

CABINET

At a meeting of Cabinet held on
15 September 2021

- (Present)** **Councillor Baines (Chair)**
Councillors Bowden, Burns, Charlton,
Gomez-Aspron MBE, Groucutt, McCauley and
Quinn
- (Not Present)** **Councillors Bell and Bond**
- (Also Present)** **Ian Cardwell (Chair, Adult Safeguarding Board)**
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27 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Bell and Bond.

28 MINUTES

- * **Resolved that the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 14 July 2021 be approved and signed.**

29 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS

No declarations of interest from Members were made.

30 QUARTER 1 PERFORMANCE REPORT 2021/22

A report was submitted which provided an analysis of progress and performance over the period. The report reflected the new Performance Framework and targets aligned to the priorities and outcomes of the Borough Strategy as agreed by Cabinet at the meeting held on 21 April 2021. This framework would provide the basis for quarterly performance reporting to Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny over the course of 2021/22.

The Council acknowledges that effective performance management arrangements were critical to supporting decision making during these challenging times and work was ongoing to ensure the development of the Performance Framework and performance management processes across the Council.

There were 75 performance indicators where data was available to be reported at Quarter 1 2021/22.

Of these:

- 73% of indicator targets have been either exceeded, met fully, or met within 95% of target.
- 27% of indicator targets were not met.
- The trend measure indicates over the course of the year 50% of indicators showed improvement, 9% of indicators maintained the same performance and 41% of indicators did less well.
- Approximately a third of all indicators where comparison is possible are in the top quartile, whilst 30% are in the bottom quartile.

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* **Resolved that:**

- (1) the performance position at Quarter 1 2021/22 be noted;**
- (2) the actions planned by Directorates and services to address specific areas for performance improvement be noted; and**
- (3) the ongoing programme of development of the Council's new performance framework over the course of 2021/22 be noted.**

31 PLACE BOARD

A report was submitted which brought forward proposals to review the current economy-based governance arrangements disbanding the current Economy Board and replacing with a St Helens Place Board. It was anticipated that this adaptation would provide improved strategic oversight and a framework to facilitate inclusive growth across the Borough.

This report provided the background to the current place-based governance arrangements including the St Helens Economy Board and the Ambassadors Network and provided a summary of their successes to date.

The report also followed a formal review of the current arrangements and functions and proposes establishing an overarching St Helens Place Board (to supersede the St Helens Economy Board) together with the subsequent development of a St Helens Inclusive Growth Plan.

* **Resolved that:**

- (1) the work of the Economy Board and the Ambassadors Programme be endorsed;**
- (2) the Economy Board be renamed as the St Helens Place Board and expand its remit as outlined in the report; and**
- (3) the St Helens Place Board Terms of Reference be agreed.**

32 SAFEGUARDING ADULTS ANNUAL REPORT

A report was submitted which informed Members that The Care Act 2014 required the St Helens Safeguarding Adults Board to publish an Annual Report which set out how the Board had performed during 2020/21. The requirements of the Report were set out as follows:

- To set out the progress against the business objectives for 2020/21, which were focused on:
Making Safeguarding Personal;
- Seeking assurance from partners that there was effective leadership in place,
- Ensuring that effective Partnership working and governance were in place;
- Ensuring all services had appropriate systems and processes in place; and
- Ensure that partners were equipped to respond appropriately.

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The Report also set out the progress on any Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SAR) that have taken place during the year

The final statutory requirement was for the report to set out the business Objectives for 2021/22 and to revise the 3-year Strategic Priorities for the period 2020/23.

The Report was also an opportunity for the Board to pay tribute to, and highlight the hard work of, Board partners, particularly those who have continued to deliver front line services in the context of the COVID pandemic

* **Resolved that the Annual report be noted.**

33 HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2021/22

A report was submitted which presented the 2021/22 Housing Capital Programme for approval.

Cabinet was informed that the Council receives an annual allocation from Government for the delivery of housing related initiatives and interventions. For 2021/22, it had been awarded a total allocation of £3.148m from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) for the Disabled Facilities Grant. The Housing Capital programme consisted of this allocation and additional funding from both capital receipts and borrowing.

This programme provided support to vulnerable households, including residents who have a disability and required additional support to maintain living independently at home together with residents who required additional support, due to their financial circumstances, to meet the costs of heating their homes.

The available funding was targeted at delivering the Council's statutory responsibilities and strategic objectives in addition to the provision of match funding for partner contributions to ensure the successful delivery of specific projects.

The Cabinet was informed that the decision was a Key Decision and details had been published in accordance with the provisions within the Constitution.

* **Resolved that:**

- (1) **the allocation of resources within the 2021/22 Housing Capital Programme as outlined at Appendix 1 be approved; and**
- (2) **the continued ringfencing and recycling of specific Housing capital receipts to support the programme of activity until 2023/24 be approved.**

34 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY 2021-26

A report was submitted which proposed the strategy for Community Engagement.

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The strategy set out the Council's aims and objectives for a new relationship with communities, as stated in the St Helens Borough Strategy published in 2020.

The strategy would be delivered by a range of communications and engagement activities themed around three areas:

1. Enabling and improving community capacity
2. Strengthening our engagement
3. Ensuring community engagement impacts on our policies, strategies and service delivery.

* **Resolved that the Community Engagement Strategy 2021-26 be approved.**

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