

The Cabinet

**Wednesday 12 August 2020 at 15:30
at Sandwell Council House, Oldbury**

- Present:** Councillor Crompton (Chair);
Councillors Ali, Allcock, Hadley, Padda, Shaeen, Singh,
Taylor and Underhill.
- In attendance:** Councillors Moore, Preece and Rollins.
- Officers:** David Stevens (Chief Executive), Alan Caddick (Housing and Communities), Lesley Hagger (Executive Director – Children’s Services), Elaine Newsome (Service Manager – Democracy), Rebecca Maher (Acting Section 151 Officer), Tammy Stokes (Interim Director – Regeneration and Growth), Sue Stanhope (Interim Director – HR), Suky Suthi-Nagra (Democratic Services Manager), Surjit Tour (Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer) and Chris Ward (Director - Education, Skills and Employment).

62/20 **Apologies for absence**

Members noted the apologies of Councillor Millard, Cabinet Member for Inclusive Economic Growth, Councillor E M Giles, Chair of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Board and Councillor L Giles, Chair of the Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board.

63/20 **Minutes of Meetings**

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 July 2020 were confirmed as a correct record.

58/20 **Additional Business**

The Chair outlined changes to Cabinet portfolios to take immediate effect. All regulatory functions, for example licensing responsibilities etc, would be transferred from the Living Healthy Lives portfolio to the Safer Communities portfolio.



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NHS Covid-19 Discharge Requirements

Approval was sought to implement the NHS Covid-19 Discharge Requirements published on 19 March 2020.

Reasons for Decision

As part of its response to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Government published the Hospital Discharge Service Requirements for immediate implementation across all NHS trusts, community interest companies and private care providers of acute and community beds, and community health services and social care in England. The Requirements also set out actions for commissioners to enhance discharge arrangements and the provision of community support throughout the pandemic.

Alternative options considered

The requirements were mandatory measures to ensure that hospitals had capacity to care for those in greatest need of medical treatment during the Covid-19 pandemic and the Council would therefore be required to implement these measures.

Agreed:-

- (1) that the proposed Variation to the Sandwell Better Care Fund S75 Agreement 2020/21 be approved for the purposes of implementing the NHS Covid-19 Discharge Requirements published on 19 March 2020;
- (2) that in connection with Resolution (1) above, the Director - Adult Social Care sign the Variation on behalf of the Council.

64/20

Climate Change Strategy

Approval was sought to the Climate Change Strategy 2020-2041. The Strategy included targets for the council to become carbon neutral by 2030 and for the borough to be carbon neutral by 2041.

Reasons for Decision and alternative options considered

The council had a statutory duty to have an Air Quality Action Plan. By approving the Climate Change Strategy, an implementation programme, based upon the Strategy's Action Plan, would be produced to include indicative costs for implementing the Action Plan over the next five years.

<p>Agreed That the Council be recommended to approve the Climate Change Strategy (2020-2041).</p>
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Dynamic Purchasing System for the Provision of Passenger Transport for 2021-25

Approval was sought to establish a new Dynamic Purchasing System for the provision of passenger transport services within the borough of Sandwell for children and adults with Special Educational Needs (SEN) and Disability (SEND) and those with an identified requirement in 2021 for the period 1 August 2021 to 31 July 2025.

Reasons for Decision

In accordance with section 508B and schedule 35B of the Education Act 1996, local authorities had a statutory duty to provide free school transport to eligible children.

Alternative options considered

- procure a managed service – this was not considered viable due to the current timescales as we would need to consider TUPE in relation to SMBC staff and external Operators staff;
- procure a framework however this did not allow new operators to join at any time unlike the DPS. This was very important due to the nature of the transport market and increased demand for SEND transport (including specialist vehicles) to ensure that we were able to respond to and take advantage of changes and developments in the local market;
- purchase an in-house service, securely store and maintain a fleet of minibuses/cars and employ drivers and passenger assistants to undertake the work in-house. This was not viable given the time scale requiring this service by August 2021 or practical as a fleet would need to be in excess of 200 vehicles and the cost of this fleet would make this option unviable;
- using the Adult Social Care (ASC) existing in-house fleet was not a viable option as ASC was unable to commit to home to school contracts at present due to not being able to predict the needs of ASC transport currently, particularly relating to the re-opening of centres due to covid-19.

Agreed that in accordance with the council's Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules:

- (1) approval be given to the Travel Assistance Service establishing a new Dynamic Purchasing System for the provision of passenger transport services for the period 1 August 2021 to 31 July 2025;
- (2) that in connection with Resolution (1) above, the Director – Law and Governance enter into an appropriate contract with the successful tenderers.

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Quarter 1 Budget Monitoring

Members received details of the financial position of Sandwell MBC as at the end of June 2020 (Quarter 1 2020/21).

Details of the projected year-end variances for each directorate and the reasons for those variances was also considered.

Reasons for Decision

The Section 151 Officer was required to report the financial position of the authority to Cabinet on a quarterly basis.

Agreed:-

- (1) that the financial monitoring position of individual directorates and the Housing Revenue Account be noted as at 30 June 2020 (quarter 1 2020/21) and referred to the Budget and Corporate Services Scrutiny Management Board for consideration and comment;
- (2) note the current financial position for the Council:

	Appendix	Projected Variance (including COVID-19 Pressures) (£000)	(Use of) Reserves/ Corporate Resources / RCCO (£000)	COVID-19 Pressures (to be funded from Emergency Grant) (£000)	Projected Outturn Variance (after COVID-19 Funding Applied) (£000)
Corporate Management	1A	0	0	0	0
Resources	1B	4,702	(3,263)	1,417	22
Adult Social Care	1C	(6,354)	3,500	1,691	(4,545)
Regeneration & Growth	1D	3,357	222	2,174	1,405
Housing & Communities	1E	1,699	(83)	2,480	(864)
Children's Services	1F	5,294	(55)	2,489	2,750

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TOTAL DIRECTORATES		8,698	321	10,251	(1,232)

- (3) give approval to the following budget virements above £0.250m (these include virements to reflect additional grant income received by the Neighbourhoods directorate:

Virements above £0.250m for approval by Cabinet	(£000)	(£000)
<u>HOUSING & COMMUNITIES</u>		
Expenditure to reflect grant amount received For Homelessness	467	0
Income to reflect additional grant received for Homelessness	0	467
Expenditure to reflect expenditure for Community Safety	270	0
Income to reflect grant received for Community Safety	0	270
TOTAL	737	737

- (4) that the allocation of £0.391m to Sandwell Children’s Trust be approved to fund COVID-19 pressures (already reflected within the Children’s Services budget monitoring);
- (5) give approval to the budget appendices which should have been attached to the full Council budget report in March as now submitted;

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- (6) that the Carbon Reduction Programme budget allocation of £0.300m within Central Items is transferred to Housing and Communities to support emission controls and the development and implementation of the Climate Change Strategy.

Meeting ended at 16:02 following an adjournment between 15:38 and 15:49 due to technical issues.

This meeting was webcast live and is available to view
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4GwcWqCfAE&feature=youtu.be>