

CABINET

RECORD OF DECISIONS of the meeting of the Cabinet held on Thursday, 29 June 2017 at 1.00 pm at the Guildhall, Portsmouth

Present

Councillor Donna Jones (in the Chair)

Councillors Luke Stubbs
Simon Boshier
Jennie Brent
Ryan Brent
Hannah Hockaday
Frank Jonas BEM
Robert New
Linda Symes

16. Apologies for Absence (AI 1)

All members of the Cabinet were present; David Williams, Chief Executive had his apologies for absence.

17. Declarations of Interests (AI 2)

There were no declarations of members' interests.

18. Record of Previous Decision Meeting - 9 March 2017 (AI 3)

The record of the decisions of the Cabinet meeting of 9 March 2017 were approved as a correct record, to be signed by the Leader.

19. Homeless Working Group (AI 4)

Steve Macer presented the report on behalf of the Housing Options Manager. The report set out the work of the Homeless Working Group (HWG) since it was established in July 2016, which had looked at the reasons behind recent increases in homelessness which was reflected nationally and in response to the rise in prices in private sector renting and the decline in the availability of public sector stock. Appendix 2 had been slightly revised to include information relating to Community Wardens. Whilst good practice elsewhere had been considered there was no evidence that those interventions could be successfully replicated here.

Councillor Paul Godier, who had been the Chair of the HWG, was present to endorse the report (but would leave the Cabinet Members to decide which option would be best for the way forward). He felt that the process had been successful in raising public awareness of issues and in promoting work with the voluntary services and in helping to empower members of the local community. He was grateful to the Cabinet for their

support and wished to place on record his thanks to those voluntary groups who had been key to this review and for the work they undertake.

Councillor Robert New, as Cabinet Member for Environment & Community Safety, would favour option (b) for a steering group to continue and praised the work of the cross-party HWG and noted the areas of cross-over with the Safer Portsmouth Partnership (SPP) in addressing complex needs (for which SPP would be making a bid for a further post). He also credited the work of Flick Drummond for hosting a local conference, Councillor Godier and the voluntary sector.

Councillor Ryan Brent wished to recommend appointing Councillor Godier as 'Homeless Community Champion for PCC' and this was supported by Councillor Donna Jones as Leader having discussed it with other colleagues.

Councillor Donna Jones was proud of the work that had been undertaken through the working group and the engagement with homeless individuals and also looking at the concerns of local retailers. She also thanked Elaine Bastable and all involved in the HWG and the PCC officers also looking out for those needing help, including wardens and security guards. The Leader thanked Councillor Godier for his passion in helping take this forward to help the homeless in Portsmouth and all members of the panel.

Councillor Godier was honoured by the suggestion that he be made the Council's Homeless Community Champion and reported that he was continuing to work with Flick Drummond to run more awareness sessions and he hoped that there would be positive press coverage for these.

DECISIONS:

- (1) The Cabinet clarified the future role of the Homeless Working Group, with the disbanding of the group, the role of a Homeless Community Champion is formed and Councillor Paul Godier was appointed to take this role.**
- (2) The Cabinet gave support and approval for the following recommendations:**
 - a) To complete the Safer Portsmouth Partnership complex needs work to understand how services work together (housing, mental health, substance misuse etc) when dealing with individuals with multiple & complex needs, including findings from Scrutiny Panels.**
 - b) To complete the review of the supported housing provision for the homeless, and use the findings to redesign/recommission services to meet the increased demand and more challenging support needs.**
 - c) Undertake community asset mapping to maximise the contribution of the voluntary & community sector.**
 - d) Consider an annual event and/or regular forum that would raise awareness and help co-ordinate the work of voluntary & community sector working groups.**

- e) **Review current enforcement measures and develop a co-ordinated approach to enforcement between police and PCC to reduce duplication of operational responses.**

20. Appointments to Outside Bodies (AI 5)

DECISION: Appointments were made as detailed on a separate schedule, to be published with the minutes of this Cabinet meeting.

21. Street Lighting Replacement Programme (AI 6)

The report of the Director of Transport, Environment & Business Support was presented by his Assistant Director, Pam Turton who outlined the proposals to upgrade lighting, extending this beyond residential lighting, made possible through prudential borrowing, with benefits of reduction energy consumption.

Councillor Donna Jones, as Leader, welcomed the proposals for their environmental and financial benefits for the city.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL

(1) Cabinet approved the Report for submission to Full Council to approve a change to the Capital Programme as set out in (2) below

(2) That Council give approval to increase the currently approved LED Residential Street Lighting Replacement Capital budget of £3.04m by a further £2.21m to £5.25m in order to upgrade the City Council's Street Lighting with LED lighting and a Central Management System.

(3) That the additional capital budget requirement of £2.21m be financed from Prudential Borrowing.

22. Membership of Transport for the South East (TfSE) - Shadow Board (AI 7)

Alan Cufley, Director of Transport, Environment and Business Support, explained this amongst the transport authorities and LEPs across the South East of England to encourage economic growth and seek improved infrastructure across the area. The Shadow Board had met earlier in the week and the intention was for Portsmouth to continue to participate in the shadow board jointly with Southampton CC. This would mean that the costs of membership would be shared and there would be a single vote with membership of the Leader/Cabinet Member and supporting officer rotating between the two authorities. Councillor Donna Jones, as Leader, welcomed this proposal for a joint, strategic approach to be taken in this way. She reported that in the first year Councillor Jacqui Rayment from Southampton CC would be the voting member, supported by PCC's officer, with the roles being reversed in the following year. She expressed her dismay that at a recent Solent LEP meeting Highways England had made a presentation showing the extension of the M27 smart motorway would end at Junction 11 of M27, thereby missing the opportunity to improve the connectivity of the two

cities. Cllr Jones was intending to lobby Highways England and the Department of Transport on this matter.

Councillor Simon Boshier, as Cabinet Member for Traffic & Transportation, was liaising with Cllr Rayment and both wished for the improvements to include the motorway between Junctions 11 and 12.

DECISION - Cabinet agreed that:

- (1) Portsmouth City Council and Southampton City Council jointly join TfSE as a single member with a single vote. The membership cost for the first year is £20k which will be shared between the 2 authorities.**
- (2) To reflect the joint approach the meetings will be attended by the relevant transport portfolio holder from 1 authority with officer support from the other authority.**
- (3) The success of the joint arrangement should be jointly reviewed with Southampton City Council after a year to ensure that the interests of both cities and the wider Solent area is being represented effectively with this proposed approach.**

23. Digital Advertising (AI 8)

Chris Ward, Director of Finance and IS, presented the report which explored the opportunities for developing digital advertising and for marketing more assets, with tendering to generate income streams and provide new facilities for PCC. Councillor Donna Jones reported on the involvement of former Cabinet Member for Resources Councillor Lee Mason in this project working with Greg Povey and Louise Wilders and their teams, and she welcomed the innovative approach to maximise advertising opportunities.

Councillor Simon Boshier, Cabinet Member for Traffic & Transportation, supported the proposals and the need to use expertise in this constantly evolving area of technology. He asked that consideration be given to ensure a joined up approach to works with the Eastern Corridor programme. The Leader felt that the report gave flexibility and scope so further developments would be brought back to Cabinet.

DECISIONS:

- (1) in order to explore further the potential digital advertising opportunities within the City, the council embarks on a tender exercise to identify the optimum mix of digital advertising within the city and the most appropriate operating model.**
- (2) the tender exercise takes the form of a "multiple lot" strategy reserving the right to choose between lots and award in any combination. The lots being structured as follows:**
 - Lot 1 - Location Hard Interchange - Model 1**
 - Lot 1 - Location M275 (iconic structure) - Model 1**

- Lot 1 - Location Eastern Road - Model 1
- Lot 1 - Location Way Finders - Model 1
- Lot 2 - Location as per Lot 1 - Model 2
- Lot 3 - Existing advertising sites (subject to serving notice)
- Lot 4 - Toilets (and news-stands)
- Lot 5 - Wireless advertising (Beacon technology)

(3) Subject to a satisfactory financial appraisal approved by the Section 151 Officer, the Director of Finance & Information Service in consultation with the Leader of the Council be given delegated authority to award in any combination the Lots outlined in resolution (ii) above.

(4) Subject to meeting the MTRS spend to save criteria, of payback within 4 years, any "upfront" investment costs arising from the award of Lots 2, 3, 4 or 5 be funded from the MTRS reserve.

24. Public Health Transformation Fund (AI 9)

Claire Currie, Public Health Consultant, presented the report by the Director of Public Health which sought the creation of this fund and advocated the promotion of a healthy lifestyle through a partnership approach, to address common goals. The 8 key areas in the Business Plan were linked to local and national priorities. The report also set out how the effectiveness of the projects would be monitored. Susan Aistrope, Finance Manager, reported on the previous underspend in Public Health, with £4.8m being used on the Public Health Transformation Fund to help respond to the demands on services and to encourage future sustainability in helping the most vulnerable residents. Councillor Luke Stubbs, as Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care, and also as a member of the PHTF panel, commended the report which was in response to the huge demands on Adult Social Care and health services.

DECISIONS - The Cabinet:

- (1) Noted the drivers of public health activity in Portsmouth, and the priority areas;**
- (2) Approved the designation of a Public Health Transformation Fund, as set out in section 7 of the report;**
- (3) Authorised the Director of Public Health, the Section 151 officer (or representative) and Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health to approve allocations from the Fund, and keep progress against approved schemes under review.**

25. Resilience in Children's Social Care (AI 10)

Alison Jeffery, Director of Children's Services, introduced her report which set out the proposals for additional posts and some reorganisation of staff to address the overspend situation via an investment to make savings. This would result in reducing expensive residential placements and to increase the attractiveness of PCC as an employer in this marketplace. The aim was to bring the caseloads down for social workers.

Councillor Ryan Brent, as Cabinet Member for Children and Families, welcomed this responsible approach to continue to bring down the deficit and address the unprecedented demand for adolescent placements. He welcomed the aim to reduce the caseload to 15 per social worker which would help in the preparations for future Ofsted inspections.

Councillor Donna Jones, as Leader, thanked Alison Jeffery, Sarah Newman and Councillor Brent, who she had been working closely with to bring forward these changes and the wider Social Care Team for their work. This should assist with recruitment and in addressing the extra pressures such as unaccompanied asylum seekers.

DECISIONS:

Cabinet endorsed an increase in social work capacity, through an investment of £499K, in order to improve our offer to teenagers and their families in particular, working more proactively within the community to effect whole family solutions and avoid external residential care placements. The increase in social work capacity will be created as follows:

(i) Increase front-line Social workers staffing numbers by eight so that social work caseloads can be brought down to a level (15 children per FTE) that affords pro-active, timely and risk sensible intervention. This will enable us to drive the highest possible quality social work support to vulnerable children and families, to avoid the need to take them into our care; and

(ii) Increase service leader numbers by three; reducing the size of three teams and providing better management oversight.

26. Transforming Adult Social Care (AI 11)

Innes Richens, as the Director of Adult Services, presented his joint report with Chris Ward the Section 151 Officer, which set out the local position and the plan for Adult Social Care delivery through the establishment of the ASC Transformation Fund to meet the national and local pressures. The local provision of domiciliary care had been successful through the use of excellent providers, and there was a need to ensure sustainability.

Chris Ward explained the financial background to addressing the deficit position to help meet the rising pressures due to demographic growth. There had been lobbying resulting in an additional £7.8m over 3 years for PCC for Adult Social Care. There remained an ongoing financial challenge of £3.8m, and there was a one off £8.5m funding opportunity but there was still the need to make on-going savings.

Councillor Luke Stubbs, as the Cabinet Member for Health & Social Care, reported that this authority was seeking to address this national funding problem, and was helped by having plans in place with the health service partners to tackle the situation. The Leader thanked the officers for their report.

DECISIONS - Cabinet:

- (1) Noted the acknowledged pressure on adult social care, and the local position**
- (2) Endorsed the principles for developing the "blueprint" for social care**
- (3) Endorsed the measures being taken to ensure financial stability and sustainability in the service**
- (4) Approved the designation of an Adult Social Care Transformation Fund amounting to £8.5m, as set out in section 7 (of the report)**
- (5) Authorised the Director of Adult Services, the s151 officer (or representative) and Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health, in consultation with the Leader, to approve allocations from the Fund, and keep progress against approved schemes under review.**

27. Exclusion of Press and Public (AI 12)

(With the withdrawal of the item relating to the Municipal Energy Company this item was not necessary)

28. Opportunity to establish a Municipal Energy Company (AI 13)

(This item was withdrawn from the agenda, the report not having been circulated, and was not considered.)

29. Forward Plan Omission (agenda item 15 - Retrofitting of Sprinklers in Council Housing) (AI 14)

Councillor Jones, as Leader, reported that she had agreed to the supplementary item as a matter of urgency in response to the national situation and locally the investigation of the safety of cladding on high rise council housing. Councillor Scott Harris had therefore been consulted as the Chair of Scrutiny Management Panel and also agreed to its inclusion as a Forward Plan Omission.

DECISION: The Forward Plan Omission and reasons for urgency were noted.

30. Retrofitting of Sprinklers in Council Housing (AI 15)

Due to press interest, the agenda order was varied for this to be considered at the start of the meeting (along with the Forward Plan Omission item).

Chris Ward as Director of Finance and Information Services presented his report and circulated revised recommendations. His report was seeking to make preparations for retrofitting of sprinklers in advance of further government direction, and the cost of £12.2m was not affordable in the current capital programme therefore the revised recommendations were to prepare for a state of readiness and for lobbying of government for these new burdens for the authority. Councillor Donna Jones, Leader, had agreed to the inclusion of the supplementary and urgent item so that the council would be in a position to make a fully costed bid and there was also the need to carefully

consider where there was the benefit and suitability for having sprinklers in properties.

Councillor Robert New, as Cabinet Member Environment & Community Safety, supported the approach being taken to ensure safety for residents. Councillor Jones reported on the recent meeting held which had been attended by 20 residents from the 2 blocks identified with cladding concerns and these had fire marshals on site and contact had been made with all the residents and it had been a difficult time for all social landlords. The Leader wished to thank the Housing Officers in Portsmouth and Gosport for their hard work in responding to the results of the cladding testing.

DECISIONS:

(1) That in advance of any future Government direction in relation to the retrofitting of sprinklers, that a full review of all of the Council's high rise and sheltered blocks is undertaken, including site surveys where necessary, to establish where it may be necessary to retrofit sprinkler systems

(2) That it be noted that, at a potential cost of £12.2m, the cost of retrofitting sprinklers to the Council's high rise and sheltered blocks is not affordable within the Council's approved Capital Programme and resources available (the Cabinet will not be proposing a Council Tax rise but notes that the potential cost at £12.2m is substantial and equivalent to a Council Tax increase of £220 per taxpayer)

(3) That the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive lobby the Government to make funds available and that joint lobbying with Southampton City Council, other Local Authorities and the Local Government Association be pursued

(4) Upon receipt of Government direction and expected funding relating to the retrofitting of sprinklers (as a "new burden"), that the Cabinet Member for Housing reviews all Budgets for Housing Repairs and Maintenance to accommodate the highest priority necessary repairs and maintenance and retrofit sprinkler systems within the funding available

(5) Once the scope of the retrofit for sprinklers into the Council's high-rise and sheltered blocks has been determined, that authority is delegated to the Director of Housing and Property Services in consultation with the Section 151 Officer and the Cabinet Member for Housing, to undertake the procurement process and appoint a contractor to undertake any necessary retrofitting of sprinklers

(6) That it be noted that capacity constraints in the industry, post Grenfell Tower disaster, are likely and that any programme of retrofitting of sprinklers would be provided through a multi-year programme

(7) That authority be delegated to the Director of Housing and Property Services in consultation with the Section 151 Officer to amend

the Capital Programme to reflect any reprioritisation of capital schemes to fund the retrofitting of sprinklers into the Council's high-rise and sheltered blocks.

The meeting concluded at 2.20 pm.

Councillor Donna Jones
Leader of the Council