

CABINET MEETING – 17 NOVEMBER 2020

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET – PART I

Title of Report:

MINUTES, PART I

Author(s):

Assistant Director of Law and Governance

Purpose of Report:

Presents the minutes of the meeting held on 13 October 2020, Part I.

Action Required:

To confirm the minutes as a correct record.

At a Meeting of the **CABINET** held remotely using **Microsoft Teams** and **livestreamed on YouTube** on **TUESDAY 13 OCTOBER 2020** at **10.00 a.m.**

Present:-

Councillor G. Miller in the Chair

Councillors Atkinson, Farthing, Stewart and G. Walker

Also present:-

Councillors Chequer, Johnston and Rowntree

Part I

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 15 September 2020, Part I (copy circulated) were submitted.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 15 September 2020, Part I, be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Declarations of Interest

Councillor Farthing declared an interest in Item 7, “Capital Programme Second Review 2020/2021,” as the Council appointed representative on Board of Governors of Sunderland College (Education Partnership North East (EPNE)) and withdrew from the meeting during consideration of the report.

Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillor Williams and P. Walker.

Response from Scrutiny Coordinating Committee – 10 September 2020 – First Revenue Budget Review 2020/2021

The Executive Director of Corporate Services submitted a report (copy circulated) to advise the Cabinet of the comments of the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee on a report of the Executive Director of Corporate Services that detailed the outcome of the First Revenue Budget Review 2020/2021.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Stewart highlighted that the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee had accepted the report and acknowledged Members and Officers for the work undertaken for the preparation and continued monitoring of the Council's revenue budget position, especially given that the Council continued to operate through very difficult times.

Consideration having been given to the report, it was:-

2. RESOLVED that the comments of the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee be noted.

Honorary Freedom of the City

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to consider recommending to Council that the Honorary Freedom of the City be conferred upon the following Sunderland Association Football Club 1973 FA Cup winning team members to recognise their achievement and the enduring pride and respect that the people of Sunderland hold for the team:-

- Richard Philip “Dick” Malone
- Ronald George “Ron” Guthrie
- Michael Frederick “Micky” Horswill
- David Vernon “Dave” Watson
- Richard Ernest “Ritchie” Pitt
- Robert “Bobby” Kerr
- William “Billy” Hughes (deceased)
- Victor Lewis “Vic” Halom
- John Ian Porterfield (deceased)
- Dennis Tueart
- David Young,

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The Chair highlighted that in 1974 the club itself was given the honour along with team manager Bob Stokoe, and then latterly in 2016 goalkeeper Jimmy Montgomery also received Freedom of the City. He proposed that the remaining team members be now nominated for this honour albeit belatedly.

Cabinet Members were reminded that the team's achievement counted as one of the biggest shocks in the history of the competition, and with the exception of achieving promotion by winning the league at the second tier of English football, this triumph remained the last significant trophy that Sunderland AFC had won.

The Chair reported that this only served to highlight the magnitude of the achievement of the nominees. He advised that the enduring pride and respect that the people of Sunderland held for the team was a testament to everything they had done and continued to do for the city.

The Chair commented that in this unprecedented year, at a time when everyone in the city was needing to dig deep and keep faith to ensure the plans and ambitions for a bright future come to fruition, it often helped to look back on just what the people of Sunderland had achieved, often against all the odds. He added that the 1973 FA Cup win was an outstanding example that Sunderland was rightly very proud of, and continued to draw inspiration from, and therefore he commended the proposal to Cabinet to confer the Freedom of the City to these hugely deserving individuals.

Councillor Farthing recalled visiting Roker Park with her family when the team arrived with the cup and she reported that it was a memory that she would carry forever. She commented that the fantastic fans were probably amazed that this honour had not been bestowed sooner. She reminded Cabinet Members when Micky Horswill was the support to the Mayor, and it was testament to the love people of Sunderland had for him as there was always a crowd around him. She felt that the whole of the city would celebrate the team receiving the honour. She added however, that it was a shame this honour was not bestowed sooner as sadly some of the players had sadly passed away.

The Chair assured that the families of the players that had passed away would be included in the ceremony and invited to receive the honour on their behalf.

Consideration having been given to the report, it was:-

3. RESOLVED that it be recommended to Council that:-

(i) in accordance with the provisions of Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Sunderland Association Football Club 1973 FA Cup winning team members:-

- Richard Philip "Dick" Malone
- Ronald George "Ron" Guthrie
- Michael Frederick "Micky" Horswill
- David Vernon "Dave" Watson
- Richard Ernest "Ritchie" Pitt
- Robert "Bobby" Kerr
- William "Billy" Hughes (deceased)
- Victor Lewis "Vic" Halom
- John Ian Porterfield (deceased)
- Dennis Tueart
- David Young,

as persons of distinction who have, in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent services to the City, be admitted to be Honorary Freemen of the City;

- (ii) authority be given for the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to agree all appropriate arrangements for the formal ceremony at an extraordinary meeting of the Council to be held at the earliest opportunity.

Performance Report – 2019/20 year-end & 2020/21 Quarter 1

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide performance information in relation to the year end of 2019/20 and Quarter 1 of 2020/21.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Stewart highlighted that this report set out the progress made during 2019/20 and in the first quarter of 2020/21, against a City Plan that spanned an eleven-year period through to 2030. He outlined that the report had been aligned to the three key themes of the City Plan (*Dynamic City, Healthy City and Vibrant City*) as well as including additional Council indicators for organisational Health.

Consideration having been given to the report, it was:-

- 4. RESOLVED that the performance information in relation to the year end of 2019/20 and Quarter 1 of 2020/21 be accepted and noted.

At this juncture, Councillor Farthing withdrew from the meeting prior to consideration of the following report as the Council appointed representative on the Board of Governors of Sunderland College/Education Partnership North East.

Capital Programme Second Review 2020/2021 (including Treasury Management)

The Executive Director of Corporate Services submitted a report (copy circulated) to detail:-

- (i) the outcome of the Second Capital Review for 2020/2021;
- (ii) progress in implementing the Treasury Management Borrowing and Investment Strategy for 2020/2021; and
- (iii) an amendment to the Treasury Management Lending List and Criteria to be recommended to Council.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Stewart highlighted that the anticipated capital spend this financial year had reduced by £8.9 million since the first capital review was reported. The overall reduction also included:-

- the reprofiling of £9.4 million expenditure into future years primarily because of external influences outside of the Council's control or due to the realignment of projects to ensure best value was achieved; and
- the addition of new schemes or variations to schemes of £0.5 million within the Capital Programme.

The attention of Cabinet Members was drawn to these variations which were set out in Appendix A. The revised capital investment budget would see investment of over £166 million in the city this year.

Moving on to the Treasury Management aspects of the report, Councillor Stewart reported that the continued impact of the continued Covid-19 pandemic meant 2020/21 was an extremely turbulent year for financial markets and the wider economy. Interest rates were at historically low levels which were likely to continue for the foreseeable future. Despite this, there continued to be positive performance in this area with investment returns above the benchmark rate, whilst still adhering to the prudent policy agreed by the Council.

Councillor Stewart referred to section 6 of the report relating to a proposal to amend the treasury management lending criteria. He reported that this would need approval by full Council in due course. He advised that the proposed change to the Lending List and Criteria was a departure from the approach adopted by the Council for its wider investments, but this reflected the role that Education Partnership North East, through Sunderland College, played in the City. However, the additional risk exposure being taken on by the Council must be acknowledged as the Council would have limited recourse if the facility was not repaid.

Councillor Stewart explained that the facility would be for a short term period running from January to May in each of the next two calendar years and would be unsecured. He advised that in order to mitigate the risks to the Council, the Executive Director of Corporate Services would put in place a number of arrangements and these were detailed within paragraph 6.7 of the report.

Consideration having been given to the report, it was:-

5. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) in respect of the second capital review for 2020/2021, the inclusion of additional schemes or variations to existing schemes for 2020/2021 detailed at Appendix A, be approved as a variation to the Capital Programme;
- (ii) in relation to the Treasury Management Strategy, the progress in implementing the 2020/2021 Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators be noted; and

- (iii) in relation to the Treasury Management Strategy, the proposed amendment to the Lending List and Criteria be endorsed and it be recommended to Council to approve the proposed change at its November 2020 meeting.

Councillor Farthing was readmitted to the remote meeting.

Second Revenue Budget Review 2020/2021

The Executive Director of Corporate Services submitted a report (copy circulated) to advise of the overall Revenue Budget position following the second review for 2020/2021 including proposed contingency transfers.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Stewart highlighted that the report set out the Revenue position following the second review for 2020/21 and sought approval for the Executive Director of Corporate Services, in consultation with himself, to extend the contract for the delivery of transformation support as well as agreeing additional contributions to support our Leisure Joint Venture operations.

Councillor Stewart reported that his colleagues would recognise that this second review was dominated by the financial consequences arising from the Covid-19 situation. He advised that in overall terms a £12.286 million overspend was forecast and this was fundamentally due to the additional costs and lost income arising from the Council's response to the Covid-19 crisis. He commented that the Council had to date received £21 million from government and was anticipating receiving £4 million as compensation for lost income but taken together this was simply not enough to meet the forecast pressures. He assured Cabinet Members that the Council, alongside regional and national colleagues, would continue to make the case for additional funding.

Cabinet Members were advised that just as worrying of course was the ongoing impact on Council finances from the hit to the collection fund, which would manifest itself as a pressure next financial year together with any ongoing financial implications that Covid-19 had on the wider economy and the city's residents. Whilst the measures previously announced to allow the rephasing of collection fund deficits over a three-year period, the exact details of which were still awaited, would assist in the short term this did not remove the financial burden for councils from recovering those deficits.

Councillor Stewart reported that in addition to savings targets, and the pressures arising from Covid-19, there remained significant pressures in both Adults and Children's social care. He advised that the position was under constant scrutiny to identify options to address the situation. These pressures were being mitigated by savings elsewhere, including through debt management savings. The full details were included within Appendix A of the report.

Councillor Stewart reported that however, it was worth raising with colleagues that given the constant changing position with regard to the Covid-19 pandemic and its impacts on the Council and its functions and services that might need to be delivered to support the City and its residents that the financial position remained uncertain for the remainder of the year.

On a more positive note, Councillor Stewart reported that 84% of the savings approved by Council in March had now either been delivered in full or were well on the way to being delivered in full. He advised that progress continued to be made on the remaining savings to ensure full delivery of the savings requirement. At this stage only 4% of savings were considered undeliverable as planned.

Moving on to other aspects of the report, Cabinet Members were advised that it was proposed to commission, via a North East Procurement Organisation (NEPO) framework, an extension to the transformation work currently being undertaken. The expected cost of £0.250 million would be met by the capacity to deliver change funding within contingencies.

The attention of Cabinet Members was drawn to paragraph 3.3.6 which highlighted that to date, neither Government nor Sport England had provided financial support for leisure operators. Indeed, Government had specifically advised that any lost income by third party leisure operators of Council leisure facilities were not eligible to be considered as part of the income compensation scheme. This Council alongside other councils and leisure providers, continued to press for financial support. However, in the absence of this the Council and our joint venture partner, SLM, had made contributions to this partnership during the year to date and would need to continue to do so as the facilities reopen on a phased basis. It was anticipated that the contribution to be made from the Council could be approximately £1.4 million however this amount was very much dependent upon any Covid-19 restrictions imposed on the operations of the leisure sector.

In summary, Councillor Stewart assured that the Council would continue to seek to mitigate the overspend where possible, whilst ensuring it continued to play its full part in supporting the local community through the current crisis.

Councillor Farthing commented that it was dire that there were calls upon the Council which it was having to fund from reserves. She reported that the position was not of the Council's making but of the government having failed to honour its "whatever it takes" commitment by the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government. She added that she did take some comfort that the government was now listening to local authorities and perhaps might now understand how important local authorities were for the delivery of both national and local services.

The Chair supported the report. He referred to when the country went into national lockdown in March and the Prime Minister, the Secretary of State and the Chancellor of the Exchequer asked local authorities to work with the government to deliver services and they would provide the funding required, whatever it took. He added that however, the government had not lived up to this promise to councils across the country. He requested that the government lives up to its promises and sought support from all political groups in the Council to press the government to deliver on its promise rather than deplete the Council's reserves, as up to now they had not. He assured that he would continue to impress upon the government to meet the need for the funding promised as the Council faced in excess of a £12 million deficit which was not the fault of the Council or its residents but down to the government's mishandling of the Covid-19 crisis. He reported that the seven north east council leaders met with the Secretary of State and specifically raised the issue of funding and honouring his previous commitment.

Councillor Stewart concurred and reported that initially the Council had only received £10 million in funding and that it was only through the united position of the Cabinet that the Council had received an additional £11 million to ensure the residents of the city were supported during the crisis. He added that the Council needed the remaining £12 million to prevent the reserves being depleted and not being able to fund major schemes in the city.

Consideration having been given to the report, it was:-

6. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the contents of the report be noted;
- (ii) the contingency transfers proposed at section 3.4 be approved;
- (iii) the Executive Director of Corporate Services, in consultation with the Deputy Leader of the Council, be authorised to extend the contract for the delivery of transformation support as set out at section 3.3.4; and
- (iv) the Executive Director of Corporate Services, in consultation with the Deputy Leader of the Council, be authorised to agree additional contributions in relation to the Leisure Joint Venture operations as set out at section 3.3.6.

Budget Planning Framework and Medium Term Financial Plan 2021/2022 – 2024/2025

The Executive Director of Corporate Services submitted a report (copy circulated) which:-

- (i) identified the key factors influencing the development of the Council's financial plans into the medium term and sets out the budget planning framework for the Council for 2021/2022;

(ii) set out the headlines and context for the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) 2021/2022 to 2024/2025; and

(iii) set out the consultation / communication strategy for the budget 2021/2022.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Stewart highlighted that the report provided an update on the Medium Term Financial Plan through to 2024/25, setting out the key issues which would impact on the Council's financial position over the next 4 years. He added that the report also proposed the Budget Planning Framework on which the budget for next year would be based.

The attention of Cabinet Members was drawn to the Medium Term Financial Plan summarised at section 3 of the report which included details of the government's funding announcements. There remained significant uncertainty in the funding system at this stage for next year and beyond, including the government's proposed move to 75% business rate retention and the fair funding review which had been delayed by a year.

Councillor Stewart reported that the Council's planning was based on the best information available at the time, and the Council had assumed that the government would take action to mitigate any significant negative impacts of these changes in 2022/23. He cautioned that however, there remained the risk that the Council would lose out under the fair funding review. He advised that notwithstanding this, the combined impact of other known changes in government funding and, significantly unavoidable cost pressures, meant the Council would need to deliver further ongoing savings.

Cabinet Members were reminded that during previous budget setting processes, a range of saving initiatives towards addressing the funding gap through to 2021/22 were identified and ultimately agreed. For 2021/22 these amounted to £0.025 million and had been considered in the budget process. Taking those previously agreed savings plans into account, and after reflecting assumed council tax and business rate increases, the funding gap stood at £44.072 million over the four years to 2024/25, including a budget gap of £15.814 million in 2021/22.

Councillor Stewart reported that additional savings proposals to address the 2021/22 gap were being developed which would be considered later in the budget planning process. He added that however, it was recognised that given the size of the gap, the uncertainty regarding the Covid-19 pandemic and Government funding, that earmarked reserves were used to support the position in the short-term.

Cabinet Members were advised that whilst the Medium Term Financial Plan included assumptions in relation to council tax increases, final decisions in respect of the level of increase would be considered as part of the final budget proposals in February 2021. Work would also continue to identify a suite of proposals to address the remaining budget gap into future years.

Councillor Stewart thanked Cabinet colleagues for their on-going work with Senior Officers in their support of the production of the Medium Term Financial Plan and in the continued need to develop proposals to address the position. He drew attention to the proposed approach to consultation and communications as set out at section 6. He advised that feedback arising through that process, together with the outcome of the Local Government Finance Settlement planned for December would feed into the Council's revenue budget decisions in the New Year.

The Chair reported that the years of government austerity measures compounded with government's handling of the Covid-19 public health crisis, continued to put increasing pressure on the Council's finances. He assured that the Council would continue to deal with those pressures.

Consideration having been given to the report, it was:-

7. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the summary MTFP set out at section 3 of the report and that the full MTFP 2021/2022 to 2024/2025 will be presented to Cabinet in February 2021 be noted;
- (ii) the proposed Budget Planning Framework, set out at section 4 of the report which will guide the preparation of the Revenue Budget for 2021/2022, be approved; and
- (iii) the consultation / communication strategy for the budget 2021/2022, as set out at section 6 of the report, be approved.

Award of Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) Contract

The Executive Director of Neighbourhoods submitted a report (copy circulated) to seek approval to award a contract to the Council's existing Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) contractor for a period of 12 months to commence when the current MRF contract expired on 31 March 2021, and develop and procure a new MRF contract to commence April 2022, encompassing measures to manage the risks and opportunities arising from the forthcoming Environment Bill.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The Chair highlighted that the proposed decision would ensure the Council had in place a stable contract for the acceptance and processing of recycling collected from the blue bin kerbside collection service from April 2021. He explained that it would allow time for the Council and its partners in the South Tyne and Wear Waste Management Partnership to design new MRF contracts which considered the impacts on the recycled materials commodity markets, maximise opportunities and mitigate future risks arising from the Environment Bill.

Consideration having been given to the report, it was:-

8. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, in consultation with the Deputy Leader of the Council, be authorised to award a 12 month contract for the provision of a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) to ensure the Council has in place arrangements to process household waste recycling when the current contract expires on 31 March 2021; and
- (ii) the commencement of the development and procurement of a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) contract in partnership with the South of Tyne Waste Management Partnership (STWWMP) be authorised to commence April 2022 which considers opportunities and risks arising from the forthcoming Environment Bill.

Procurement of Low Carbon Emission Refuse Collection Vehicle

The Executive Director of Neighbourhoods submitted a report (copy circulated) to seek approval to proceed with the procurement and subsequent award of a contract to supply one single Low Carbon Emission Refuse Collection Vehicle to facilitate a pilot scheme to evaluate effectiveness and inform future policy on deployment of these across the Council fleet.

(for copy report – see original minutes).

The Chair in highlighting the report, advised that the report also sought approval for inclusion of additional required funding for the vehicle from the Capital Programme.

Cabinet Members were advised that the proposed decision would allow the Council to carry out a pilot exercise to evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of available vehicles to inform future decisions on low carbon emission vehicle deployment. This would assist with informing the Council's plans for the transformation of its heavy goods vehicle fleet in support of City Plan objectives for a cleaner, low carbon emission city.

The Chair reported that not to procure the low carbon emission refuse collection vehicle would delay the evaluation of the vehicle technology and resulting decisions on future investment and deployment of low carbon emission vehicles in the fleet.

The Chair commented that whilst this was only one vehicle, it was a 26-tonne heavy goods vehicle and would add to the demonstration of the Council's commitment to a cleaner, greener city, by being carbon neutral by 2030, for the city's residents.

Consideration having been given to the report, it was:-

9. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, in consultation with the Deputy Leader of the Council, be authorised to procure and award a contract for the provision of a Low Emission Refuse Collection Vehicle from suppliers currently able to provide a vehicle to the Council's requirements; and
- (ii) the inclusion of additional funding for this procurement and the resultant variation to the Capital Programme be approved.

Procurement of Electronic School Meals Menu System

The Executive Director of Neighbourhoods submitted a report (copy circulated) to seek approval to undertake a procurement process and subsequently award a contract for an Electronic School Meals Menu System.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Farthing highlighted that the Council provided a school meals service through individual service level agreements, to most primary schools across the city. She reported that to improve service and efficiency the school meals service had offered an electronic menu system to its customers.

Councillor Farthing advised that the implementation of an Electronic School Meals Menu System would achieve the following beneficial outcomes:-

- Ensuring all children got their preferred lunchtime meal of choice;
- Increasing uptake of healthy school meals;
- Reducing food waste and keeping costs to parents affordable;
- Improving service efficiency and staff productivity;
- Safeguarding children with special dietary needs;
- Improving the collection of monies through integrated payment systems; and
- Retaining current school meals contracts and gaining new ones.

Cabinet Members were advised that it was anticipated that over the five-year period, the overall total value of the purchasing and maintaining these systems could exceed £250,000.

Councillor Walker welcomed the report as the Portfolio Holder for Healthy City and the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board. He reported that during these difficult times this would go towards addressing the health inequalities in young people across the city and fit in with the Council's strategies to give young people a better start in life.

Councillor Stewart reminded his colleagues of their school days and being last in the line for school meals and having to eat what was left. He reported that this scheme would ensure that each child would receive a healthy meal of their choice.

Consideration having been given to the report, it was:-

10. RESOLVED that the Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Children, Learning and Skills, be authorised to procure and award a contract for an Electronic School Meals Menu System.

Professional Services Framework

The Executive Director of Neighbourhoods submitted a report (copy circulated) to seek approval to procure and award a framework for the procurement of Professional Services for Council development projects covering a four-year period.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Stewart reported that the Housing Delivery and Investment Plan needed a range of Professional Services to progress a range of housing development projects. He explained that these services were required to ensure projects were effectively designed, costed and managed appropriately. He advised that these services included:

- Architectural Services;
- Cost and commercial services;
- Engineering Services;
- Employers Agent;
- Principal Designer; and
- Clerk of Works.

Cabinet Members were advised that now that the Housing Delivery and Investment Plan was gaining momentum, the Council required the Professional Services Framework in order to progress the design, costing and statutory management obligations of the Council's housing development projects as efficiently as possible.

Consideration having been given to the report, it was:-

11. RESOLVED that approval be given to the procurement and award of a framework agreement for the procurement of Professional Services for Council development projects covering a four-year period.

To enter into an agreement with Thirteen Housing Group to deliver new affordable homes in Hendon

The Executive Director of Neighbourhoods submitted a report (copy circulated) to seek approval to enter into an agreement to provide grant support to Thirteen Housing Group Limited ("Thirteen") to enable the development of Amberley and Harrogate Street, Hendon to deliver up to 100 affordable homes.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Atkinson highlighted that the site at Amberley and Harrogate Street was cleared and had been empty for many years. She reported that the agreement would enable the delivery of the new homes, provide grant support to unlock the development and bring the land back into use for new affordable homes for families and older people.

Cabinet Members were advised that the development would meet strategic housing priorities and deliver a housing led regeneration project for the area.

The Chair commended the report which was a massive step for the Council to work with Thirteen to deliver affordable housing in the city. He congratulated the portfolio Holder and the officers for adding more affordable housing into the city.

Consideration having been given to the report, it was:-

12. RESOLVED that approval be given for the Council to enter into an agreement with Thirteen to provide grant support to enable the development at Amberley and Harrogate Street, Hendon to deliver up to 100 affordable homes on terms to be agreed with the Executive Director of Neighbourhoods in consultation with the Executive Director of Corporate Services and the Portfolio Holder for Dynamic City.

Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006

At the instance of the Chairman it was: -

13. RESOLVED that in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006 the public be excluded during consideration of the remaining business as it was considered to involve a likely disclosure of exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) (Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A, Part 1, Paragraph 3). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

(Signed) G. MILLER,
Chair.

Prior to moving to Part II of the agenda, it was confirmed that the livestream of the meeting had ended.

Note:-

The above minutes comprise only those relating to items during which the meeting was open to the public.

Additional minutes in respect of other items are included in Part II.