

COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET

20<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2018

Present:

Councillor Mark F Annett - Chairman

Councillors -

Sue Coakley  
C Hancock

SG Hirst  
NJW Parsons

Observers:

SI Andrews (until 4.15 p.m.)

Apologies:

MGE MacKenzie-Charrington

CAB.42 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest under the Code of Conduct for Members or Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

There were no declarations of interest under the Code of Conduct for Officers.

CAB.43 MINUTES

**RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Cabinet held on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2018 be approved as a correct record.**

**Record of Voting - for 4, against 0, abstentions 1, absent 1.**

CAB.44 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

No public questions had been submitted.

CAB.45 MEMBER QUESTIONS

No questions had been submitted by Members.

CAB.46 LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements from the Leader.

**CAB.47**      **BUSINESS RATES RETENTION SCHEME PILOT - GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

The Cabinet was requested to consider proposals for the Gloucestershire local authorities to submit an application to become a 75% Business Rates Retention Pool pilot in 2019/20.

The Chief Finance Officer amplified various aspects of the circulated report including the outcome of the financial modelling carried out by the Gloucestershire Chief Finance Officers. She further explained that there could be a significant gain to the Council by entering into the Pool despite the risks posed through the NHS Foundation Trusts' legal challenge over the award of mandatory relief and appeals in the business rate system. The degree of exposure in the worst case scenario, across the County, had been quantified as £1.4 million. To mitigate this risk, the Chief Finance Officers were proposing to set aside a reserve of £1.4 million from the expected 2018/19 Pool gain. She also explained that information was still to be released by the Government as to how the Business Rates Retention Scheme from the 2020/21 financial year onwards would operate. The key purpose of the pilot scheme in 2019/20 was to provide intelligence to the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government to inform the design of any new scheme post 2020/21. The recommendation by all Chief Finance Officers across the Gloucestershire authorities had been in favour of submitting a bid to become a 2019/2020 pool pilot.

In response to a question, the Chief Finance Officer explained that if the £1.4m reserve to be set aside from the 2018/19 Pool gain was not required at the end of the 2019/20 pilot, it would be distributed to the Gloucestershire authorities and the Gloucestershire Economic Growth Joint Committee through the Pool Governance Arrangements.

**RESOLVED that:**

**(a) the Council agrees to be part of a Gloucestershire bid to become a 75% Business Rate Pool Pilot;**

**(b) the composition of the alternative 50% Business Rate Pool for 2019/20 be endorsed.**

**Record of Voting - for 5, against 0, abstentions 0, absent 1.**

**CAB.48**      **COUNTY-WIDE PROCUREMENT OF LOCAL HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

The Cabinet was requested to consider (i) the use of monies from the Council Priorities Fund to meet the Council's share of the cost of preparing a county-wide Local Housing Needs Assessment (LHNA); (ii) approval to enter into a joint procurement process with the six district authorities in Gloucestershire for a new LHNA and (iii) approval to enter into participation agreements for joint working to enable the delivery of the procurement.

The Cabinet Member for Housing, Health and Leisure explained that the procurement was a necessary 'tool' to assess the County's need and that each District was expected to contribute the same amount to the assessment.

**RESOLVED that:**

- (a) delegated authority be given to the Head of Paid Service to approve the final budget, in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer and Cabinet Member for Housing, Health and Leisure;**
- (b) this Council's share of the cost of the assessment be funded from the Council Priorities Fund;**
- (c) the Joint Head of Legal and Property Services be authorised to approve and sign the participation agreement;**
- (d) delegated authority be given to the Head of Paid Service to approve the final tender brief and the contract award, on behalf of the Council.**

**Record of Voting - for 5, against 0, abstentions 0, absent 1.**

CAB.49

**SUMMARY FINANCE/SERVICE PERFORMANCE REPORT - 2018/19  
QUARTER 1**

The Cabinet received a report summarising overall performance for the Council, with particular focus on progress towards achieving the Council's top tasks, and efficiency measures and an update in regards to the Council's financial position including revenue outturn and budget variances; and capital expenditure, capital receipts and use of reserves.

The Chief Finance Officer introduced the item and with the Group Finance Director of Publica and Head of Paid Service jointly responded to a number of questions from Members. It was confirmed by Officers that the Cotswold District was ahead of all other districts in the County in regards to Fastershire broadband implementation; following on from the District Council elections in May 2019, a new Corporate Strategy would be developed; and a review of the Council's Key Performance Indicators was planned by March 2019.

The Cabinet Member for Housing, Health and Leisure informed the Cabinet of the new scheme launched by Gloucestershire Police with regards to tackling rural crime, and an invitation for the Council to join the scheme. The Cabinet expressed its support for the initiative and the potential public benefits of the scheme.

**RESOLVED that:**

- (a) service and financial performance for Q1 of 2018/19 be noted;**
- (b) the variations to the Publica contract sum for 2018/19 be approved;**
- (c) the changes to the Council's 2018/19 budget, which are cost neutral to the Council, be approved.**

**Record of Voting - for 5, against 0, abstentions 0, absent 1.**

CAB.50

**SCHEDULE OF DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL  
AND/OR INDIVIDUAL CABINET MEMBER**

The Cabinet noted a Schedule detailing decisions taken by the Leader of the Council, Deputy Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Housing, Health and Leisure.

CAB.51 ISSUE(S) ARISING FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY AND/ OR AUDIT (IF ANY)

There were no formal recommendations, or other matters, arising from Overview and Scrutiny and/or Audit.

CAB.52 OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business that was urgent.

The Meeting commenced at 4.00 p.m. and closed at 4.30 p.m.

Chairman

(END)