

CABINET

RECORD OF DECISIONS of the meeting of the Cabinet held on Tuesday, 19 June 2018 at 12.00 pm at the Guildhall, Portsmouth

Present

Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE (in the Chair)

Councillors Dave Ashmore
Ben Dowling
Suzy Horton
Darren Sanders
Lynne Stagg
Rob Wood

18. Apologies for Absence (AI 1)

Apologies for absence were submitted for Councillor Steve Pitt (who was away) and Councillors Matthew Winnington and Jeanette Smith (who hoped to join the meeting).

19. Declarations of Interests (AI 2)

There were no declarations of members' interests.

20. Record of Previous Decision Meeting - 16 March 2018 (AI 3)

Michael Lawther, as City Solicitor, advised that the current Cabinet could approve these as no objections had been raised to the record by previous members and Councillor Jones had indicated she was happy to sign these off.

DECISION: the record of the previous decision meeting held on 16 March 2018 were agreed as a correct record to be signed by Councillor Jones as Chair of that meeting.

21. Notice of Motion - Policing Cuts (AI 4)

Councillor Vernon-Jackson, as Leader, regretted that this Notice of Motion had not been discussed on a cross-party basis at Council, but referred back to Cabinet, and therefore wished it to go back to Council for wider discussion. Michael Lawther, City Solicitor, advised that the Notice of Motion was still valid even though the original proposer was no longer a member of the Council.

DECISIONS -The Cabinet:

- 1) Accepted the Notice of Motion and the views contained in it;
- 2) Regretted that the previous Administration had not allowed cross-party debate at Council;
- 3) Referred this back to Council in July

It was therefore

RECOMMENDED to Council that the Notice of Motion and the views contained in it be accepted.

22. Treasury Management Outturn Report 2017/18 (AI 5)

Julian Pike, Deputy Section 151 Officer, presented the report for the Director of Finance, which set out the year end position for the investments, and there were no matters of concern to report.

Councillor Sanders asked for clarity on how the major housing works (refurbishment and relocation of residents) would be paid for. Julian Pike stressed that his report related to Treasury Management issues and reports relating to capital funding would come to Council at a later date. Whilst the refurbishment projects would usually be Housing Revenue Account (HRA) funded, if there is a shortfall the General Fund can be called upon.

RECOMMENDED to Council that the actual prudential and treasury management indicators based on the unaudited accounts, as shown in Appendix D, be noted.

23. Regional Adoption Agency (AI 6)

Alison Jeffery, Director of Children and Families and Education, presented her report, endorsing the benefits of the regional approach for helping to place Portsmouth children rather than competing with the neighbouring authorities. She recommended the model as outlined, with PCC's financial contribution being fixed for 2 years.

The Cabinet Members welcomed this approach which would increase efficiency and the speed of the process.

In response to questions Alison Jeffery clarified that very careful account is taken of the needs of the children when matching them with families and that the family is given support following the adoption. The new agency would be overseen by a governance board on which all of the local Directors of Children's Services will be represented. There will be clear set of performance indicators against which to judge the success of the new arrangements. If performance suggests that the arrangements are not serving Portsmouth children well it will be possible for the council to withdraw from them. She was optimistic, however, that the arrangements would be good for children in the city.

DECISION: The Cabinet:

- (1) Approved the proposed model for delivery of adoption services through a Regional Adoption Agency, including the structural model set out at Appendix 1.**

- (2) **Approved the financial contribution to the Regional Adoption Agency of £764,000, to be fixed for two years (2019/20 and 2020/21) and reviewed for 2021/22.**
- (3) **Delegated authority to enter into the final interagency agreement to the Director of Children, Families and Education in consultation with the Lead Member for Children and Families.**

24. Appointments to Outside Bodies (AI 7)

The agreed appointments are set out on a separate schedule, to be appended to the record of decisions. It was noted that an appointment to the Hampshire Pension Fund would be made by the next Employment Committee. For some of positions there were vacancies which would need to be readvertised.

25. Southsea sea defence project (AI 8)

Councillor Vernon-Jackson, as Leader, hoped that this cross-party group could work together to help advise Councillor Ashmore as Cabinet Member for Environment & Community Safety. There had been no formal nominations received from the Conservative Group and the date of the meeting would be circulated.

DECISION: The Cabinet:

- (1) **Agreed the establishment of a 5 member councillor working group, comprising 2 Conservatives (to be nominated), 2 Liberal Democrats (Cllrs Hugh Mason and Steve Pitt) and 1 Labour councillor (Judith Smyth), for the purpose of advising the Cabinet Member for Environment and Community Safety on the Southsea sea defence project.**
- (2) **Noted that it is also proposed to hold an all Councillor briefing/presentation on the project prior to consultation.**

26. Date of next Cabinet Meeting (information item) (AI 9)

The next Cabinet meeting was scheduled for Friday 6th July at 4pm.

The meeting concluded at 12.45 pm.

Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE
Leader of the Council