

MINUTES of a meeting of the **CABINET MEMBER FOR STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP, CULTURE AND TOURISM** held on 13 October 2020.

PRESENT

Cabinet Member – Councillor B Lewis

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor R Flatley

35/20 **MINUTES RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 23 September 2020 be confirmed as a correct record.

36/20 **REVENUE OUTTURN 2019-20** The controllable expenditure for the Strategic Leadership, Culture and Tourism portfolio was £13.153m against a budget of £13.175m resulting in a controllable underspend of £0.022m. The key variances were as follows:

Communications - underspend £0.033m

The underspend resulted from staffing vacancies and savings on Derbyshire Now which varied on an annual basis.

Policy and Research - underspend £0.083m

The underspends related to:

- Temporary vacancy in Performance Management which had been advertised but was not filled before the end of the financial year. (£0.030m)
- Voluntary Community Sector grants – Bolsover Community Voluntary Partners closure due to lack of sufficient funding. A new Community Voluntary Partnership was to be set up in 2020-21 due to new funding streams. (£0.015m)
- Vacancy control to achieve savings targets. (£0.038m)

Call Derbyshire - underspend £0.052m

The underspend related to higher than expected staff turnover due to experienced employees achieving promotion into other Council roles.

Libraries – overspend £0.186m

The overspend related to delivery of planned budget savings through reduced hours for Branch Libraries being built in from October and therefore the full year impact not being realised by the end of the year. There was also a higher than budgeted increase to business rates for the Records Office. Furthermore, there were higher than budgeted salary costs arising from sickness cover at Buxton Museum, and residual costs of the School Library Service incurred after decommissioning the service.

Tourism - underspend £0.059m

In the main, the underspend related to The Festival of Derbyshire which had estimated costs of upwards of £0.045m, however it had been cancelled due to Covid-19.

International Relationships and Trade – underspend £0.015m

There were many planned activities in the year, such as the Toyota delegation (planned for March 2020), and exchange visits to Japan and China, which had been cancelled due to Covid-19.

Heritage - overspend £0.034m.

The overspend was due to Environmental Studies not achieving the total of their budget savings allocation.

Budget reductions totalling £0.760m had been allocated for the year, of which £0.245m was brought forward from the previous year. Of this, £0.685m of savings had been achieved.

The portfolio had received the following additional budget allocations in 2019-20:

- Thriving Communities £0.368m ongoing
- Enterprising Council £0.094m ongoing
- Community Managed Libraries - £0.742m one-off

Earmarked reserves totalling £3.090m were currently held to support future expenditure. Details of these reserves were provided.

A year-end overspend of £0.035m was projected after the allocation of £0.315m of MHCLG Covid-19 grant funding. The main variances prior to the allocation of this funding were highlighted.

The budget savings target for 2020-21 was £1.899m, with a further £0.161m target brought forward from previous years. Of this total target of £2.060m, it was expected that £0.320m would be achieved by the end of the financial year. Additional funding had been provided in the 2020-21 budget for the following items:

- Climate Change - £0.200m (one-off), the Council had published its Climate Change Manifesto in May 2019. This funding was to advance the priorities identified in the Manifesto. It was forecast that this allocation would be fully spent by the end of the financial year.

The Council continued to monitor its overall financial position, as well as the cost implications of Covid-19. The next formal reporting of the financial

position would be completed as at September 2020 and would be reported to the Cabinet Member later in the year.

RESOLVED to note the revenue outturn position for 2019-20 and the summary forecast outturn for 2020-21.