

CABINET

RECORD OF DECISIONS of the meeting of the Cabinet held on Wednesday, 24 July 2019 at 12.00 pm at the Guildhall, Portsmouth

Present

Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE (in the Chair)

Councillors Dave Ashmore
Lee Hunt
Suzy Horton
Darren Sanders
Lynne Stagg
Matthew Winnington
Rob Wood
Tom Wood

80. Apologies for Absence (AI 1)

These had been received from Councillor Steve Pitt and David Williams, Chief Executive who were at a meeting regarding the nitrates position. Councillor Stagg had apologised for arriving late.

Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson welcomed new cabinet member Councillor Tom Wood to his first meeting.

81. Declarations of Interests (AI 2)

Councillor Darren Sanders made a non-pecuniary declaration regarding the Supplementary Planning Document for Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) in that he lives in an HMO. During discussion of Climate Change he declared that he is a donor to the package free larder and is involved in "Let Pompey Breathe" groups but these were non-prejudicial and non-pecuniary interests.

82. Record of a Previous Decision Meeting - 25 June 2019 (AI 3)

RESOLVED that the record of decisions of the Cabinet meeting held on 25 June 2019 be approved as a correct record to be signed by the Chair.

83. Appointments to outside bodies (AI 4)

DECISION:

Councillor Lee Hunt was appointed as one of the two Cabinet Members on the Portchester Crematorium Joint Committee.

84. Local Plan and Tipner Consultation Response and Way Forward (AI 5)

The Leader, on behalf of the Cabinet, wished Toby Ayling well in his new job and thanked him for all his work for Portsmouth City Council.

Toby Ayling, Planning Policy Manager, presented the report and reported that whilst a summary was appended, a fuller version of responses was available to view on PCC's website. Dialogue was continuing with Havant BC under the "Duty to Co-operate", as well as other neighbouring authorities and PUSH. He reported that the main report should also reference the Director of Housing, who would be involved in the signing of the Statement of Common Ground with Havant BC, as per recommendation (2).

The Cabinet welcomed the report but raised concern at the idea of a "super peninsula" and the problems caused by the government's housing targets of around 830 dwellings p.a. There should be evidence given of the work to explore all options, but noted the restrictions on land designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). They also encouraged environmentally friendly and sustainable developments. It was acknowledged that this required working together to utilise sites, including those owned by PCC in Havant.

DECISIONS The Cabinet:

(1) Noted the issues raised in this report, and endorsed the proposed approach the Local Plan set out in the Way Forward section of the report, including the work to address sustainability and ecological considerations and climate change; and

(2) Delegated to the Director of Regeneration, in consultation with the Leader and Cabinet Member for Culture and City Development, and the Director of Housing, Neighbourhoods and Buildings Services and Cabinet Member for Housing, authority to sign and keep updated a Statement of Common Ground with Havant Borough Council in line with this report.

85. Houses in Multiple Occupation Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) (AI 6)

Toby Ayling, Planning Policy Manager, introduced this report which addressed balancing the perceived need and concentration of HMOs with the protection of the neighbourhood environment. The policy would then be consulted on for 6 weeks (extended from the usual 4 weeks due to the summer timing).

Councillor Sanders, as Cabinet Member for Housing, welcomed the report which was trying to address the need to make private renting easier in the city.

In response to Councillor Tom Wood's question on the rewording in the SPD document (at 1.14) it was reported that there was a reflection of Planning Inspectors' decisions as there was a need to demonstrate harm when turning down an application. Councillor Horton, stressed that the Planning Committee was not against all HMO proposals, as high quality ones that did not overload an area were given due consideration, and this was a useful document. Councillor Hunt raised the concern that there was not a clear

picture of HMO coverage in the north of the city. The Planning committee would continue to consider each application on its own merit, but the SPD gave greater guidance. Councillor Vernon-Jackson appreciated the work on this and was pleased that the current 10% rule helped to prevent over concentration in areas.

DECISIONS:

(1) That the proposed changes to the HMO SPD be published for a period of 6 weeks of public consultation;

(2) The Assistant Director of Planning and Economic Development be authorised to make editorial amendments to the wording of the amended SPD prior to publication, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Culture and City Development. These amendments shall not alter the meaning of the document.

86. Greening the City Update (AI 7)

Daniel Young, Senior Planning Officer, presented this report which was an update of the plan approved by the Cabinet Member for Planning, Regeneration and Economic Development in November 2018. This was a short term plan, including a list of potential sites for planting in the coming year, with the long term being addressed by the Local Plan.

Members of the Cabinet welcomed the report and Councillor Stagg spoke of the need to include local groups and businesses in planting schemes. Councillor Sanders referred to the Trees Council recognition of Portsmouth as an exemplar authority. He suggested links were made with the Woodland Trust and the need for a co-ordinated approach in the city. Councillor Winnington spoke on the health benefits which would encourage more walking and cycling in the city. Councillor Rob Wood also welcomed the report but asked for the planting of appropriate trees, taking into account the impact on residents, and he knew there was a demand from people to be involved in planting projects. Councillor Hunt also welcomed the involvement of volunteers, suggesting contact be made with HIVE.

DECISIONS - The Cabinet:

(1) Noted the progress and ongoing work as set out in this report.

(2) Endorsed the proposals set out in the appendix project update summary table.

87. Responding to Climate Change (AI 8)

(It was agreed to vary the agenda order for this item to be heard earlier in the meeting.)

The deputations are not minuted in full but can be seen as part of the webcasting of the meeting here:

<https://livestream.com/accounts/14063785/Full-Cabinet-24Jul2019>

Following the presentation of the Chief Executive's report by Kelly Nash, Corporate Performance Manager, deputations were made by:

- i) Paula Savage - asking what progress had been made since the council's Notice of Motion declaring a Climate Emergency, and listing environmental initiatives in other cities nationally and internationally that had good practice that should be investigated.
- ii) Nick Sebley from Extinction Rebellion asking for changes to be brought in more swiftly and with ambition to tackle vehicle emissions and suggesting amendments to the report to reach targets and audit policies and contracts, have wider involvement in the Climate Change Board and make funding for a community engagement plan.
- iii) Councillor Judith Smyth circulated a list of 13 suggestions, citing good practice at Nottingham and Camden councils, suggestion all reports have environmental impact assessments and ensure PCC (and its Local Plan), its partners and contractors were also required to consider carbon reduction, further use of solar panels on PCC buildings and improve public transport and cycleways, reiterating the need to set SMART targets until 2030.

Councillor Vernon-Jackson, as Leader, had spoken with the Section 151 Officer regarding the suggested proposals, as he wished to look at implementing these where possible and these needed to be properly investigated to ensure legality and for these to be costed.

Councillor Ashmore, Cabinet Member for Environment & Climate Change, thanked officers for the report and those who had made deputations. He reported that some of the ideas were already being looked at such as the package free larder and there were solar panels across council buildings. The Climate Change Board was being established to look at the ideas raised and the setting of targets. Councillor Ashmore proposed an additional recommendation as an amendment to allocate funding to take forward the suggestions and appoint a Climate Change Officer to facilitate this work.

Councillor Hunt referred to PCC's in-house energy team recently having won a prize for energy efficiency and he was aware that LED lighting was being investigated and tree planting was being encouraged on PCC land. Councillor Rob Wood referred to the need to work together and the support given to the previous plastic free Notice of Motion in 2016.

Councillor Sanders, as Cabinet Member for Housing, offered to help the package free larder find a suitable location. He supported the need to be more radical in cutting fossil fuel use in the city.

Councillor Horton, as Cabinet Member for Education, spoke of the need to take the community along with the green agenda, such as the Playstreets, and of the success of school initiatives to raise awareness. In Nottingham there had been an impact on businesses when the trams had been introduced.

Councillor Winnington, Cabinet Member for Health, Wellbeing and Social Care, was also Vice-Chair of Portsmouth Cycle Forum, spoke of the public health implications of a less congested city.

Councillor Stagg, as Cabinet Member for Traffic & Transportation was involved in talks with the private bus operators regarding the viability of routes and ways to encourage higher passenger numbers, and spoke generally on the need for an integrated transport strategy.

Councillor Vernon-Jackson, as Leader, was happy to work on the suggestions made by the deputations, including the 6 points made by Mr Sebley, which would be taken through the Climate Change Board before further reports were brought back to Cabinet. Work was already taking place to reduce waste and to examine why the Park and Ride was not being used to capacity. He explained that the report being classed as not a "key decision" was a procedural one relating to the published Forward Plan, and that the report and the issues arising from it were receiving the full attention of the Cabinet.

DECISIONS

The Cabinet approved:

- (1) the proposals in section 4 (and specifically 4.1) of the report to respond to the Notice of Motion adopted on 19th March 2019, to declare a climate change emergency in Portsmouth;**
- (2) Working into the City Council's Climate Change response suggestions from Extinction Rebellion and others about the work that the Climate Change Board should be looking at urgently to move this process forward;**
- (3) That funding for a Climate Change Officer be provided from the Environment and Climate Change portfolio reserve up to a limit of £40,000.**

The meeting concluded at 1.55 pm.

Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE
Leader of the Council