

Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Committee 25 March 2024

Decisions

4. Combined Authority Update

The Leader of the Council agreed the following:

- i. To invite the Council's representative on the Combined Authority Board, Councillor Anna Smith, to provide an update on the Board and issues considered at the meetings of the Combined Authority Board held on 31 January 2024 and 20 March 2024.

5. Accommodation BID and Visitor Levy

The Executive Councillor for Community Wealth Building and Community Safety agreed the following:

- i. To approve the recommended roles for the Council in the work led by the Cambridge BID, to establish the feasibility of an Accommodation BID (ABID) for the Greater Cambridge area which are as follows:
 - a) To support the approach being taken by the BID to secure investment for improved management of the visitor economy
 - b) To work as members of the BID and the Welcome to Cambridge Boards on the development of the ABID business plan to ensure alignment with the council's priorities
 - c) To manage the ABID Ballot with council costs to be covered
- ii. If the ballot is successful
 - a) To work with the BID and Welcome to Cambridge Board on the development of the governance structure for the ABID
 - b) To manage levy collection from hoteliers on behalf of the ABID – with council's costs covered
 - c) Continued partnership working with the ABID and Cambridge BID in the delivery of Council objectives for the benefit of the City

6. 2023-24 General Fund Virements and Provisional Revenue Carry Forwards

The Executive Councillor for Finance and Resources agreed the following:

- a) To agree the provisional carry forward requests, totalling £220,700 as detailed in Appendix A, subject to the final outturn position.
- b) To agree the principle of the learning and development proposal including the creation of a permanent post as detailed in paragraph 3.4 below, and delegate the detailed budget adjustments to vire up to £100k of budget from services to the training and development budget to the Chief Finance Officer or Acting Chief Finance Officer in the 2024/5 financial year.
- c) To agree the virement of £60,000 across portfolios for the creation of the one-year fixed term post within Procurement outlined in paragraph 3.5 below and delegate the detailed budget adjustments to the Chief Finance Officer or Acting Chief Finance Officer in the 2024/5 financial year.
- d) To agree to use the budget headroom resulting from the review of cost apportionment of the shared 3CICT service for the establishment of the permanent post of Strategic Digital Lead as outlined in paragraph 3.6 below.

7. Council Tax Long Term Empty & Second Homes Premium Policy

The Executive Councillor for Finance and Resources agreed the following:

- i. To support in principle that the following additional Council Tax premiums be applied from 1 April 2025 or as soon as possible thereafter, subject to the required legislation or further guidance being in place:
 - 100% premium for properties which have been empty and unfurnished for a period of between 1 (previously 2) and 5 years. This brings forward the charging of an Empty Homes premium so that it would be charged after 1 year of being empty instead of the current 2 years, and
 - A premium of up to 100% or maximum allowable in the regulation for second homes subject to any exception being applicable.
- ii. To delegate authority to the Chief Finance Officer (s151 officer) to implement the introduction of these additional premiums taking into consideration any future guidance and best practice issued by Government.

8. Update on the Four Day Week Trial Being Carried out by South Cambridgeshire District Council

The Leader of the Council agreed the following:

- i. To approve the request of South Cambridgeshire District Council to continue the working arrangements for SCDC staff delivering shared services with Cambridge City Council (shared waste and Greater Page 59 Agenda Item 8 Cambridge Shared Planning Service, in line with the decision taken by SCDC Cabinet, as follows:

- a. To continue the four day week working arrangement for both desk based and waste service operational SCDC colleagues until: (i) information is provided by the Government regarding potential future financial levers they might impose on Councils using this working practice, as announced in their Local Government Financial Settlement consultation in December 2023, and (ii) a subsequent consultation is carried out by the Council, analysed, and all trial data is presented to SCDC Full Council for a final decision.

- b. for all SCDC colleagues working a four-day week (desk-based and waste operations), the hours are harmonised at 32 hours per week (pro rata for part time colleagues) at 86.5% of contracted hours from 1 April 2024.

- ii. To note the decision taken by SCDC to present an update report to this scrutiny committee, no later than the end of July 2024, providing data on the trial periods (desk-based and waste), up to the end of March 2024, including information about the ongoing effectiveness, including recruitment and retention, costs and savings of a four-day week working model.

9. Record of Officer Urgent Decision

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority- Appointment of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee reserve (substitute) member

Decision noted.

10. Hartree

Members voted to go into exempt session as the report relates to information which following a public interest test the public is likely to be excluded by virtue of paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 ie.

Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

The Leader of the Council agreed the recommendations.