

CABINET

RECORD OF DECISIONS of the meeting of the Cabinet held on Tuesday, 9 October 2018 at 12.00 pm at the Guildhall, Portsmouth

Present

Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE (in the Chair)

Councillors Steve Pitt
 Dave Ashmore
 Ben Dowling
 Suzy Horton
 Darren Sanders
 Jeanette Smith
 Lynne Stagg
 Matthew Winnington
 Rob Wood

38. Apologies for Absence (AI 1)

David Williams, Chief Executive, had submitted his apologies for absence and was represented by Michael Lawther. Chris Ward, the Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer was represented by Richard Webb.

39. Declarations of Interests (AI 2)

There were no declarations of members' interests.

40. Record of Previous Decision Meetings - 6 July and 10 August 2018 (AI 3)

DECISION: the records of decisions taken by Cabinet at meetings held on 6 July and 10 August 2018 were approved as correct records.

41. Portsmouth Youth Offending Team (YOT) Annual Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2018-19 (AI 4)

Councillor Rob Wood, as Cabinet Member for Children and Families, commended the report and was pleased with the positive messages contained in it, such as the reduction in the number of first time entrants to the system.

RECOMMENDED to Council to approve the plan and the priorities set out within it.

42. Safer Portsmouth Partnership (SPP) Plan 2018-20 (AI 5)

Councillor Dave Ashmore, as Cabinet Member for Environment and Community Safety, supported the plan which showed that whilst the focus areas mainly remained the same, there were advances in technology to aid

progress and further work into the identification of causes of behaviours. The Cabinet members added their support, and it was confirmed by the City Solicitor that this required to go through Cabinet to be endorsed by the full Council.

RECOMMENDED that Council endorses the long term strategic priorities contained in the Safer Portsmouth Partnership Plan 2018-20 (appendix 1) and aligns the relevant budgets to support activity in line with Section 17 Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (as amended).

43. Provision of additional Community Wardens (AI 6)

Colette Hill, Assistant Director Neighbourhoods, has worked with the Cabinet Members for Housing and Environment & Community Safety to shape the proposed additional resource. The additional wardens would work with the existing community wards and this would enable the hours of cover to be extended (as set out in the report). Appendix B of the report set out the financing which included some Housing Revenue Account funding to enable response to issues at local authority housing, as well as Environment & Community Safety funding and flexible homeless support grant. The funding would need to be reviewed after 1 year.

Councillor Ashmore, as Cabinet Member for Environment & Community Safety, welcomed the doubling of community wardens which would increase safety and the feeling of safety in the city. Councillor Wood welcomed the extension of hours until 2am to help combat anti-social behaviour.

Cabinet members also commented on the value of the community warden service in local communities where they gained trust and undertook an important preventative role.

Councillor Pitt, as Deputy Leader, wished to place on record appreciation for the work of Community Warden team for helping to prevent problems by intervening in a friendly and non-confrontational way.

DECISION: the Cabinet approved the proposal to redesign the Community Warden Service on a trial basis until March 2020.

44. Revenue Budget Monitoring 2018/19 Quarter 1 to end June 2018 (AI 7)

Richard Webb, representing the Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer, presented the report which showed an outturn position of an overspend of £3.36m. He drew members' attention to paragraph 7.4 which outlined the most significant areas of overspend in Children's and Adult Social Care.

Councillor Vernon-Jackson CBE, as Leader of the Council, accepted that the report was of concern but measures were in place to target reductions in overspend and assess why the numbers of children in care were increasing and expensive placements were used outside of the city. Work was also continuing to press the government to fully reimburse the costs of children

who are unaccompanied asylum seekers. Work was also taking place to assess the pressures in Adult Social Care which were shared with the NHS.

Councillor Rob Wood, as Cabinet Member for Children and Families, commented on the inherited position for his portfolio, the national situation and the need to ensure that the budget was correct for the numbers of children PCC dealt with. Councillor Matthew Winnington, Cabinet Member for Health, Wellbeing and Social Care, reiterated that the overspend position was being closely monitored to seek to reduce this during the year and he thanked the officers for their assistance. Work would also continue with partner agencies and other local authorities. A potential government grant for Adult Social Care had recently been announced for 2018/19 (but allocations were yet to be made).

DECISIONS:

(1) The forecast outturn position for 2018/19 was noted:

(a) An overspend of £4,980,800 before further forecast transfers from/(to) Portfolio Specific Reserves & Ring Fenced Public Health Reserve

(b) An overspend of £3,366,400 after further forecast transfers from/(to) Portfolio Specific Reserves & Ring Fenced Public Health Reserve.

(2) Members noted that any actual overspend at year end will in the first instance be deducted from any Portfolio Specific Reserve balance and once depleted then be deducted from the 2019/20 Cash Limit.

(3) Members noted that the overall financial forecast for Quarter 1 for the whole Council is a serious cause for concern with significant forecast overspends in the highest spending areas of Children's and Adult Social Care which in aggregate amount to £8,223,600 and the extent to which this cannot be remedied in the medium term will add to the Council's £4m per annum savings requirements for future years.

(4) Directors, in consultation with the appropriate Cabinet Member, will consider options that seek to minimise any forecast overspend presently being reported and prepare strategies outlining how any consequent reduction to the 2019/20 Portfolio cash limit will be managed to avoid further overspending during 2019/20.

45. Development Programme Funding (5 sites) (AI 8)

The Director of Regeneration's report was presented by Natascha McIntyre-Hall, Assistant Director, Strategic Developments, who explained the aims for the provision of good quality homes that local people can afford. These were the first set of properties to be brought forward, with others being worked on in a cross departmental way.

Deputations were made - these are not minuted in full but can be viewed as part of the webcast meeting here:

<https://livestream.com/accounts/14063785/Full-Cabinet-09Oct2018>

- i) Cal Corkery - challenging the affordability of the housing schemes and ratio of affordable homes being provided
- ii) Councillor Judith Smyth - encouraging further work to maximise genuinely affordable housing on all sites in the city
- iii) A written deputation had been circulated from Councillor Luke Stubbs which had been read by the cabinet members

Councillor Dowling, as Cabinet Member for Planning, Regeneration and Economic Development, explained the role of the Development Programme Enabling Board (DPEB), which would also look at other corporate priorities, such as community use as well as taking an intervenist approach to increase housing opportunities. He stressed that this portfolio of sites were part of a wider a programme of regeneration which would be progressed swiftly and efforts would be made to maximise affordable housing across the sites.

Councillor Sanders, as Cabinet Member for Housing, was keen for key workers to also be prioritised, and referred to a separate bid for 200 more affordable houses on council land which would help with homelessness. Lobbying was continuing for the removal of the borrowing cap to help ensure that the housing needs of the city were met.

Councillor Rob Wood had been spoken to as a ward councillor for 3 of the sites, and supported the social balance to the schemes.

The Leader thanked the deputations for their input and stressed that joint work would continue on taking these developments forward. Councillor Udy was present and took the opportunity to ask about the current use Brewery House in her ward.

DECISIONS - The Cabinet:

- (1) Noted the cross directorate engagement undertaken to identify the five sites and the officer recommendations.**
- (2) Approved the principle of redevelopment of the five sites for the purposes of housing delivery, subject to a planning permission being granted.**
- (3) Delegated to the Section 151 Officer, in consultation with the Leader, Cabinet Member for PRED, Cabinet Member for Housing and Director of Regeneration, to agree the development strategy and preferred delivery route for each site, subject to a business case review, with a view to maximising affordable housing across the 5 sites to meet local housing need.**
- (4) Delegated authority to the S151. Officer to lend monies to the Arms-Length Development Company (ALDC from hereon in referred to as Ravelin) within the limits of the Council's treasury Management Strategy and following production of a full and proper financial appraisal demonstrating viability of each project.**

- (5) **Approved in principle the appropriation of land between the Council and Ravelin, to deliver the five site projects. The transfer of land will be delegated to the relevant Cabinet Member dependant on the site ownership and the Section 151 Officer with the timing of this subject to a final project specific business case being approved. All transfer will be carried out in line with treasury guidance using red book valuations.**

46. Exclusion of Press and Public (AI 9)

DECISION: That, under the provisions of Section 100A of the Local Government Act, 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985, the press and public be excluded for the consideration of the following items on the grounds that the reports contain information defined as exempt in Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act, 1972:

Minute 47 - Property Investment Fund (appendix 3 only) - exemption paragraph 3 relating to financial or business affairs

(following the passing of the resolution it was agreed that members of the press and public did not need to leave the room so long all present refrained from mentioning information contained in the exempt appendix to the open report)

47. Property Investment Fund (information report) (AI 10)

Councillor Vernon-Jackson CBE, as Leader, thanked Tom Southall (Assistant Director Property & Investment) for his information report which was useful and he reiterated the desire to invest in Portsmouth.

The information report was noted.

The meeting concluded at 12.50 pm.

.....
Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE
Leader of the Council