Cabinet
Monday, 4th December, 2017

Present
Councillors: Heather Goddard, John Goddard, Colin Hunt, Matthew Riddle (Chair), Jon Hunt, Toby Savage and Ben Stokes.

Apologies for Absence
An apology for absence was received from Councillor Erica Williams.

56 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS (Agenda Item 1)
The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Cabinet Members introduced themselves.

57 EVACUATION PROCEDURE (Agenda Item 3)
The evacuation procedure was noted.

58 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST UNDER THE LOCALALISM ACT 2011 (Agenda Item 4)
Councillor Toby Savage declared an interest in Item 19 in that he provided communications support for one of the parties.

59 ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC (Agenda Item 5)
Members of the public would make representations during the relevant item on the agenda.

60 ITEMS FROM MEMBERS (Agenda Item 6)
Members would make representations during the relevant item on the agenda.

61 ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIR DECIDES ARE URGENT (Agenda Item 7)
There were no urgent items.
62 MINUTES (6 NOVEMBER 2017) (Agenda Item 8)

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 6 November 2017 be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

63 QUARTER 2 REVENUE BUDGET MONITOR 2017/18 (Agenda Item 9)

Cabinet considered the Council’s financial position against the revenue budget at the end of the second quarter and gives the forecast outturn for the year. It includes income and expenditure to the end of September and known commitments at that date.

The following issues were raised during discussion

- It was confirmed that the demolition costs for the Grange site could be in the region of £1m.
- A question was put to the Director of Corporate Services as to whether this was one of the most uncertain set of financial circumstances he had experienced. He responded to the effect that it was indeed a challenging point in time and there were a number of variables nationally which add complexity into projections.
- In response to a question about the use of underspends for the additional local contribution for the North Fringe to Hengrove Metrobus capital scheme the Leader of the Council reported the level of underspend won’t be known until the end of the financial year.
- The Leader was asked what assurances he would give that there won't be staff cuts in relation to the future year implications of the Council Savings Programme. The Leader was unable to give those assurances.

It was moved by Councillor John Goddard, seconded by Councillor John Hunt and upon being put to the vote it was unanimously:

Resolved:

i) That the Council’s projected financial position against the revenue budget be noted;

ii) That the CAH overspend be noted and that any decision in respect of the allocation of the corporate contingency be determined later in the financial year once the impact of (c) below is more fully evidenced.

a) That the action being taken by the Director of Children, Adult and Health, together with the respective Executive Members, to reduce the level of projected overspend as set out in Appendix 3 be noted.

b) That the net increase of £315k in planned reserve usage as detailed in Appendix 7 be approved;

c) To note the previous quarter one requests for utilisation of the overall council underspend, and that in this report from ECS in
respect of meeting the expected increasing costs of planning appeals, but given the increasing cost pressures within CAH to defer any decision until later in the financial year.

Reasons for Decision

The Cabinet is required to receive a quarterly forecast of the Council’s financial position against its approved annual budget.

64 QUARTER 2 CAPITAL BUDGET REPORT 2017/18 (Agenda Item 10)

Cabinet considered the current budget position for the 2017/18 financial year and updated ongoing capital programme.

It was moved by Councillor John Goddard, seconded by Councillor Ben Stokes and upon being put to the vote it was unanimously:

Resolved:

i) That the budgeted Capital Programme expenditure in 2017/18 and its funding be noted;

ii) That the new schemes totalling £9.276m be approved;

iii) That the 2017/18 budget virement (gross value of £140k) be approved.

Reasons for Decision

The Cabinet is required to receive a quarterly forecast of the Council’s financial position against its approved annual budget.

65 COUNCIL TAX BASES (FIRM 2018/19 AND INDICATIVE FORECASTS FOR 2019/20, 2020/21 AND 2021/22) AND PROVISIONAL 201819 LOCAL COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SUPPORT GRANT ALLOCATIONS TO PARISH & TOWN COUNCILS (Agenda Item 11)


It was moved by Councillor John Goddard, seconded by Councillor Colin Hunt and upon being put to the vote it was unanimously:
Resolved:

1. That in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) Regulations 1992 as amended by the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012 No. 2912:

a) the amount of the Council Tax Base, expressed as Band D equivalent properties, for South Gloucestershire Council for 2018/19 be determined as 92,631.

b) the amount of the indicative forecast Council Tax Base, expressed as Band D equivalent properties, for South Gloucestershire Council for 2019/20 be determined as 94,486.

c) the amount of the indicative forecast Council Tax Base, expressed as Band D equivalent properties, for South Gloucestershire Council for 2020/21 be determined as 96,376.

d) the amount of the indicative forecast Council Tax Base, expressed as Band D equivalent properties, for South Gloucestershire Council for 2021/22 be determined as 98,304.

e) the amounts set out in recommendations a) to d) above be determined in respect of the Council Tax Base for use by the Major Preceptors, namely the Fire Authority, and the Police and Crime Commissioner.

f) the Council Tax Base for each of the Local Preceptors, namely the 47 Parish/Town Councils, and the Unparished area, expressed as Band D equivalent properties, be determined as attached in Appendix A for 2018/19 and as indicative forecasts for 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22.

g) That the Head of Finance and Customer Services inform the Parish/Town Councils, the Fire Authority, the Police and Crime Commissioner, and the Environment Agency of the appropriate Council Tax Base to be used in 2018/19 and the indicative forecasts of the appropriate Council Tax Base to be used for 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22.

h) To approve the reduction of the amount of Local Council Tax Reduction Support Grant 2018/19 and onwards pro-rata to the reduction in South Gloucestershire Council’s reduction in Revenue Support Grant relative to the 2013/14 proportion.

i) To approve the provisional distribution of the Local Council Tax Reduction Support grant allocations to Parish/Town Councils for 2018/19 as set out in Appendix B and that the figures will be
updated when the 2018/19 Local Government Finance Settlement is published.

j) That the Head of Finance and Customer Services inform the Parish/Town Councils of their Local Council Tax Reduction scheme allocations.

k) Note that no changes are being proposed to the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2018/19 and a review of the scheme following the local implementation of Universal Credit will be undertaken during 2018/19.

l) Note the retention of the existing Special Expenses System for 2018/19.

Reasons for Decision

The Council is required to approve the Council Tax Bases in accordance with the appropriate Regulations during December and January of the preceding year to which the Council Tax Bases relate and to notify the precepting bodies.

The Cabinet is required to determine, whether it wishes to allocate to Parish/Town Councils, and if so, the total and individual allocations of the Local Council Tax Reduction Support Grant for 2018/19 and to notify the local precepting bodies.

66 COUNCIL PLAN PROGRESS REPORT (Agenda Item 12)

Cabinet considered an update on progress against the Council Plan.

Each Cabinet Member in turn reflected on performance within their own portfolio.

Cabinet noted the overall progress.

67 STRATEGIC RISK REGISTER AND RISK AND OPPORTUNITY STRATEGY (Agenda Item 13)

Cabinet considered the Council’s Risk and Opportunity Strategy and the Strategic Risk Register. The strategy provides the overall policy framework and approach to risk and opportunity management. The Strategic Risk Register is provided to enable consideration and review of the risks and associated mitigations contained within it.

It was moved by Councillor John Goddard, seconded by Councillor Jon Hunt and upon being put to the vote it was unanimously:

Resolved: That the Risk and Opportunity Strategy and the Strategic Risk Register be approved.
Reasons for Decision

The Risk and Opportunity Strategy was last reviewed and updated in 2013/14. Best practice recommends that the Risk and Opportunity Strategy is reviewed and updated. The risk management policy framework provides for the strategic risk register to be approved by the Cabinet annually. This report presents the opportunity for both the strategy and the register to be considered and approved concurrently.

68 CORPORATE FEEDBACK, COMPLAINTS, OMBUDSMAN & FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ANNUAL REPORT 2016.17 (Agenda Item 14)

Cabinet considered the number, nature and outcomes of complaints against the Council that fall within the remit of the Corporate Customer Feedback Procedure, and the Statutory Complaints Procedures operated by the Children, Adults and Health department. It also includes figures for the number of statutory appeals dealt with by the Benefits Service. This report covers the period 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017.

Cabinet took the opportunity to thank the staff for doing an excellent job.

Cabinet received the report and noted the positive progress.

69 CORPORATE PEER CHALLENGE UPDATE (Agenda Item 15)

Cabinet considered an update on the results of the Corporate Peer Challenge, together with the resulting council action plan.

It was moved by Councillor Matthew Riddle, seconded by Councillor John Goddard and upon being put to the vote it was unanimously:

Resolved:

i) That the positive findings overall of the Corporate Peer Challenge Feedback report be noted

ii) That the Corporate Peer Challenge Action Plan be endorsed.

70 ONE PUBLIC ESTATE INITIATIVE: NEW THORNBURY LIBRARY (Agenda Item 16)

Cabinet considered options for potential future location of the Thornbury library.

In moving the recommendation Councillor Heather Goddard explained that work had been ongoing on the One Public Estate to increase growth in Thornbury and reduce council running costs. The Library which was 60 years old was beyond repair and £72k had been spent on temporary repairs. Relocation of the site would mean an increased area, children's library and
meeting room. The Footfall would provide income for a Café. Improvement work would be needed to the footpath around Turnberries together with better lighting. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Colin Hunt.

The Chair invited members of the public to make representations to the Cabinet and the following viewpoints were put forward:

- The Town of Thornbury was expanding and so was not the time to dispose of public owned sites.
- It was premature to take a decision on library now when there would still be a decision to be taken at a future date on Armstrong Hall.
- Turnberries should be made into a one stop hub including a police desk and staff available to help community with council services.
- Turnberries was quite some distance away from the Town Centre. The Library was more convenient for public.
- The town centre shops will suffer if the library moves.

The Chair invited local members to make representations to the Cabinet and the following viewpoints were put forward:

- The move was about saving money but the case hasn't been made as it would cost more.
- The Armstrong Hall move might not go ahead so why does a decision have to be made now move the library.
- The comments from local residents in the consultation suggest that most want it to remain were it is.
- Pedestrian access to Turnberries is quite dangerous.

The Chair, Councillor Matthew Riddle reported that in 2006 plans were looked at for a 3 storey site at the existing Library Site. These plans were debate at the Councils Planning Committee. Concerns raised at that time were that having library on 1st floor could reduce library use. At that meeting back in 2006 all 4 of the local councillors said a new library was needed. The Leader of the Council at that time also said a new library was needed but couldn't be afforded and so the 2006 plan failed. The new library was never delivered. This plan can be delivered to provide a much larger library together with greater opening hours and at weekends.

In response to a question from Councillor Savage about the level of accessibility in the original plan for Turnberries it was explained that there were some restrictions of existing roads and levels at that time but Access in 3 points were put in place to meet DDA standards at the time. Finally Councillor Savage reminded members that 2 Councillors who were now rejecting the current proposals had been on the Cabinet supporting the building of Turnberries.

Upon being put to the vote it was unanimously:

Resolved:
i) That approval be given to Option 3 to relocate the Library to Turnberries site, including remodelling works required.

ii) That the existing Library site be declared surplus to requirements

iii) That the Director of Corporate Resources be granted delegated authority to obtain a capital receipt or other such income for the council.

iv) That further discussions to take place with Thornbury Town Council/Armstrong Hall Trust/TBCT regarding the ownership of the future Turnberries building, with a decision to come back to Cabinet in the new year.

Reasons for Decision

The library relocating to Turnberries would enable the following potential benefits;

a. Larger and better quality facilities for library users and creation of a community hub.

b. A reduction in overall property portfolio hence reduced running costs of the public estate.

c. Potential capital receipt received for existing Library site.

d. Better use of R&M capital funding [not expending on an end of life building]

e. Potential for increased footfall at Turnberries making it more viable.

f. Potential for redevelopment of the current library site.

71 SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE NEW LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION (Agenda Item 17)

Cabinet considered the South Gloucestershire new Local Plan Consultation Document together with the supporting Sustainability Appraisal and technical information published in accordance with Regulation 18 of the Town and Country Planning Regulations. In addition the report updated the timetable for preparing the new SGLP.

The Chair invited the public to make representations on this item. The following themes were raised:

- It was important to ensure plan was rural proofed. There was a need to look at how we provide affordable housing. Public Transport to Kingswood was an issue. The Plan didn’t talk about urban regeneration in the area.

The following issues were raised during discussion with members:
• Reference was made to the statement under Key Challenges about the potential for Kingswood’s role as the civic centre may change. The Leader of the Council gave assurances that this was not the case and the plan should be amended to reflect this.
• In relation to Paragraph 3 Section F which related to the policy areas it was confirmed that the Government define what affordable housing is however there wasn’t any detail available yet.
• There was a suggestion that, in order to promote the outcome of Scrutiny, 2 member working groups should be established to cover Buckover and Yate / Coalpit Heath areas.

It was moved by Councillor Colin Hunt, seconded by Councillor Ben Stokes and upon being put to the vote it was unanimously:

Resolved:

1) That the work already undertaken to prepare the South Gloucestershire new Local Plan be endorsed.

2) That the Director of Environment and Community Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning and Transport, be granted delegated authority to:

i. Make final editorial amendments of a technical, factual nature to the Local Plan Consultation Document and Sustainability Appraisal before commencement of public consultation

ii. Prepare supporting technical reports prior to the commencement of public consultation

iii. Complete and deliver the public engagement and consultation material needed to support the Local Plan Consultation Document.

iv. Update and publish the timetable for preparing the new SGLP

3) That public consultation on the Local Plan Consultation Document commences in early 2018 for a minimum period of 6 weeks.

Reasons for Decision

Following the completion and consideration of comments made to the Local Plan Prospectus earlier this year, a decision is now sought to undertake public consultation on how the council should go about delivering the level of growth required by the JSP, the spatial strategy and policy framework needed to achieve this level of development up to 2036. The council would like to use this consultation to seek communities and stakeholder views on key elements of the emerging Local Plan for South Gloucestershire and new policy discussion points in accord with Regulation 18 of the Town and Country Planning Regulations.
Cabinet considered the options for the Cribbs Patchway MetroBus Extension (CPME) scheme between the Gipsy Patch Lane / Hatchet Road roundabout and Parkway Station, following a debate about the southbound bus lane on Hatchet Road at Council in July 2017.

The Chair invited the public to make representations on this item. The following themes were raised:

- Paul Tanner, who was the lead petitioner at the July Council meeting commented that he was disappointed the report was not following good practice. The bus layby option had been too easily dismissed. The transport specialist had commented that transport was better on school holidays etc. It was not a responsible authority to spend money you don't have. He urged the Council to approve recommendation 2.
- Sue Bankcroft, local resident Stoke Gifford suggested the report would have had a major impact on the wider community particularly in view of the Councils budget deficit. The current Metrobus had numerous problems and with reports of further delays until early spring this would mean additional spend. Appendix A showed reworked assessment of journey times based on 2036 in 19 years' time. Para 33 option 2 offers a prudent approach.
- Mrs L Cox gave a report on the decline of species over the years and that inspects play a crucial role in the environment. Nature reserves cannot sustain in the long term. Areas such as Mead Park are becoming more important. It would be ecological vandalism to create a bus lane. Instead the save planet and species that depend on it.
- Dave Redgewell, highlighted the importance of getting the Metrobus extension finished. There was a need to remodel the Bristol Parkway forecourt. Look to further funding from Government through WECA. Doing nothing was not an option. He also stressed that Equalities Statement is more than just disabled people and this should be reflected across all of the Councils Equality Impact Assessments.

The Chair invited members to make representations to the Cabinet and the following viewpoints were put forward:

- Cllr Brian Allinson, local ward member explained that he was a strong supporter of Metrobus and welcomed extension route. However the South Bound Bus lane would impede on Mead Park. The Parish Council was determined to maintain all 3 parks. The Parish remained deeply concerned widening of Hatchet Road would affect the character of village. He suggested to reduce number and location of bus stops from 6 to 4 and into laybys which would enhance the flow of traffic on that road.
- A question was raised as to what was being done to promote the scheme in view of the rising costs. The Cabinet Member for PTSE
explained that it was important that the scheme was right and worked properly before it’s launch. There had been good reasons behind the delays. The Council was going to publically address on Friday why and how the scheme was needed. The Leader of the Council supported the comments made by Councillor Colin Hunt. The Leader disagreed with comments made by opposition members that the scheme had been poorly managed. There had been major issues to contend with such as protestors. Any project runs risk of running over schedule.

It was moved by Councillor Matthew Riddle, seconded by Councillor Toby Savage and upon being put to the vote, it was Carried (4 for 2 against, 1 abstention)

Resolved: That approval be given to proceed with the agreed CPME scheme but without the southbound bus lane on Hatchet Road and without the bus priority on the Gipsy Patch Lane / Hatchet Road roundabout.

Reasons for Decision

A decision is required to enable the project to progress with a clear mandate. The report sets out advantages and disadvantages to both recommendation options.

73 CRIBBS PATCHWAY NEW NEIGHBOURHOOD S106 FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT (Agenda Item 19)

Cabinet considered the financial implications arising from S106 Development Framework Agreement in relation to the Cribbs Patchway New Neighbourhood prior to the conclusion of the planning process.

In moving the recommendation Councillor Colin Hunt was pleased to note the progress being made to bring forward much needed houses at CPNN, and the agreement of the financial implications today was another key step in the right direction. He understood that there were factors lying outside the control of this Council which may have an impact upon the delivery of houses on the Persimmon land which forms part of CPNN. It was essential that the site comes forward in the co-ordinated way as set out by Framework Agreement and so would like Officers explore all options to use the Council’s Statutory powers, including the possibility of the use of CPO to ensure all part of CPNN are delivered in accordance with the Council Core Strategy policy so as to realise the benefits associated with the delivery of key infrastructure.

There was a request from Councillor Adam Monk that local member briefings be reinstated. The Leader agreed to look into this.

The recommendation as altered by Councillor Hunt was seconded by Councillor Ben Stokes and upon being put to the vote it was unanimously:
Resolved:

i) To agree the financial implications arising from S106 Development Framework Agreement in relation to the Cribbs Patchway New Neighbourhood prior to the conclusion of the planning process.

ii) To note the financial implication at Appendix 1 will be built into the Medium Term Financial Plan and Final Capital Programme to be received by Cabinet in February 2018, as well as taken into account in the Council’s ongoing cashflow forecasts for treasury management purposes.

iii) That Officers be requested to explore all options to use the Council’s Statutory powers, including the possibility of the use of CPO to ensure all part of CPNN are delivered in accordance with the Council Core Strategy policy so as to realise the benefits associated with the delivery of key infrastructure.

Reasons for Decision

A decision is required on the financial implications arising from S106 Development Framework Agreement in relation to the Cribbs Patchway New Neighbourhood in order to be able to include them in the Council’s Medium Term Financial Plan 2018/19 onwards ready for consideration by Cabinet in February 2018.

74 DEPLOYMENT OF THE DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT 2018/19
(Agenda Item 20)

Cabinet considered proposals for the deployment of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for 2018/2019.

It was moved by Councillor Toby Savage, seconded by Councillor Jon Hunt and upon being put to the vote it was unanimously:

Resolved:

i) That the outcome of the local authority wide schools consultation together with the latest Schools Forum recommendations regarding school funding options for 2018/19 be noted

ii) That approval be given to set the Minimum Funding Guarantee at -0.5% instead of -1.5% and introduce the SEND funding changes over two years as the basis for setting school budgets and deploying the DSG IN 2018/19;

iii) That the Cabinet Member for Schools, Skills and Employment be granted delegated authority to take the final decisions regarding the funding rates to be used in the allocation of funding to all South Gloucestershire Mainstream Schools, Special Schools, Pupil Referral...
Units and early years providers in accordance with Cabinet’s chosen consultation option and incorporating the final DSG allocation and school census data which becomes available in late December.

75  FORWARD PLAN (Agenda Item 21)

The Forward Plan was noted.

Chair