

CABINET

THURSDAY, 17 DECEMBER 2020

PRESENT: Councillors David Cannon, Andrew Johnson (Chairman), David Coppinger, Samantha Rayner, Stuart Carroll (Vice-Chairman), David Hilton, Gerry Clark, Donna Stimson and Ross McWilliams

Also in attendance: Councillor Christine Bateson, Councillor John Story, Councillor Simon Werner, Councillor Lynne Jones, Councillor Carole Da Costa, Councillor Helen Price, Councillor Gurch Singh, Councillor Catherine del Campo, Councillor Karen Davies, Councillor Ewan Larcombe, Councillor Helen Taylor, Councillor John Baldwin, Councillor Mandy Brar, Councillor Clive Baskerville and Councillor Amy Tisi. Barbara Richardson (RBWM Property Company).

Officers: Duncan Sharkey, Hilary Hall, Adele Taylor, Russell O'Keefe, Kevin McDaniel, Andrew Vallance, Tracey Hendren, Nikki Craig and David Cook.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies received.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Rayner, Hilton, and Johnson declared a personal interest in item 9.1 St Clouds Way as they were all on the Joint Venture Board. The monitoring officer had advised that they could take part in the debate and vote on the matter.

MINUTES

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: That the Part I minutes of the meeting held on 26 November 2020 were approved.

APPOINTMENTS

None

FORWARD PLAN

Cabinet noted the contents of the Forward Plan for January 2021 to April 2021 and the changes made since last published.

CABINET MEMBERS' REPORTS

A) ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE STRATEGY

Cabinet considered the report regarding the proposed adoption of the Environment and Climate Strategy and the adoption of the Single Plastics Strategy.

Cabinet was addressed by Fiona Hewar who informed that this was a big day in our lives as Cabinet were proposing to adopt the strategies. She thanked the councillors for their work and especially the Lead Member. This was the culmination of 2 years of lobbying and campaigning especially from the RBWM Climate Emergency Coalition. She thanked all the groups involved, councillors and officers. This is an emergency and writing the strategy was

the beginning the real work started now. It was hoped that many more people, businesses and organisations would join them in tackling the climate emergency.

The Lead Member for Climate Change, Sustainability, Parks and Countryside thanked Fiona Hewar for her words and informed Cabinet that the strategy had been developed by many people and she thanked Orlagh McColgan, who at nine years old in February 2019, inspired by Greta Thunberg, pressed her mum Sarah and subsequently our councillors to declare a climate emergency, which Council did in 2019.

She also thanked the 80 stakeholders who contributed to the strategy, to the councillors who unanimously approved it in June 2020, to the 347 residents who responded to the public consultation, to the cross party steering committee, to LEAFY (our Local environment action for youth) and to the stakeholder advisory group, all of whom have moulded and shaped this document since we held our first workshop late last year. She also thanked officers Chris Joyce, Olivia MCGregor, James Thorpe and Russell O'Keefe for their hard work.

The consultation showed that there was strong support for the strategy overall, with the vast majority of people in support of the four themes and objectives. It also revealed that there is a lot of enthusiasm in the community to help us deliver the strategy as we move forward. Our ambitious plans recognise the key role the Government will have in driving the agenda forward at a national level and enabling action at a local level through supporting policy and funding.

Cabinet were informed that there had been several improvements as a consequence of the public consultation:

- we have strengthened the trajectory to be consistent with the Paris Climate Agreement, and will be using the Tyndall figures.
- We will have to ensure faster decarbonisation earlier, so as to keep up with our trajectory
- Set more specific targets for improved air quality.
- To expand our engagement section, with the advisory board including young people.

Alongside the strategy, the Lead Member was seeking endorsement from Cabinet for the Single use plastic strategy which had been driven and created from within the community. This had been as a result of the hard work of Paul Hinton, who had worked initially with colleagues from Plastic Free Windsor and then with the officers to create the plastic free strategy, with action plans for the community and council to take forward.

The next stage was to prioritise and have collaborative working. The high percentage of emissions came from energy consumption in buildings so she would be working with the Lead Member for Planning on an action in the energy theme

A "sustainability and energy efficient design" position statement was due to go to cabinet in January. It would set out how the Council will ensure compliance with the adopted planning policy, NPPF, and national commitments relating to climate change. It will apply to all development proposals with a floor space above 100 sq.m2.

Cabinet were informed that the document would drive decisions, resources and actions. When acted upon, it would create a more sustainable borough that was also a healthier, more community focussed places to live.

The Chairman endorsed what had been said but also mentioned that it was a shame it had not been implemented faster but they had been restricted by the pandemic.

The Lead Member for Transport and Infrastructure mentioned that he had presented the original motion to Council and was pleased to see the strategy being brought before Cabinet. The strategy was a result of much hard work and he read out the following vision statement 'Our vision is to be a Borough where the community collectively works together to achieve a

sustainable future; by protecting and enhancing our natural environment and achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2050 at the latest, and rapid decarbonisation before then.'

The Lead Member for Finance and Ascot highlighted how a number of parties had been brought together to help tackle climate emergency with common objectives. He said he looked forward to the next steps.

Cllr Davies mentioned that as a member of the cross party working group she wished to echo the thanks to officers and those involved. She was pleased to see that residents' concerns about air pollution had been included as well as the air quality aim. She said residents had raised questions about the council's scope of monitoring pollution. She was pleased to see that the single use plastic strategy had been included. The climate emergency response had been the most important thing she had been involved in since being a councillor.

Cllr Jones thanked all who had worked on the strategies, especially the cross party working. She questioned if the air pollution targets were robust and how they would be monitored with more detail on areas of concern.

The reporting Lead Member responded that air quality had been an identified issue that would be taken forward and welcomed input from councillors.

The Deputy Chairman of Cabinet, Adult Social Care, Children's Services, Health and Mental Health reported that he wanted to thank all the young people who had engaged with the development of the strategy. It was important to take difficult decisions to make behavioural change.

Resolved unanimously: that Cabinet notes the report and:

- i) Approves the Environment and Climate Strategy for adoption.**
- ii) Endorse the Single Plastics Strategy and approves that the actions set out in the document be incorporated into the action planning process for the Environment and Climate Strategy.**

B) WINDSOR NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN DECISION TO PROCEED TO REFERENDUM

Cabinet considered the report regarding the approval for the Windsor Neighbourhood plan to proceed to referendum at the earliest practicable opportunity.

Cabinet was addressed by Claire Milne who was speaking on behalf of the Windsor Neighbourhood Committee. She informed that there had been extensive consultation over 6 years thanks to a variety of volunteers. Unfortunately Covid has delayed the process. She thanked those who had provided support including their consultants, Legoland, RBWM officers, financial support and fantastic support from local organisations. She thanked the committee members, John Bastow, Susy Shearer, John Bastow, Jane Carter, Alison Logan, Helen Price and Cori Mackin. The plan was community lead and showed that people valued open space, heritage, design and views. The plan will give people a voice in what is built in the area and what it would look like. They were proud of the plan that would assist officers and councillors in making planning decisions.

The Lead Member for Planning, Environmental Services and Maidenhead thanked Claire Milne for addressing Cabinet and her comprehensive speech. He informed that the Royal Borough had always supported neighbourhood planning. There currently five neighbourhood plans which have been formally made and are part of the development plan: Ascot, Sunninghill and Sunningdale, Hurley and the Walthams, Eton and Eton Wick, Old Windsor and Horton and Wraysbury. There were currently two plans being developed for Windsor, this one that covered the majority of the residential area and the Windsor Business neighbourhood Plan. This plan was especially interesting because of the high value placed on community engagement. The plan covered the period from 2019 to 2034 which was similar to the BLP. The neighbourhood plan was scrutinised by an independent examiner. The Forum had

considered the Examiner's recommendations and had modified their draft plan to incorporate the examiner's recommendations. Unfortunately the referendum has had to be delayed but it is hoped that it will take place on 6th May 2020, there was a £20k grant from Government.

The Deputy Leader of the Council, Resident and Leisure Services, HR, IT, Legal, Performance Management and Windsor also thanked Claire and the committee. This set out the different historical areas of Windsor. The investigation work and the skills taken to produce this was excellent. This will give valuable guidance for future development. Windsor was lucky that it had lots of green spaces and this document shows their importance.

Cllr Tisi congratulated the committee for all their hard work and the document demonstrated that Windsor was a lot more than the castle. It was great to have the community at its heart.

Cllr Jones mentioned that it had been strange that one part of her ward had been covered by a plan and the other had not, so she welcomed this plan and hoped it would be adopted.

Resolved unanimously: that Cabinet notes the report and:

- i) Confirms that the Plan meets the basic conditions test**
- ii) Accepts the proposed changes to the Neighbourhood Plan as set out in appendix B**
- iii) Agrees to put the modified Neighbourhood Plan to referendum.**
- iv) Delegates authority to the Head of Planning to issue a Decision Statement and**
- v) Delegates to the Head of Planning in consultation with the Electoral & Information Governance Services Manager and the Lead Member for Planning, Environmental Services and Maidenhead to decide on the date of the referendum.**
- vi) Delegates to the Head of Planning in consultation with the Lead Member for Planning, Environmental Services and Maidenhead to make minor non material amendments to the neighbourhood plan prior to the referendum being announced.**

C) COUNCIL TAX BASE 2021/22

Cabinet consider the report that dealt with the statutory requirement to set the Council's Council Tax Base for 2021/22.

The Lead Member for Finance and Ascot informed that the Council Tax Base was used by the Thames Valley Police, Berkshire Fire and rescue service, Parish Councils and the Borough to set precepts and Council Tax for next year. It included new build properties that were likely to be occupied before the end of the next financial year.

The Tax base was presented as Band D equivalent properties which had increased by 488.49 during the year. The target collection rate for council tax was 99.5% and an adjustment was made in the tax base to allow for this 0.5% shortfall. Appendix A was an analysis of properties and the numbers that were subject to various discounts, Appendix B was the Parish Council Band D equivalents and Appendix C showed the change in tax base from 2020/21 by parish.

Resolved unanimously: that Cabinet notes the report and:

- i) Approves, in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) Regulation 1992, as amended, the amount calculated by the Council as its Council Tax Base for the whole of the Borough area for 2021/22 shall be 69,179.45 as detailed in this report and appendices. This is an increase of 488.49 over the 2020/21 Tax Base, a 0.71% increase.**
- ii) Notes a Council Tax collection rate target of 99.5% for 2021/22.**

iii) Notes an estimated deficit on the Council Tax Collection Fund in 2020/21 of £142,000, of which the Council's share is £113,000.

D) DRAFT REVENUE BUDGET 2021/22

Cabinet considered the proposed draft revenue budget for 2021/22.

The Leader of the Council and Chairman of Cabinet, Business, Economic Development and Property informed that this was a draft proposed budget that was going out for consultation. He mentioned that this would not be the budget they would have set if it had not been for the pandemic, in a different world they would have started the process of building up the council's reserves using the predicted £4.5 million surplus from this year. In a none Covid world savings would still have had to be made but nowhere near the levels that have had to be done. The revised MTFS had been approved by Council after a thorough debate. The challenge caused by Covid had not lessened but it would have been more challenging if we had not been in a position to carry forward savings. Difficult, painful decisions had to be taken this year but they had been the correct decisions. There had been much talk about a possible S144 but due to a lot of work we had managed to get into a relatively stable position. This proposed budget will go to consultation and lay the foundations for supporting the economy, investing in supporting the most vulnerable and great a borough of opportunity and innovation. There were also difficult saving proposals so that a balanced budget could be set. There is a proposal of a 5% increase in council tax but the borough was in a position of having low tax levels. This was the most realistic, credible draft budget and he wanted genuine feedback from residents, businesses, stock holders and all councillors. It was important to note that for every saving removed there had to be an alternative or cross charge to balance the budget.

The Lead Member for Finance and Ascot informed Cabinet that today he presented the draft 2021/22 budget which would be subject to consultation with residents, businesses and council staff, the feedback from those consultations would inform final budget decisions which will be presented at the February 2022 Council meeting.

The impact of COVID-19 on businesses and communities and its negative impact on the Council's finances had been well publicised. This year COVID-19 will cause additional expenditure of £14.5m but it was expected to receive £13.1 million of COVID funding from Government, a shortfall of £1.4M. However, despite this we are forecasting a positive variance of around £3M.

The MTFS presented at Council in October projected that next year expenditure would exceed income by £8.4M. We have an obligation in law to deliver a balanced budget and this is the gap the draft budget closes. The draft budget shows the impact of COVID-19 next year to be £9.25M. Our projection of Government support is £4.71M so as a direct consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic we will need to manage a budget pressure of £4.5M. It is this covid pressure that has coloured the budget and forced some challenging proposals.

At July Cabinet we agreed an interim Corporate strategy which has informed the draft budget. The papers before Cabinet transparently explained the actions that are proposing to deliver a balanced budget. Savings and growth are shown by directorate, the appendices provide a detailed breakdown of increased costs and income loss as a result of the impact of COVID-19 together with growth bids from services and a detailed schedule of proposed savings.

The headlines were a 2% council tax increase and an additional 3% adult social care precept which will increase a band D property to £1131.27 This is unlikely to change our position as having the 8th lowest council in the country, charging £365 a year less than this year's Berkshire average.

Saving £8.4M had been a challenge but residents should be aware that we will continue to support older people through the provision of excellent services. Three of the Care homes we use are rated Outstanding and one is Good, my research shows that only 4% of homes in the Country are outstanding. Of four domiciliary care agencies used by Optalis, three are Good and one requires improvement. Working with Optalis our adult social care team have been at the forefront of the Council's transformation programme and are proposing savings many designed to improve the wellbeing of older people in care.

We will be investing additional funds in Children's services. Not only were children's services rated good by OFSTED earlier this year but so was the Youth Offending team reflecting the positive influence of Achieving for Children, the proposed budget will ensure that these high standards are maintained. Expenditure on Adults and children's service will be approximately £60M.

There are some services that will operate differently or be reduced and we are aware that a number of decisions may be unpopular but the draft budget will be subject to public consultation. We are awaiting the final details of the comprehensive spending review if this does not deliver additional income, all the savings will be needed. However, we will listen to resident's priorities and adjust the budget accordingly where we are able. So, the final outturn will not be known until nearer the Council budget setting meeting in February next year.

The Director of Resources gave the same budget presentation to all members, she stressed the need to set aside all in-year underspends in a Covid reserve to be used to manage one off overspends next year. Members were invited to look at the savings report at appendix D, where 30% of savings reported were £20K or less so what some might seem small sums really do matter. This was why Council earlier in the week did approve additional expenditure that some saw as a small amount.

In order to create the capacity and expertise to help us deliver our longer-term ambitions we have allocated £850K to increase Corporate capacity in the areas of:

- Strategy and policy development
- Procurement
- Transformation
- Contract management
- Data analytics
- Project management.

Officers have, with enthusiasm and goodwill taken on different roles and performed remarkably effectively in helping the Royal Borough through the COVID-19 pandemic and deserve a pay increase. This is built into the budget as RBWM did not use the Green Book and could set local pay and conditions.

The Deputy Leader of the Council, Resident and Leisure Services, HR, IT, Legal, Performance Management and Windsor informed that she was delighted that a draft budget had been brought forward so we get residents views. She thanked officers for providing the challenge that enable a balanced budget. In her portfolio we were proposing a staff wage increase even though national government had announced a pay freeze, there was a chance for transformation in the library service, there would be consultation on the best location for the container library, Old Court and Nordens Farm both get high levels of community support and we want to continue to support them with a new package. Leisure services had been affected by the pandemic with a new provider being required to replace Parkwood Leisure, the pressure would continue but hopefully decrease as participants return. Continued investment in ICT was important as demonstrated during the current crises. There were pressures on the registrars department due to a reduction in weddings,

The Lead Member for Planning, Environmental Services and Maidenhead informed that even without the need to make savings he would still be asking about moving to fortnightly black bin

collections. Earlier this year it had been proved that the borough could move to fortnightly collection. He was determined to increase recycling and this could help so he was asking for residents views.

The Lead Member for Public Protection and Parking informed that it was proposed to review how the community wardens work and looked forward to residents views. With regards to parking revenue was going to be down and we would be looking at a standardised parking charges across the borough. The old on road parking charging machines would be removed.

The Lead Member for Transport and Infrastructure informed that there would be rationalisation of street cleaning so they were cleaned when required and it was proposed to reduce the number of council pool cars from 30 to 8. He looked forward to seeing the consultation results.

Cllr Jones mentioned that it was good to see a draft budget presented in time to allow all councillors to give their views. She acknowledged that not all the information was available at this present time and also agreed with some of the capital slippage. She had raised concern about the authority keeping council tax low and the consequences of this had been evidenced by the pressures of the recent pandemic. She wanted to highlight the reduction in services so residents were aware such as libraries, community wardens, back office staff, road cleaning, day centres, home to school transport as well as placing additional demand on the voluntary sector. She asked how we could be sure all residents would be aware of the consultation.

Cllr Werner mentioned that he would review the proposed budget over the next couple of months and mentioned his view that the council needed a long term strategy. It was important that the consultation was a real exercise and not just rubber stamping. When he was part of the Liberal Democrats administration they had undertaken meaningful consultation allowing residents to express their views on shaping the budget. Residents needed to be aware of the effects of the budget.

The Chairman confirmed that there were a number of unknowns still to be confirmed, however this would be a meaningful consultation and an opportunity for all councillors to put forward their alternative proposals that resulted in a balanced budget. He felt that this was the best budget given circumstances and looked forward to the consultation results.

Cllr Baldwin raised concern that one Lead Member was proposing a fortnightly bin collection whilst another was proposing reducing street cleaning, the combination would have unfortunate consequences. The Lead Member for Planning replied that during the pandemic when there was fortnightly black bin collections there was not issues of bins overflowing and rubbish on the streets as implied.

Cllr Tisi raised concern about the speed of the transformation in adult social care. Talking to officers she understood the need but was concerned about the implication as residents needed the context and reasons behind changes and time for services to be shaped and not axed.

Cllr C Da Costa agreed that it was good to have a draft budget to comment on supported the proposals to go to a fortnightly black bin collection to help increase recycling. With regards to transformation with the children's services felt it would the public to have more information in bite size pieces on areas such as the changes to children's centres.

Cllr Del Campo mentioned that community wardens were introduced in 2004 and had undertaken a crucial role in decreasing anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime. The wardens role was highlighted in 2010 when police budgets were cut. In her ward her residents appreciated the help and support they provided but if reduced there would be no dedicated support in the area and her residents would have to result in calling the 111 police number instead to talking to a warden. She raised concern about the cuts to the arts and also

mentioned the importance of libraries above the need to loan books and she would like them to remain open weekend and evenings.

Cllr Bhangra raised his support for Norden's Farm and its importance to the community and in his ward.

Cllr Price mentioned that there had been a long discussion but little mention on the impact on RBWM staff as some will be fearing for their jobs or the jobs of those they are working with. She offered her support to the MD and his team managing during these difficult times. Reading the budget she concluded that if you are both affluent and able you will be fine, if not you will find it tough for the near future and next five years. She also raised concern about the ability or perception that the voluntary sector would step into the gaps. She felt that they would be a shadow of themselves over the next coming years. She questioned if the voluntary sector would be consulted. The chairman confirmed they would as part of stakeholders.

The Lead Member for Housing, Communications and Youth Engagement informed that the fundamental point was that in order to continue to deliver vital services we needed a balanced budget. If you looked at other authorities such as Croydon who had to deliver a section 144 notice there were many authorities who would struggle to have a balanced budget. With regards to housing there was a large pressure within the budget but it was important that those that require our support received it and our statutory role was fulfilled. During this year all rough sleepers within RBWM had been housed or offered accommodation. With regard to the consultation this would allow residents to understand the rationale for suggestions and make representation. He welcomed alternative budgets from the opposition groups and residents views.

The Deputy Chairman of Cabinet, Adult Social Care, Children's Services, Health and Mental Health reiterated the comments made by the Lead Member for Finance about his portfolio. He said that with regard to children's services we remained committed to protecting the most vulnerable within our borough. With regards to comments made about school transport this would be focused on those who need it most, the most vulnerable. With regards to adult social care as mentioned it was important to protect vulnerable residents but also to help support those to have independent lives.

Resolved unanimously: that Cabinet agrees the draft budget that will be consulted upon prior to final budget setting during February 2021 including:

- i. The draft budget and revised Medium Term Financial Plan set out in Appendix A.**
- ii. The proposed Covid-19 pressures set out in Appendix B**
- iii. The proposed growth and budget pressures set out in Appendix C.**
- iv. The proposed savings set out in Appendix D.**

E) DRAFT CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2021/22 - 2023/24

Cabinet considered the report regarding draft Capital Programme for 2021/22 – 2023/24 and Capital Strategy 2021/22 – 2025/26.

The Lead Member for Finance and Ascot informed that the report presented the Draft Capital Strategy, the Draft Capital Programme for 2021/22 and the capital cash flow. The Draft Capital Strategy was similar to that published with the Budget in February but for clarity it had been reformatted. A notable change was the removal of Repairs and Maintenance as capital

investment as such costs should be funded from revenue. The introduction in the current budget of a £20,000 de minimus level for Capital had started this process.

The value of the Capital programme for 2021/22 was nearly £61M but this was dominated by previously approved major schemes which are shown in appendix C. The most significant addition was funds to allow early surrender of the lease on Maidenhead Golf Course. Despite withdrawing from the River Thames Scheme we have not removed the budget from the Capital programme and will continue to work to establish an affordable funding mechanism.

In order to constrain pressure of Minimum Revenue Provision and interest from borrowing on the revenue budget only essential items to the value of £2.237 was allocated for new bids in the 2021/22 programme, interest payments on schemes of over a year's duration were capitalised.

Table 4 on page 348 detailed the November level of CIL and S106. £3.767 is earmarked for use in 2021/2. Table B was the consolidated capital programme 2021/22 to 2023/24 this shows individual schemes by Directorate. Appendix D shows the detail of Capital bids and source of funding and appendix E the capital cash flow projection.

He draw cabinets attention to page 363 and account code CD 91 described as Windsor Town Centre package. An error was made when setting the 2020/21 budget, only the LEP funding was shown and not additional matched S106 funding of £850K. A cabinet paper would be required to add these funds in year but as the project will slip into 2021/22 the 2020/21 budget will revert to the original £1.563 M and £850K will be added to the proposed 2021/22 capital programme.

Cllr Larcombe addressed Cabinet about the River Thames funding issue and informed that there was a live petition with over 900 signatures to date. He mentioned that the river Thames was a major Environment Agency flood alleviation project. Appendix C on the major schemes document said that river Thames funding was approved by Council in 2015, since then there has been 19 meetings of the River Thames (Datched to Teddington) scheme, he read from the December minutes where a RBWM councillor said the Government should fund the £50 million gap, it was said that the Government would not fund more of the scheme after agreeing to provide £60 million. The money was not required upfront just a signed legal agreement. It was clear RBWM was fully aware that the project was fully funded in 2019. He was concerned that the full facts had not been made clear at council. He felt that the council had a moral duty to fully fund the RTS Channel .

The Chairman said that in terms of the project they remained committed however due to the current financial position additional borrowing would not be sensible. They had lobbied government but had not been successful. The Lead Member said he was totally committed to the scheme when funding permitted.

Resolved unanimously: that Cabinet notes the report and comments on:

- i. The draft Capital Strategy 2021/22 – 2023/24 as set out in Appendix A**
- ii. The draft consolidated capital programme for 2021/22 – 2023/24 in Appendix B, including slippage from previously approved schemes and the proposed new schemes. Further detail is included in Appendices C and D.**
- iii. The capital cash flow in Appendix E**

F) SCHOOLS CONDITION ALLOCATION 2021-22

Cabinet considered the report regarding proposed schools conditional allocation for 2021-22.

The Lead Member for Adult Social Care, Children's Services, Health and Mental Health informed that this report seeks approval of Children's Services' bids to the 2021/22 capital programme, to be funded by the School Condition Allocation. This will allow planning and tendering of schemes in time for delivery over the summer in 2021, before schools restart in September.

The works were is intended to cover any works at community and voluntary controlled schools related to improvements to the school estate. This includes major replacements and improvements to the fabric of the buildings and grounds. The scheme includes compliance works to meet health and safety and building regulations.

The Lead Member for Finance and Ascot highlighted the grant funding that was available for decarbonisation schemes. Five schools had been identified for boiler changes to reduce carbon.

The director informed that once funding had been confirmed that a prioritisation exercise would be undertaken based on schools being Warm, safe and dry.

Resolved unanimously: that Cabinet notes the report and:

- i. approves the Children's Services 2021/22 capital bids for schemes to be funded by the School Condition Allocation, and includes them in the overall 2021/22 capital programme. This is subject to any changes that may be required to the list of schemes set out in Appendix B following confirmation of the level of grant.**
- ii. approves the listed schemes being put out to tender.**
- iii. delegates any variation of the list of schemes set out at Appendix B to the Director of Children's Services, in consultation with the Lead Member for Adult Social Care, Children's Services, Health and Mental Health.**

G) DEMAND FOR SCHOOL PLACES

Cabinet considered the report regarding the latest, 2020, projections of demand for school places in the Royal Borough.

The Lead Member for Adult Social Care, Children's Services, Health and Mental Health informed that the local authority had a legal duty to ensure there were sufficient school places to meet demand. This report provided the latest, 2020, projections. These projections indicate that additional school places may be required over the next four years to meet rising demand in Maidenhead primary schools and in Windsor upper schools.

The report proposed public consultation on a range of options for meeting this demand, including bringing the school site formerly occupied by Oldfield Primary School, the 'Chiltern Road' site, back into use as a primary school. Consultation is also proposed on options including expansion at Riverside Primary School, Larchfield Primary School, Lowbrook Primary School, St Luke's CE Primary School and St Mary's Catholic Primary School. In Windsor, it is proposed to consult on options to provide new upper school places for girls at Windsor Girls' School.

The Director for Children's Services informed that unusually there had to be a number of caveats added to the projections due to the impact of the pandemic for example an increase in elected home education. Along with the schools listed for consultation they were also open to other schools who wished to take part to help meet the need and choice for families at the right price.

Resolve unanimously: that Cabinet notes the report and:

- i. Approves public consultation on the options recommended in Appendix F to provide new primary school places in Maidenhead and new upper school places in Windsor.
- ii. Delegates authority to the Director of Children's Services, in consultation with the Lead Member for Adult Social Care, Children's Services, Health and Mental Health, to add any further options that may come forward into the consultation.
- iii. Requests that a report on the outcome of the consultation be brought back to Cabinet in Spring 2021, together with final recommendations.

H) HOUSING STRATEGY 2020 - 2025

Cabinet considered the briefing paper regarding the development of the Housing Strategy 2020 – 2025.

The Lead Member for Housing, Communications, and Youth Engagement informed that this was RBWM's first Housing Strategy for some time. In the near future we should have an adopted local plan that will settle the quantum and location of housing. We can then start thinking about why we need new homes rather than where and meeting targets. We want to develop homes not just housing. The economic growth and increased population has not been met with sufficient housing stock and this has pushed up prices to the detriment of residents. We do not want a borough without enough social housing or having families leaving due to affordability.

This was a draft document that had been put together following a number of focus groups and consultation. It was now proposed to go out to a 6 week public consultation. The strategy had three clear objectives, building homes, promoting health and wellbeing and supporting vulnerable people.

Cllr Del Campo informed that she was pleased to see empty homes brought into focus and the breakdown of housing tenures with the proportion of affordable housing increasing.

Cllr Jones also supported the commitment for assessing the need for different tenures. With regards to homes for life she felt that support should be given to help with sustainable housing.

The Lead Member for Adult Social Care, Children's Services, Health and Mental Health recommended that as part of the consultation that a focus group of young people be used. The Lead Member agreed with the idea.

Cabinet noted the report.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 - EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public were excluded from the remainder of the meeting whilst discussion took place on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1 and 3 of part I of Schedule 12A of the Act.

The meeting, which began at 6.15 pm, finished at 9.25 pm

CHAIRMAN.....

DATE.....