

CABINET

RECORD OF DECISIONS of the meeting of the Cabinet held on Tuesday, 12 March 2019 at 1.00 pm at the Guildhall, Portsmouth

Present

Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE (Leader)

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

24. Apologies for Absence (AI 1)

Councillor Jeanette Smith had submitted her apologies for absence.

25. Declarations of Interests (AI 2)

None.

26. Record of Previous Decision Meeting - 26 February 2019 (AI 3)

The record of decisions of the Cabinet meeting held on 26 February 2019 were agreed as a correct record, to be signed by the Leader.

27. Modern Slavery Statement (AI 4)

DECISIONS The Cabinet approved:

- i) The Modern Slavery Transparency Statement for publication on the council's website (as at Appendix 1)
- ii) The programme of work set out in item 13 of the statement

RECOMMENDED that Full Council note the above Cabinet decisions, for information only.

28. Play, Youth and Community Annual Plan (and links to associated Communications Plan) (AI 5)

James Hill, Director of Housing, Neighbourhood and Buildings, and Jo Bennett, Head of Business Relationships, Growth & Support, presented the 4 linked reports relating to Play, Youth and Community (PYC) initiatives and policies, as a whole. These covered the 17 services operated by Housing but their uses was not restricted to PCC tenants. These gave support to children

and their families, promoting their wellbeing. Jo Bennett clarified that the PYC annual plan was not a designated "key decision".

Councillor Vernon-Jackson had asked for these items to come to full Cabinet as there were cross-portfolio issues. Councillor Sanders, as Cabinet Member for Housing, was grateful for all the work being undertaken and more information would be available on the impact over the summer. Councillor Wood, as Cabinet Member for Children & Families, valued the work of the adventure playgrounds.

DECISIONS The Cabinet:

(1) recognised the benefit of greater co-ordination between the Play, Youth and Community Services of resources and information through implementation of the Annual Plan;

(2) acknowledged the link to the Holiday Food and Fun Programme;

(3) acknowledged the link between the Annual Plan and the Communication Strategy for Housing, Neighbourhood and Building Services.

29. Play, Youth and Community Volunteering Policy (AI 6)

(Refer to minute 28)

DECISIONS the Cabinet:

(1) approved the policy (as attached to the report);

(2) approved the implementation of the policy from the 1st April 2019.

30. Play, Youth and Community Safeguarding Policy (AI 7)

(Refer to minute 28)

DECISIONS the Cabinet:

(1) approved the policy (as attached to the report) ;

(2) approved the implementation of the policy from the 1st April 2019.

31. Holiday Hunger update (AI 8)

(Refer to minute 28)

DECISIONS the Cabinet:

(1) recognised future opportunities and recommendations following the success of the previous pilot project.

(2) agreed an allocation of £10,000 from the existing play & youth service budget to allow continuation, growth and longevity of the programme.

(3) gave approval to execute the future plans as set out in the Holiday Food & Fun Programme Report 2019 (as set out in appendix A - section 10).

32. Traffic, Environment & Community Safety (TECS) Scrutiny Panel Review of Parking with Director's Response Report (AI 9)

Councillor Simon Boshier, as Chair of the TECS Scrutiny Panel, presented their report 'A review of general parking issues in Portsmouth with a view to considering alternative strategies'. He explained the history of his involvement with the subject and thanked all members who had been involved as well as officers from Transport and Democratic Services, as well as businesses and all the residents who had participated during the review. The panel's recommendations had received cross party support, and some of the investigative work on these was already taking place. There were some issues with responsibility for private car parks being used overnight by residents. An issue had arisen regarding the treatment of student addresses which had delayed concluding the report. Weight restrictions for vehicles in residential areas also needed more exploration. Councillor Boshier did not believe that the current residents' parking zones implementation was effective, with the resulting displacement, favouring a city-wide strategy.

Deputations are not minuted in full but can be viewed as part of the webcast here:

<https://livestream.com/accounts/14063785/Full-Cabinet-12Mar2019>

Deputations were made by:

- I) Linda Symes in support of the report and asking for a city-wide strategy for RPZs and not a piecemeal approach which caused displacement, citing experiences in Southsea of residents and businesses.
- II) Cllr Judith Smyth (who declared that she lives in a zone in Southsea) had attended public meetings and spoke about problems experienced with the MD zone, favouring 7/24 or overnight restrictions, wanting a more cross party approach.
- III) Mr Simpson, a Central Southsea resident, spoke of parking problems, preferring a city-wide scheme as part of an environmental policy.

Pam Turton, Assistant Director Transport, presented the Director of Regeneration's report which set out responses to each of the panel's recommendations and additional information on the current approach for each of the identified issues.

Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson, as leader, thanked the panel for looking at this difficult issue, for which there is not a simple solution. A suggested city-wide zone or referendum were not favoured as he felt people knew they own areas best. There were useful findings in the report, but he would have liked to have seen more examination of 2 hour and 24 hour parking zones, as in London 2 hour schemes were seen to be effective and easier to enforce. All of the arising recommendations except no3 were supported, as there is a

rolling programme of consultation so the Cabinet did not see this as a "piecemeal approach", plus more staff had been recruited to help.

Councillor Steve Pitt and Councillor Lynne Stagg further clarified that the results of the surveys then lead to a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) and a report is brought back to the Cabinet Member for Traffic & Transportation with the results of the TRO consultation which was a well-established process at Portsmouth and other councils. Councillor Darren Sanders would have liked the 2017 survey to give a wider range of options and spoke of the effectiveness of 2 hour parking zones in London and the need to address pollution in Portsmouth. Councillor Stagg, as Cabinet Member for Traffic & Transportation, was aware of much work already in progress.

Councillor Winnington was grateful for the panel's report which had taken 2.5 years to produce, and he favoured the rolling programme and that those already with RPZs would not have these removed. Councillor Boshier responded regarding the length of time taken due to a legal problem with how student blocks addresses were dealt with.

Councillor Pitt stressed that there should not be an "all or nothing" approach for a complex issue, and favoured the continuation of an area by area approach in consulting residents. Councillor Horton was also aware of experiences in Central Southsea and approaches taken at the University of Portsmouth as well as the need to tackle air pollution.

Councillor Vernon-Jackson wished to thank Nikki Musson and transport officers for their hard work.

DECISIONS the Cabinet

(1) Thanked the TECS Scrutiny Panel for its work in undertaking the review;

(2) The Traffic, Environment & Community Safety Scrutiny Panel's recommendations be approved in line with the responses noted in paragraph 5 of the Director of Regeneration's report, with the modification on TECS Recommendation 3 "The current piecemeal approach to RPZs be reconsidered with a view to introducing a city-wide strategy or alternatively removing all parking zones" as the Cabinet view is now with a rolling programme of consultation this is no longer happening.

33. Forward Plan Omission (AI 10)

The Cabinet noted:

- (1) the omission to the Forward Plan for March 2019
- (2) the publication of the omission notice.

34. Treasury Management Policy 2019/20 (AI 11)

Chris Ward, Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer, presented his report and explained the main changes to the previous policy (as set out in recommendations 3i & ii).

Councillor Vernon-Jackson, Leader, asked if the priorities for investment in social housing and job creation were covered; Chris Ward reported that this was covered by the accompanying Annual Capital Strategy (minute 35) which was also being referred to Council for approval.

In response to Councillor Wood's questions regarding risk, it was confirmed that the priority is to safeguard public funds so the credit ratings of institutions are carefully examined and that there was resilience planning.

RECOMMENDED to Council:

- (1) that the treasury management indicators contained in Appendix D be approved;**
- (2) that the attached Treasury Management Policy Statement including the Treasury Management Strategy, and Annual Investment Strategy for 2019/20 be approved;**
- (3) that the following changes compared to the previous Annual Investment Strategy be noted:**
 - (i) That a new category of non-specified investments be added to permit investment in pooled investment vehicles including equity funds, property funds, supply chain finance funds and multi asset funds with a limit of £50m per fund**
 - (ii) That the maximum limit of an investment in a subsidiary company be increased from £20m to £30m**
- (4) the Director of Finance and Information Technology (Section 151 Officer) and officers nominated by him have delegated authority to (paragraph 3.2 of Treasury Management Policy Statement):**
 - (i) invest surplus funds in accordance with the approved Annual Investment Strategy;**
 - (ii) borrow to finance short term cash deficits and capital payments from any reputable source within the authorised limit for external debt of £737m approved by the City Council on 12 February 2019;**
 - (iii) reschedule debt in order to even the maturity profile or to achieve revenue savings;**
 - (iv) to buy and sell foreign currency, and to purchase hedging instruments including forward purchases, forward options and foreign exchange rate swaps to mitigate the foreign exchange risks associated with some contracts that are either priced in foreign currencies or where the price is indexed against foreign currency exchange rates.**
- (5) that the Chief Executive, the Leader of the City Council and the Chair of the Governance and Audit and Standards Committee be informed of any variances from the Treasury Management Policy when they become apparent, and that the Leader of the City Council be consulted on remedial action (paragraph 17.1 of Treasury Management Policy Statement)**

35. Annual Capital Strategy (AI 12)

RECOMMENDED to Council

(1) That Part I of the Capital Strategy (Capital Expenditure and Aspirations) be approved including:

a) The Short to Medium Term Capital Aspirations set out in Appendix B

b) The Long Term Capital Aspirations set out in Appendix C

(2) That Part II of the Capital Strategy (Borrowing and Investing in Property) be approved including:

a) The Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) for Debt Repayment Policy (Part II, (paragraph 1.5)

b) That the risk appetite statement for borrowing as set out in Part II, paragraph 1.6

c) That the risk appetite statement for investing surplus cash as set out in Part II, paragraph 1.13

d) The investment indicators in Part II - Appendix D (part II, paragraph 2.3)

e) That the Director of Finance and Information Technology (Section 151 Officer) will bring a report to the next Cabinet and City Council if (part II, paragraph 4.1):

(i) The Council's gross General Fund (GF) debt exceeds 319% of GF net service expenditure or;

(ii) Overall investment income from investment properties and long term treasury management investments exceeds 9.5% of GF net service expenditure

36. Access Policy at the Camber Dock (not to be confused with ongoing Rights of Way matter at Camber Dock) (AI 13)

Michael Lawther, City Solicitor, and Kieran Laven, Solicitor, presented the report that was for the information of Cabinet Members, and not for decision. The purpose of this was to give assurance that members of the public are welcome at the Camber but recognising this is a working port, with accompanying health and safety issues. The draft access policy had received 10 responses during the consultation (as set out in the report).

Councillor Dowling, Cabinet Member for Planning, Regeneration and Economic Development, asked if a decision should be made on this policy before the Rights of Way had been decided separately, acknowledging they are not linked legally, but he felt there was a public perception of a link. The Leader pointed out that if the Right of Way was not granted this would be a fall-back position.

The City Solicitor advised that this needed to be progressed independently of the Right of Way, and it could be 12-18 months before the Right of Way was decided by an appointed Inspector. It was clarified that further work was taking place on the draft Access Policy before it would be brought back for

formal approval and there would be the opportunity for further representations to be made.

Whilst noting the update report the Cabinet Members wished to stress that this does not prejudice any consultation on the separate matter of the Rights of Way at the Camber.

37. Social Enterprise Engagement (information report) (AI 14)

Innes Richens, Director of Adults Services, presented his information report

Councillor Winnington, Cabinet Member for Health, Wellbeing and Social Care, had requested both update reports and had found the social enterprise workshop very useful.

The information report was noted.

38. Adult Social Care - Care Costs (information report) (AI 15)

Innes Richens, Director of Adults Services, presented his information report.

Councillor Vernon-Jackson, Leader, asked that he be given an opportunity to meet with the care home representatives. Councillor Winnington, had requested the report to highlight the challenges being experienced by care providers

The update report was noted.

39. Date of next meeting (AI 16)

An additional Cabinet meeting will be held on Monday 25th March 2019 at a provisional time of 1pm.

The meeting concluded at 2.43 pm.

Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE
Leader of the Council