

THE CABINET
4TH JUNE 2015

Present:	Councillors:	
	Ray Dawe	Leader
	Andrew Baldwin	Waste, Recycling and Cleansing
	Jonathan Chowen	Leisure and Culture
	Philip Circus	Housing and Public Protection
	Brian Donnelly	Finance and Assets
	Gordon Lindsay	Local Economy
	Kate Rowbottom	Community and Wellbeing
	Claire Vickers	Planning and Development

Also present: Councillors: John Blackall, Leonard Crosbie, Matthew French, Christian Mitchell

EX/1 **RECORD OF THE MEETING OF 26TH MARCH 2015**

The record of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 26th March 2015 was approved as correct and signed by the Leader.

EX/2 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

EX/3 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chief Executive advised Cabinet that the Council's move from the North Street campus to Parkside had been completed on Monday 1st June. Feedback so far from officers and Members was generally positive.

The Cabinet Member for Leisure and Culture reported that Dinosaur Island at Southwater Country Park was now operational, although some areas had yet to be completed, and that it was proving to be very popular. The official opening would take place on 11th July 2015.

EX/4 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

No questions had been received.

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE RESOURCES

EX/5 **Provisional Outturn for 2014/15**

The Director of Corporate Resources submitted a report summarising the Council's financial performance for 2014/15.

The Council had achieved income in excess of budget from fees and charges

EX/5 Provisional Outturn for 2014/15 (cont.)

amounting to £366,000 during the year. At the time the report was written, other departmental net spending had resulted in a total underspend against budget of £545,000 for the year, making a total forecast underspend of £911,000 against budget. However, the underspend had now been reduced by approximately £100,000 due to the late receipt of a bill for the pension fund. These favourable variances had led to an increase in the Council's revenue reserves. It was noted that these figures were still in draft and the finance team would continue to work on closing the accounts for the year until the end of June.

The report summarised the main variances between the provisional final outturn and that predicted at the end of Quarter 3. Areas of overspend highlighted by the Director of Corporate Resources included the Capitol Theatre and appeal costs. It was also noted that staffing costs were underspent during the year, largely as a result of the transition to the new management structure, and that agency staff costs were higher than forecast. The main areas of increased income were also reported.

The Capital programme spend in 2014/15 was £5,200,000 against a revised budget of £12,800,000. The unused budgets for capital schemes in progress totalling £7,200,000 would be carried forward to 2015/16.

The outturn in respect of business rates was close to that which had been predicted. However, there had been a large increase in the number of appeals against valuations lodged before the 31st March 2015 deadline and it was therefore considered prudent to increase the provision for refunds on backdated appeals.

The final cost of the Office Move Project would be included in the Quarter 1 monitoring report and it was anticipated that it would be delivered within the allocated budget.

Members commented on a number of issues including appeal costs, business rates and the prospect of continued reductions in central Government funding of local authority expenditure.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

REASON

Monitoring of the Council's budget is essential, so that action can be taken to safeguard the Council's financial position if required.

EX/6 **SCRUTINY & OVERVIEW COMMITTEE – MATTERS REFERRED TO CABINET**

There were no matters currently outstanding for consideration.

EX/7 **MATTERS OF SPECIAL URGENCY**

There were no matters of special urgency to be considered.

The meeting closed at 6.07pm having commenced at 5.30 pm.

LEADER