

CABINET

RECORD OF DECISIONS of the meeting of the Cabinet held on Monday, 25 March 2019 at 1.00 pm at the Guildhall, Portsmouth

Present

Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE (in the Chair)

Councillors Steve Pitt
Dave Ashmore
Suzy Horton
Darren Sanders
Jeanette Smith
Lynne Stagg
Rob Wood

40. Apologies for Absence (AI 1)

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Ben Dowling and Matthew Winnington, due to work commitments. Councillors Gerald Vernon-Jackson and Councillor Wood apologised that they would need to leave before the end of the meeting, with the Leader due to attend a Parliamentary Select Committee.

41. Declarations of Interests (AI 2)

None.

42. Record of Previous Decision Meeting - 12 March 2019 (AI 3)

Councillor Sanders wished to clarify on minute 32 (TECS Scrutiny Panel Review of Parking and Director's Response) that the Cabinet had supported **all** of the recommendations **including** TECS recommendation 3.

RESOLVED the record of decisions of the Cabinet meeting held on 12 March 2019 were agreed as a correct record, subject to this amendment, to be signed by the Leader.

43. Housing targets, housing supply and the Authority Monitoring Report (AI 4)

Toby Ayling, Planning Policy Manager, presented the report of the Assistant Director City Development, which gave an update on the national housing targets and the local supply. This was in the light of changing government policy, the emerging Local Plan (which was being drafted to run to 2036) and sought approval of the completed Council's Authority Monitoring Report. He explained the analysis of the government target, the key element of student housing provision in Portsmouth, and the fact that the Council were now unable to demonstrate a 5 year supply to meet the imposed target of 863 per

annum. If this level of development could not be achieved via the Local Plan the council is expected to speak to neighbouring authorities under the duty to co-operate, to see if it can be met elsewhere. Given the new housing figures and the Government's emphasis being placed on housing delivery, it was proposed to run a training session for all members of the Planning Committee regarding the implications of this for determining planning applications prior to the April committee meeting.

Councillor Vernon-Jackson, Leader, was concerned by the inconsistent approach of different government departments, by imposing these targets at a time when air quality in Portsmouth needed to be addressed. Toby Ayling reported the council was expected to consider air quality and other constraints and see to what extent they can be overcome.

Councillor Vernon-Jackson and Councillor Wood apologised for needing to leave the meeting during discussion of this item, and Councillor Steve Pitt, Deputy Leader, chaired the remainder of the meeting (for this item and the Community Infrastructure Levy item, with the agenda order having been varied).

Deputations are not minuted in full but can be viewed as part of the web-stream:

<https://livestream.com/accounts/14063785/Full-Cabinet-25Mar2019/videos/189136317>

Councillor Judith Smyth advocated a cross party approach for planning policy and for the new Local Plan to have ways of addressing the Climate Emergency, with developments having environmental measures such as electric car charge points and solar panels.

Councillor Luke Stubbs spoke about the reliance on student accommodation in recent years to meet the target, which would drop sharply with Portsmouth no longer having a 5 year land supply, therefore there would be a greater reliance on greener sites.

In response to members' questions Toby Ayling further reported that the figures given by the government were to be with immediate effect. It would not be quicker to adjust the existing Local Plan than carry on with the new draft Plan. The current timetable for the new local plan is for a draft Plan to be published by the end of 2019, for confirmation in summer 2020.

Councillor Lynne Stagg, Cabinet Member for Traffic & Transportation, was concerned regarding the lack of transport infrastructure and the pressure put on existing roads, causing congestion and the Council was already bidding for Transforming Cities Funds for South East Hants Rapid Transit to ease the existing problems.

Councillor Sanders asked if the new homes being built on PCC land in Havant would be included? It was reported that these would be reflected in Havant Borough Council's own Local Plan, and as such would increase the potential of Havant to meet unmet demand in Portsmouth. Paul Barton, Interim

Assistant Director City Development, reiterated the Duty to Cooperate, where neighbouring authorities are expected to demonstrate how they have made housing allocations that contribute to meeting Portsmouth's housing requirements, if possible. It was also clarified that the Milton Neighbourhood Plan would, when adopted, be used when considering individual planning applications, along with the Local Plan and national planning policy.

Members of the Cabinet were concerned that the housing numbers were being slanted because of student accommodation, when there is a local need for affordable housing and when air quality needs to be tackled. In response to the government's imposed targets that cannot be met a fourth recommendation was added.

DECISIONS - The Cabinet:

- (1) Noted the issues covered in this report, and in particular the implications for the local plan and determination of planning applications;**
- (2) Endorsed the proposals to brief Planning Committee on the implications of these announcements for determining planning applications;**
- (3) Approved the publication of the Authority Monitoring Report on the Council's website;**
- (4) Endorsed the Administration's view that the Government's housing target of 863 homes per year be replaced by a local housing target that reflects the desire to cut the city's air pollution, the Council's resolution to declare a Climate Emergency and the need for relevant transport infrastructure.**

44. Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) - revision to process of allocation (AI 5)

Chris Ward, Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer, introduced his report. This set out an alternative proposal for CIL generated by development over £1m in value, with the first £150k of the neighbourhood portion being allocated to the ward of the development site, which would mean less in the "corporate pot" being non ring-fenced for city-wide schemes, but with the £150k cap other sites would benefit from larger schemes of over £1m. The date of implementation reflected the existing capital programme.

Cabinet Members supported Option 2 to give benefit to the wards which would see major development taking place.

DECISION -

The Cabinet considered which of the two options was in the best interests of residents, considering the balance between retaining a proportion of CIL funding for significant developments within the Ward where it is generated versus the benefits of allocating that funding for City wide use, and favoured

Option 2:

- i) Where the CIL generated by a development is at least £1m, the first £150,000 of the neighbourhood portion is allocated to the Ward in which**

the development sits (as is the case for developments that generate CIL of less than £1m) and the remainder of the neighbourhood portion is allocated for neighbourhood infrastructure that benefits areas including and beyond the Ward in where it was generated (as set out in section 4 and 5 of this report)

ii) That this procedure will take effect for developments commencing on or after 1st April 2020.

45. Revenue Budget Monitoring Quarter 3 (AI 6)

Chris Ward, Director of Finance & Information Technology and Section 151 Officer, presented his report for quarter 3 (running to the end of December 2018). This set out the proposals to deal with the Council's decision to reduce the Revenue Budget by £2.5m.

DECISIONS - The Cabinet agreed:

(i) The reduction of £2,500,000 in the Revised Budget 2018/19 arising from the approved Budget Amendment is met by the following:

a) Reducing the Revenue Contribution to the Capital Reserve by £1,436,000 which, in turn, requires each of the capital schemes outlined in Section 5 to be reduced by the amounts shown

b) A transfer from Portfolio Reserves (i.e. appropriation) of £1,064,000 as outlined in Sections 5 & 6.

(ii) The resulting £2,500,000 increase is used to re-instate the Other Expenditure budget to meet the estimated loss arising from the disposal of Victory Energy Supply Limited

(iii) Members noted:

(a) A forecast overspend of £2,322,000 before further forecast transfers (from)/to Portfolio Reserves

(b) A forecast overspend of £812,600 after further forecast transfers (from)/to Portfolio Reserves

(c) 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.

(d) That on 12th February 2019 City Council approved that any underspending for 2018/19 arising at year-end outside of those made by Portfolio's be transferred to Capital resources.

(iv) Directors, in consultation with the appropriate Cabinet Member, 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.

46. International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance Guidelines on Anti-semitism (AI 7)

Councillor Pitt sought clarification that the Cabinet would be adopting the guidelines, rather than the Notice of Motion as a whole; this was confirmed by the City Solicitor.

DECISION: The Cabinet accepted adoption of the guidelines as set out by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance and their definition of antisemitism.

47. Sister City Link with Sylhet (AI 8)

Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson, as Leader, welcomed this proposal which would bring economic prosperity for both cities and was pleased to have received the letter from the Mayor of Sylhet.

Councillor Jeanette Smith, Cabinet Member for Resources, also saw this as an economic development initiative, as there were no twinning funds to support additional exchanges, so a further report would be brought to look at how this would be resourced.

The Leader asked that a letter be send to the Mayor of Sylhet to progress the sister city link.

DECISION: The Cabinet agreed that Portsmouth enter into a Sister City relationship with the Sylhet City Corporation and that the Economic Development Manager devise a formal work plan linked to operational economic development results which will benefit both cities.

48. Forward Plan Omission - relating to Open Access to Youth Provision (AI 9)

The Cabinet noted:

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

49. Open Access to Youth Provision (AI 10)

Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson, Leader, welcomed the proposals to provide constructive activities for young people in areas where there was little open access currently provided. He was grateful to all involved in giving a flexible, cross-portfolio approach and for the involvement of the voluntary sector. These schemes were planned to run from the summer holidays across the city.

Gail Hancock, Interim Deputy Director Children's Services, reported on the plans to commission local voluntary sector colleagues to build on the open access and community provision already in Council Housing areas. The schemes would focus on sport and physical activities but would also include arts and would promote safety and wellbeing.

Councillor Darren Sanders, Cabinet Member for Housing, was delighted by the report and acknowledged the excellent work already taking place on housing estates, and felt this should not stop at these boundaries in helping to tackle Anti-Social Behaviour and improve the lives of teenagers.

DECISIONS - The Cabinet agreed:

(1) The City Council commission additional open access youth services for children and young people aged 10 years and older for a 2 year period in 2019/20 and 2020/21.

(2) That £250,000 be released from the Environment & Community Safety Portfolio Reserve each year for two years to fund this.

(3) That these services are commissioned from the voluntary sector, linking with the arrangements to promote 'Trusted Adult' relationships, funded through the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, in line with the national strategy for tackling serious violence.

(4) That the City Council helps to identify facilities which can be used by the voluntary sector providers to allow them to deliver this service.

(5) That this project starts in the early part of the 2019/20 financial year.

50. Trees - notification of work on trees on the Highway (information item) (AI 11)

Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson, Leader, was keen that a system for tree the responsibility of Colas came in that was similar to the notification for works on trees in parks. This would enable residents to know in advance of proposed works, with explanatory notices appearing on the trees and it was suggested that this also include explaining if trees were to be heavily pruned.

The procedure was supported by Cabinet Members and it was reported that information about trees going in was already part of the contract with Colas. Councillor Suzy Horton commented on the useful information circulated to all councillors in December regarding siting of trees in their wards to help suggest new locations, which would be worth repeating. Councillor Lynne Stagg reported that trees can also go in redundant build-outs.

The Cabinet noted the protocol for public notification for proposals to fell trees on the highway, pavements and verges.

The meeting concluded at 2.20 pm.

Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE
Leader of the Council