to Council:

(1) that the Treasury Management Strategy for 2020/21 as shown in Appendix 1 of the report be approved, which includes the requirement to borrow up to £40.8m for

the approved capital programme during the period 2019-2023 as funding for the approved capital programme (subject to confirmation of grant funding allocations), and highlights the need to potentially consider further borrowing of £98m in the same period for schemes that may be considered for inclusion within future capital programme reports;

(2) that the Prudential Indicators for 2020/21, as shown in Appendix 2 of the report, be approved; and

(3) that the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy for 2020/21, as shown in Appendix 3 of the report, be approved.

Reasons for the decision:

As set out in the report and discussed above.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

As set out in the report and discussed above.

EXE Capital Strategy 2020-25 and Capital Budget 2020-21 (Agenda Item 15)

76

Councillor Cartman presented the report. He drew particular attention to the summary of the 2019/20 capital programme at Figure 1 (page 5), the additions to the capital programme 2020-24 at Figure 2 (page 6) and to the capital programme details as set out in Appendix 2.

The Interim Director of Finance reported this was generally positive and reflected the council's success in bidding for funding. He drew attention to Appendix 1 setting out the capital governance arrangements and the approach to in year changes as new projects came through.

In discussing the report members raised questions in relation to highways funding and it was noted that investment in highways was to support maintenance and improvements to the road network and not to provide new roads. With reference to the upgrade to the CCTV service, the contributions from town councils were welcomed and it was noted that opportunities to secure police funding was being explored.

Recommended to Council:

(1) that the Capital Strategy 2020/21 to 2025/26 as set out in Appendix 1 of the report be approved; and

(2) that an increase to the capital programme of £25.770m for a range of transport,

housing, school and social care schemes as set out in Section 5.3 of the report be approved, subject to confirmation of grant funding allocations.

It was further

Resolved:

(1) that the Executive Member for Planning, Building Control, Highways and Transport be delegated authority to approve the detailed highways schemes; and

(2) that the amendments to the capital budget 2019/20 as detailed in appendix 4 of the report be approved.

Reasons for the decision:

As set out in the report and discussed above.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

As set out in the report and discussed above.

EXE 77 Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) Update and Revenue Budget 2020/21 (Agenda Item 16)

Councillor Cartman presented the report. He made reference to the revenue budget monitoring summary and the current projected net overspend of £718,000 which was low in percentage terms. He reported that current budget pressures were expected to continue and the revenue budget for 2020/21 had been adjusted to reflect this. He referred to the increase in the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) of £2.1m but pointed out this would not be sufficient to offset the continued increase in demand within the High Needs Block. Additional government funding and greater certainty around future funding allocation was needed to address these service demand pressures. He referred to the proposed council tax increase of 1.99% and the adult social care precept of 2%. He stated the budget for the coming year was starting to reflect the values of this administration and drew members' attention to the Equality Impact Assessments set out in Appendix 6 that underpin the savings and increased income proposals within the 2020/21 revenue budget.

In discussing the report members welcomed the increase in DSG funding to address budget pressures arising from the increasing number of children with Education and Health Care Plans (EHCPs) but stressed that further funding was needed just to close

the existing budget gap let alone address growing demand pressures. Reference was made to the low response rate to the budget consultation, but it was noted that the two main areas of concern were around car parking and garden waste charges. As a result further consultation was planned around these proposals.

The Interim Director of Finance stated his opinion that the proposed budget was robust and provided a balanced position and, whilst there was increasing uncertainty for future years, the current level of reserves was considered adequate.

Councillor Davies thanked the officers for their work in producing the budget. He stated the proposals sought to protect the most vulnerable in society and to spread the burden of costs to those who were better able to afford them.

Resolved:

(1) that the updated projected revenue budget forecasts in respect of the 2019/20 financial year as detailed within section 3.1 of the report be noted; and

(2) that the Equality Impact Assessment report attached at Appendix 6 of the report be noted, and members familiarise themselves with the published Equality Impact Assessments (EIA's) that underpin the 2020/21 budget savings plans.

It was further

Recommended to Council:

(1) that a revenue budget for 2020/21 as detailed within the report be approved;

(2) that a council tax increase of 1.99% for 2020/21 be approved; and

(3) that an adult social care precept on the council tax of 2% for 2020/21 be approved.

Reasons for the decision:

As set out in the report and discussed above.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

As set out in the report and discussed above.