

OSMB Referral to the Cabinet Meeting on 14th July 2020

At the OSMB meeting on 8th July Members 2020 agreed to refer the following comments and information to Cabinet;

Chairs' Business

OSMB has agreed to establish a number of short life Task Groups in order to assist with the Council's response to the Covid-19 pandemic. Each of the titles can be found below, but additional details are set out in Appendix A. It's anticipated that the Groups will complete their work in the coming months, and Members look forward to submitting their findings to Cabinet in due course.

- Growth and Regeneration: Emergency Active Travel Fund
- Resources: Finance
- Communities: Volunteer Network Response
- People: Safeguarding Vulnerable Children
- Health: Impact of Covid on Planned Healthcare

City Leap

Members note that City Leap is an innovative project to attract investment into energy systems over the next 10 years, which has attracted significant international interest, and will assist with post-pandemic recovery. The Board is very supportive of the City Leap Scheme and fully recognises the importance of ensuring the initiative progresses.

The Board understands that the procurement exercise for City Leap has been paused and that the paper before Cabinet at the meeting on 14th July is seeking approval to resume the process. Members would like to advise Cabinet that whilst there is cross party support for City Leap they would like to better understand the reasons for the delay around the procurement and to be assured that this will not have a negative impact on potential bidders. In view of this Members have requested that additional information be provided in a report to either OSMB or the Resources Scrutiny Commission, noting that it will most likely need to be shared on a confidential basis.

Council Tax Reduction Scheme

Members agree that the Council Tax Reduction scheme should continue, particularly as it will be vital to support those experiencing financial difficulties relating to the pandemic. However, they do not believe that the Cabinet report is sufficiently comprehensive and therefore there was limited information publically available to justify ongoing support. In view of this Members have asked that a report setting out full details be provided to OSMB or the Resources Scrutiny Commission in the autumn, when the financial situation will hopefully be clearer.

Finance Working Group – Update

Cabinet are asked to note the report at Appendix B, which has been prepared by the Finance Working Group.

Members believe the Task Group process is working very efficiently, and would like to thank the Executive for their willingness to share information, which will ensure that all findings are robust and

fully informed. It is hoped that this collaborative approach to Scrutiny will be rolled out more widely going forwards.

The Working Group also wish to thank Denise Murray, Director of Finance; Michael Pilcher, Chief Accountant; and Tian Ze Hao, Senior Finance Business Partner, for all their support.

Appendix A – Scrutiny Task Groups

Appendix B – Report from the Budget Working Group