

## **Cabinet**

1 February 2022 – At a meeting of the Cabinet held at 10.30 am at County Hall, Chichester, PO19 1RQ.

Present: Cllr Marshall (Chairman)

Cllr Crow, Cllr J Dennis, Cllr Hunt, Cllr A Jupp, Cllr N Jupp, Cllr Lanzer, Cllr Russell, Cllr Urquhart and Cllr Waight

Also in attendance: Cllr Baxter, Cllr Boram, Cllr Britton, Cllr Lord, Cllr Montyn, Cllr Wall and Cllr Hillier

### **37. Declarations of Interest**

37.1 No declarations of interest were made.

### **38. Minutes**

38.1 Resolved – that the minutes of the meeting held on 3 December be approved as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

### **39. Council Plan and Budget 2022/23 (CAB13\_21/22)**

39.1 Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Finance and Support Services. Cllr Hunt, Cabinet Member for Finance and Property explained the key considerations in setting a balanced budget for 2022/23 in line with the priorities in the Council Plan with no additional savings required. Cllr Hunt acknowledged the crucial financial support from the Government in respect of the pandemic and highlighted the future challenges over the medium to long term. The budget proposes to increase the council tax rate by 1.99% and the adults' social care precept by 1%.

39.2 Chairmen from each of the Scrutiny Committees welcomed and supported the budget and thanked Cabinet and officers for its preparation and production. Financial strengths were noted, as were the challenges and risks ahead. The need to continue to lobby the Government to help meet the needs of residents was highlighted as was the importance of longer-term planning. They asked that future savings proposals and budget plans be brought to their respective committees and for member briefings as early as possible.

39.3 Cllr Kirsty Lord, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group recognised the delivery of a balanced budget and noted that the assumptions were transparent and detailed. Cllr Lord felt there should be a greater focus on delivering for residents and the impact upon them of a council tax increase. Cllr Lord noted the significant costs expected in adult social care and that support from MPs and the Government is required. Cllr Caroline Baxter, Leader of the Labour Group was pleased to see a balanced budget for 2022/23 without the need for significant savings. She suggested that the

council take a more holistic approach to delivering better outcomes for residents which recognised the increase in living costs.

39.4 The following points were made by Cabinet Members in discussion:

- Cllr Steve Waight, Cabinet Member for Support Services and Economic Development felt the budget enabled the delivery of the council plan for residents. He highlighted work in the areas of insourcing services, the people framework, economic development and partnership working. He commended the budget with an exciting year ahead to bring improvements for businesses, residents and staff.
- Cllr Bob Lanzer, Cabinet Member for Public Health and Wellbeing recognised the support from central government which had helped the budget. He welcomed the increase in the Improved Better Care Fund which would help to integrate health and social care. Cllr Lanzer said the budget was directed at supporting the council plan and meeting the needs of residents, with an increase in revenue spending despite the big challenges. The increase of £100m in the Capital Programme was prudent and affordable. Cllr Lanzer hoped the profile of Public Health and Wellbeing would continue to rise even after the recovery from the pandemic.
- Cllr Amanda Jupp, Cabinet Member for Adults Services highlighted that 95% of the Adult Services budget related to the cost of funding care needs of residents. The proposed increase of 1% for the adult social care element of council tax would generate approximately £5m which would put the service in a more sustainable funding position. Savings would still need to be made through care assessment reviews and by looking carefully at resource allocation.
- Cllr Duncan Crow, Cabinet Member for Community Support, Fire and Rescue advised that, in view of the recent and anticipated challenges, the council had done well to reach a sustainable budget. He advised work in the Communities portfolio had aligned with the priority outcomes in the council plan by keeping residents safe. Libraries provide a huge range of services and the community hub continues to help many residents, alongside the successful test and trace partnership. Additional investments in the Fire and Rescue service would help the implementation of the new Community Risk Management Plan.
- Cllr Nigel Jupp, Cabinet Member for Learning and Skills was pleased to hear the Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Committee's support for mental health services in schools. He highlighted the increase in net expenditure of £6.3m in the Learning and Skills portfolio. Cllr Jupp also set out the specific government grants for Learning and Skills. He highlighted additional spend in the capital programme for meeting the needs of children with special educational needs, including new facilities and special support centres.
- Cllr Jacquie Russell, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People felt the budget was comprehensive, delivered the

council plan priorities, met the needs of residents and tackled the effects of climate change. Cllr Russell highlighted the continuing investment for in-house residential services to reduce the reliance on fostering agencies and for children's emotional health and wellbeing. There were challenges with placement costs, however the new family safeguarding model and early help restructure sought to keep families together ultimately reducing these pressures.

- Cllr Joy Dennis, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport commended the council plan and budget. She highlighted the demanding issue of road maintenance and the significant capital spend which would address this.
- Cllr Deborah Urquhart, Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change congratulated the Cabinet Member for Finance and Property and the Director of Finance and Support Services on producing a balanced budget which did not make cuts to frontline services. She outlined the spend in each portfolio area underpinned by a £10m investment in climate change. She advised of the rollout of electric vehicle charge points, plans to decarbonise council buildings, and the production of renewable energy from solar farms. Cllr Urquhart agreed that longer term funding settlements from the Government were important to plan for the future.

39.5 The Leader thanked Cabinet and the Executive Leadership Team for their effort in producing a balanced budget. He outlined that resources were targeted towards protecting residents and businesses across the spectrum, whilst responding to the pandemic and continuing improvement work in Children's and Fire services. He recognised that the budget had more capacity to address issues in the Highways portfolio and to invest in frontline services with no new savings is highly commendable. The commitment to deliver change to protect the environment through mitigating the effects of climate change is evident.

39.6 Cllr Hunt thanked all for their support and staff for their hard work. Despite pressures, Cllr Hunt was confident the plan and budget demonstrated a relentless focus on the four priority outcomes, all underpinned by tackling climate change and supporting residents.

39.7 Resolved - that Cabinet endorses the County Council Budget for 2022/23, as set out in Appendix A and Annex 1, the Capital Strategy set out in Annex 2(a) and the Treasury Management Statement set out in Annex 2(b), for approval by County Council on 18 February 2022.

#### **40. Adult Social Care Strategy (2022-2025) (CAB14\_21/22)**

40.1 Cabinet considered a report by the Executive Director Adults and Health. The report was introduced by Cllr Amanda Jupp, Cabinet Member for Adults' Services who outlined that work had been underway since September 2021 to bring together the longer-term vision and strategy of the service. The strategy had been co-

designed with customers, staff, carers and partners to understand better what people needed and how to meet their expectations. The strategy is an articulation of the voices of people who access care and those who are carers, placing them at the centre of how the service plans its priorities. The strategy is structured by social connections within communities, empowerment, choice, control and flexibility, information and advice. The Cabinet Member looked forward to working with the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee who would be involved in monitoring progress.

40.2 Keith Hinkley, Executive Director of Adults and Health advised that the strategy would give a platform to undertake work in 2022/23 on how services would be reshaped. There are significant challenges ahead including workforce, social care reform and meeting the needs of an ageing community. The strategy provides a framework consistent with the council's priorities.

40.3 Cllr Garry Wall, Chairman of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee welcomed the report and strategy as outlined. He felt it demonstrated a long-sightedness and that the role of the Committee would be in supporting the development and implementation and in measuring its success. Cllr Wall welcomed the sentiments of empowerment, support for home living, connectivity, signposting of services and the important role of carers. The strategy recognised and should therefore deliver the needs of the community.

40.4 Cllr Caroline Baxter, Leader of the Labour group thanked those involved, including residents, in the production of the strategy and welcomed the emphasis on co-design. Cllr Baxter supported the aspirations of the strategy but had concerns about how successes would be measured and what the key targets were. Cllr Baxter saw the strategy as an opportunity to demonstrate how the council responded and addressed the challenging future for Adult Social Care in light of national policy developments.

40.5 The following points were made by Cabinet Members in discussion:

- Cllr Nigel Jupp, Cabinet Member for Learning and Skills commended the report and strategy. As an important topic and area of expenditure for the council, he felt it important that policies were refreshed as things move forward.
- Cllr Urquhart, Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change supported the strategy and the beginning of the journey and that policy, delivery plans and measures would be developed in due course.
- Cllr Steve Waight, Cabinet Member for Support Services and Economic Development highlighted the impressive amount of consultation and collaboration. He added that detail and Key Performance Indicators would develop in the future.

40.6 The Leader advised the council plan set the tone and direction for the future and with significant changes to social care,

there was a lot of work to do to understand the council's role within that. He added that input from providers was vital, as was engagement across the sector. The strategy had the flexibility to respond to changing needs.

40.7 Cllr Jupp advised of the progress made with relationships with partners and providers and felt this is in a strong place. Equally, care providers had been grateful for the dialogue and communication and she believes the Integrated Care System would see partners working together more positively. Although there are challenges and unknowns ahead, the strategy would be built upon and make a difference now and into the future.

40.8 Resolved – that Cabinet approves the strategy 'The life you want to lead – Adult Social Care in West Sussex'.

#### **41. Appointments to Outside Bodies (CAB15\_21/22)**

41.1 Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Law and Assurance.

41.2 Resolved - that Cabinet approve the appointment of Cllr Donna Johnson to fill the vacancy on the Chichester Harbour Conservancy for the remainder of the Council term (May 2025).

#### **42. Date of Next Meeting**

42.1 The next meeting of the Cabinet will be held on 15 March 2022.

The meeting ended at 12.30 pm

Chairman