

## **Cabinet**

**Held on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2022**

(In person in The Salford Suite, Civic Centre, Chorley Road, Swinton, Salford)

### **Present**

Paul Dennett	City Mayor (in the Chair)
Tracy Kelly	Statutory Deputy City Mayor
John Merry MBE	Deputy City Mayor

### **Lead Members:**

Sharmina August	Inclusive Economy, Anti-Poverty and Equalities
David Lancaster, MBE	Environment, Neighbourhoods and Community Safety
Mike McCusker	Lead Member for Planning & Sustainable Development

### **Executive Support Members (at the invitation of the City Mayor):**

Damian Bailey	Social Care & Mental Health
Barbara Bentham	Workforce and Industrial Relations
Philip Cusack	Skills, Work and Business
John Walsh	Education & Learning

### **Officers:**

Sam Betts	Assistant Director of Human Resources & OD
Debbie Brown	Strategic Director Service Reform
Joanne Hardman	Chief Finance Officer
Sue Hill	Head of Communications
Chris Mee	Strategic Finance Manager
Iolanda Puzio	City Solicitor
Jacque Russell	Assistant Director Strategy & Change
Tom Stannard	Chief Executive
Cathy Starbuck	Assistant Director Education, skills & Work
Liz Wright	Democratic Service Officer

**Public:** None.

#### **1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from the Councillor Bill Hinds and Councillor Jack Youd.

#### **2. Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **3. Minutes of proceedings**

**Resolved: That**, the minutes of the meeting held on 14.12.21 were approved as a correct record.

#### **4. School Budgets 2022-23**

The Strategic Finance Manager (Chris Mee) gave an overview of the report and highlighted the following.

- This was the annual report for the allocation of the Dedicated Schools Grant to schools for 2022/23.
- The introduction of the schools hard national funding formula (NFF) had been delayed until April 2024. Local authorities have been encouraged to implement the NFF locally as soon as possible. Salford's local funding formula was now fully calculated at the NFF unit rates for 2022-23.
- The autumn 2021 spending review had seen £1.2 billion additional funding for schools, to provide support for the costs of the health and social care levy and wider cost pressures. This funding would be allocated through a separate school's supplementary grant in 2022-23 and would be rolled into the funding formula from 2023-24 onwards.
- The funding received was
  - DSG allocation for allocating to individual school's budgets is £193.71m and this was an increase of £8.61m compared to the allocation for 2021-22 (£186.10m).
  - The increase was £2.90m for pupil number growth.
  - There was £5.71m for the schools funding uplift (to cover cost pressures such as extra national insurance contributions).
- Without the supplementary grant many schools would struggle to be able to set a balanced budget.
- Appendix A showed the individual Salford Schools Budgets (schools block funding formula) 2022-23.

The City Mayor (CM) invited questions and comments from members.

- The CM asked if the supplementary grant would be for this year only. It was reported that this was still unclear as this had not yet been confirmed by the Government.
- The CM asked about the impact on school budgets of energy prices and the types of energy systems in schools. It as reported that it was a mixed picture across the schools estate in terms of the heating systems in place and that schools were having to balance ventilating the schools appropriately to mitigate the risks form Covid-19 and also heating the premises.
- The CM requested that the situation in terms of energy bills be monitored across Salford schools and to ask if schools would share the data about their energy bills as the city council may have to raise the issue with the Government to get extra support for schools.
- The Executive Support Member for Skills, Work & Business asked if building conditions survey information was available for the schools estate to ascertain suitability for energy efficiency retro-fitting. It was confirmed that the Place Directorate held the information and that maintaining the information had been challenging during the pandemic when access to schools was very limited.

The CM read out the recommendations again for members to consider and the members approved the school's budgets for 2022/23.

**Resolved: That,** the City Mayor in consultation with the Cabinet approved the school's budgets for 2022/23.

## 5. Any other business

There were no items of any other business raised.