

**Electoral division(s) affected:**

All

**Purpose of the Report**

To provide information to the Council on issues considered by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 13 September 2023 to enable Members to ask related questions by no later than midday 3 working days before the day of the meeting

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Item 1 – Forecast of Revenue and Capital Outturn 2023/24 – Period to 30 June 2023 and Update on Progress towards achieving MTFP(13) savings

Item 2 -Health and Wellbeing Board Annual Report 2022/23

Item 3 - Durham Innovation District Aykley Heads Strategic Employment Site – Outline Business Case and Procurement of a Joint Venture Partner

**1 Forecast of Revenue and Capital Outturn 2023/24 – Period to 30 June 2023 and Update on Progress towards achieving MTFP (13) savings – Councillor Richard Bell, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Finance**

We considered a report of the Corporate Director of Resources which provided the forecast revenue and capital outturn for 2023/24, based on the position to 30 June 2023, an update on the dedicated schools grants and forecast schools' outturn as at 31 March 2024, based upon the position to 30 June 2023, the forecast for the council tax and business rates collection fund outturn at 31 March 2024, based on the position to 30 June 2023 and details of the updated forecast use of and contributions to earmarked, cash limit and general reserves in 2023/24 and the estimated balances that would be held at 31 March 2024.

The report also sought approval of the revised 2023/24 capital programme, other budget adjustments and proposed sums treated as outside of the cash limit in year and provided an update on progress towards achieving MTFP (13) savings in 2023/24.

**Decision:**

We:

- (a) noted the council's overall forecast financial position for 2023/24 and the continuing uncertainty associated with the outturn forecast resulting from the significant inflationary and demand led cost pressures;
- (b) agreed the proposed 'sums outside the cash limit' and transfers to and from general contingencies as set out in the report;
- (c) agreed the revenue and capital budget adjustments outlined in the report; (d) noted performance against the various prudential indicators agreed by Council in February 2023;
- (e) noted the forecast use of earmarked reserves in year;
- (f) noted the forecast 2023/24 cash limit overspend of £0.580 million alongside the forecast contribution of £0.017 million to General Reserves resulting in a forecast net council overspend in 2023/24 of £0.563 million;
- (g) noted the net unavoidable inflationary pressures which are forecast to be managed from the General Reserve;
- (h) noted the Dedicated Schools Grant and Schools forecast outturn position; (i) noted the position on the capital programme and the Collection Funds in respect of Council Tax and Business Rates; and
- (j) noted the amount of savings delivered to 30 June 2023 against the 2023/24 targets and the total savings that will have been delivered since 2011.

**2. Health and Wellbeing Board Annual Report - Councillor Chris Hood, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Adult and Health Services and Councillor Elizabeth Scott, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Economy and Partnerships**

We considered a joint report of the Corporate Director of Adult and Health Services, Corporate Director of Neighbourhoods and Climate Change and Director of Public Health which presented the Health and Wellbeing Board Annual Report 2022/23 for endorsement.

**Decision:**

We:

- (a) noted the work that has taken place in 2022/23 by the Health and Wellbeing Board; and
- (b) endorsed the Health and Wellbeing Board Annual Report 2022/23.

**3. Durham Innovation District Aykley Heads Strategic Employment Site – Outline Business Case & Procurement of a Joint Venture Partner - Councillor James Rowlandson, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Resources, Investments and Assets, Councillor Richard Bell, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Finance and Councillor Elizabeth Scott, Councillor Portfolio Holder for Economy and Partnerships**

We considered a joint report of the Corporate Director of Regeneration, Economy and Growth and Corporate Director of Resources which set out and sought approval of, the Outline Business Case(OBC) for the development of the Aykley Heads site, and approval to proceed with the procurement of a Joint Venture partner to develop the site. The procurement process would result in the preparation of a Full Business Case (FBC) that would be brought back to Cabinet for approval before the council entered into any formal Joint Venture Partnership Agreement.

**Decision:**

We

- (a) endorsed and approve the OBC;
- (b) granted approval to progress the preparation of a FBC.
- (c) agreed to develop Aykley Heads as part of a wider Durham Innovation District;
- (d) agreed to commence procurement for a Joint Venture partner to form a Joint Venture Partnership, to develop Aykley Heads as part of the Durham Innovation District;
- (e) agreed to the principle of the council owned land at Aykley Heads being invested as equity into a future Joint Venture Partnership;
- (f) noted that there may be further public investment needed to deliver the development at Aykley Heads, with any forecast future capital investment requirements being factored into the FBC to inform future Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) capital bidding rounds;
- (g) agreed to establish a budget to support the client-side development of the FBC, and thereafter to support the ongoing revenue costs associated with the council's role in the Joint Venture Partnership;
- (h) noted the structured engagement with Durham University through the adopted MoU to shape the delivery strategy for the Durham Innovation District; and
- (i) noted that on completion of the FBC, and the conclusion of the procurement of a Joint Venture partner, a further report will be brought to Cabinet for approval, which will provide full details of the proposals

**Background Papers**

Cabinet Agenda and Reports

[Cabinet Agenda and Papers - 13 September 2023](#)

Councillor A Hopgood,  
Leader of the Council  
10 October 2023