

MINUTES

CABINET MEETING: 23 JUNE 2022

Cabinet Members

Present: Councillor Huw Thomas (Leader)
Councillors Peter Bradbury/ Julie Sangani (job share)
Councillor Jen Burke-Davies
Councillor Dan De'Ath
Councillor Russell Goodway
Councillor Norma Mackie (Job share)
Councillor Lynda Thorne
Councillor Chris Weaver
Councillor Caro Wild

Observers: Councillor Adrian Robson
Councillor Rhys Taylor

Officers: Paul Orders, Chief Executive
Chris Lee, Section 151 Officer
Davina Fiore, Monitoring Officer
Joanne Watkins, Cabinet Office

Apologies: Councillor Ash Lister (job share)
Councillor Sarah Merry

1 COST OF LIVING DISCRETIONARY SUPPORT SCHEME

The Cabinet considered a report outlining details of the Welsh Government's Cost of Living Support Scheme including proposals for the Discretionary Scheme through which Cardiff had been allocated £2.193 million to assist with households it considered to be in need of assistance with their living costs. It was proposed that the Cardiff Discretionary Scheme be awarded to vulnerable groups excluded from the main scheme, and a further six groups on a means tested basis including an enhancement of the Discretionary Housing payment scheme, applications to the Money Advice team, Fuel Voucher scheme, families affected by the benefit cap, families in receipt of free school meal who did not receive an award via the main scheme and those struggling with care costs. It was intended that a publicity campaign be undertaken to encourage take up.

RESOLVED: that

1. the delivery of the Cost of Living Support Scheme (main scheme) be noted
2. the recommended approach to target the most vulnerable households in the City through a locally determined Discretionary Scheme be agreed.
3. Authority be delegated to the Corporate Director Resources (in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance, Modernisation & Performance), for the the ability to vire any underspent elements of funding either from the main scheme or between discretionary options agreed as necessary, to ensure full spend of the Council's allocated funding.

2 BUDGET MONITORING - OUTTURN REPORT 2021/22

Appendix 7 of this report is not for publication as it contains exempt information of the description in paragraphs 14 and 21 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

The Cabinet received details of the 2021/22 financial outturn position compared with the budget set in March 2021, together with an assessment of the financial impact arising from the response to the COVID-19 crisis. It was reported that the COVID-19 pandemic had had a significant financial impact on the Council evidenced through additional expenditure pressures and reduced income generation and the Council had submitted claims to Welsh Government totalling £34.389 million.

The overall revenue position reflected a balanced budget at the year end with a total directorate underspend of £254,000 and an overspend of £123,000 in relation to Capital Financing.

RESOLVED: that

1. the report and the actions taken in respect of the Council's accounts for 2021/22 be noted
2. it be noted that this report will form an appendix to the Financial Statements report to be considered at a Council meeting in the autumn of 2022.

3 APPLICATION FOR A HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARE INCREASE

A report outlining details of an application made by the Unite the Union/Cardiff Hackney Carriage Alliance to vary the current rate of hackney carriage fares in Cardiff was received. The application sought to introduce changes to the structure of the tariff, resulting in three tariffs in operation depending on the time and day with the structure resulting in higher fares during evenings, weekends, nights and bank holidays. The Alliance advised that the cost of

living had increased 12.1% since 2017 and the cost of fuel had increased 56%.

RESOLVED: that

1. the issues and impacts to taxi fares set out in the report be noted
2. Approval be given to the application put forward by the Cardiff Hackney Alliance/Unite with an implementation date of 1 September 2022 (provided that there are no objections).
3. the advertisement of the variation in a local newspaper be authorised

4 **WELSH GOVERNMENT WHITE PAPER - 'ONE NETWORK, ONE TIMETABLE, ONE TICKET' CONSULTATION RESPONSE**

The Council's response to the Welsh Government's White Paper consultation "One network, one timetable, one ticket: planning buses as a public service for Wales" was considered. The Welsh Government white paper sought to trigger legislation to change the governance arrangements for local bus services through a Wales wide model of franchising of bus routes or geographical areas of the bus network will result in streamlined service delivery, more efficient use of resources and a higher quality, more well used, network. By implication, the tenders would control the quality, quantum and network coverage of bus services. Overall, the Council's response broadly supported the stated objectives of the proposed reforms as they aligned closely to the Cardiff Transport White Paper 2020 as well as the One Planet Strategy and Local Development Plan. However the response noted that there were issues that would need to be considered carefully and resolved in terms of control of the local network, use of local funding including section 106 developer contributions, procurement, network integrity, market stability and risks to Municipal Bus Companies.

RESOLVED: that

1. the Welsh Government White Paper and its proposals for changes in the governance arrangements for bus services be noted
1. approval be given to the consultation response in Appendix A.
2. the Director of Planning, Transport & Environment be authorised to submit the final consultation response after agreement with the Cabinet Member for Transport & Strategic Planning
3. Cardiff's Bus Improvement Programme be noted