

CABINET

RECORD OF DECISIONS of the meeting of the Cabinet held on Monday, 9 September 2019 at 4.00 pm at the Guildhall, Portsmouth

Present

Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE (in the Chair)

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

91. Apologies for Absence (AI 1)

Councillor Steve Pitt and Chief Executive David Williams had submitted apologies for absence.

92. Declarations of Interests (AI 2)

None.

93. Records of Previous Decision Meetings - 25 June, 1 July, 9 July and 24 July 2019 (AI 3)

RESOLVED that the record of previous Cabinet decision meetings held on 25 June, 1 July, 9 July and 24 July 2019 be approved as correct records.

94. Response to the Housing & Social Care Scrutiny Panel review of the provision of temporary accommodation (AI 4)

Councillor Luke Stubbs, Chair of the Housing & Social Care (HSC) Scrutiny Panel, presented the panel's report which had looked at the increased pressure on temporary accommodation and the reasons behind it. They had looked at the drivers of homelessness, linked to termination of private sector tenancies and recognised the need to increase the supply of available properties.

Councillor Gerald Vernon Jackson, as Leader, and Councillor Darren Sanders, as Cabinet Member for Housing, welcomed the work of the panel. Councillor Sanders expanded on work taking place to address issues highlighted in the recommendations and the director's response report which they looked forward to seeing implemented. Recommendation 3 was only partly supported as use of hotels and B&Bs would only be used where appropriate. Councillor Sanders was pleased that as well as the Council

providing affordable housing it was ensuring this is provided within major developments in the city such as the former Kingston Prison site. A review of making renting in the private sector easier and safer was taking place. Cabinet members also asked about work with ex-forces personnel and links with mental health providers and the Leader mentioned the Hope into Action assistance and liaison with the CCG.

DECISIONS:

(1) That the Housing & Social Care Panel be thanked for its work in undertaking the review

(2) The Cabinet noted and supported the recommendations of the review, which are listed in section 8 of the report and the response of officers which are set out in section 4 of the response report.

95. Air Quality Local Plan - Progress Update (AI 5)

Pam Turton, Assistant Director Transport, presented the report which gave an update on the production of the Air Quality Local Plan and which set out a range of non-charging methods to have compliance with reduced impact on residents and businesses in the City.

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

<https://livestream.com/accounts/14063785/Full-Cabinet-09Sep2019>

- i) Tim Sheerman-Chase speaking against the report which he did not feel went far enough to address cars as the main source of pollution, and questioning the modelling and legality, stressing the need to prioritise active travel and make long term improvements.
- ii) Councillor Luke Stubbs who did not want to see a charging zone imposed that would damage business and seeking clarity on the non-charging measures and questioning the costs involved.

Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson, as Leader stressed that this position was not of PCC's choosing but was in response to government imposed directives. He circulated a copy of a letter he had received from Bob Seely MP for the Isle of Wight asking for traffic going to the Isle of Wight to be exempted. There would be another report needed on the business case submission during October. The Leader reported that DEFRA had been written to but no response had been received and a request from PCC had been made for investment in bus and cycle transport, as happens for London. Cabinet Members were also concerned on the potential economic impact on residents who may not be able to afford to change their cars. Councillor Ashmore, Cabinet Member Environment and Climate Change, was keen to hear from the government on these requests for investment to encourage more use of buses and better infrastructure for cyclists. Councillor Stagg, Cabinet Member for Transport, reiterated the need for the infrastructure to encourage walking and cycling in the city and less reliance on cars. Councillor Winnington, Cabinet Member for Health Wellbeing and Social Care,

supported the report and the need to make changes to bring health improvements for residents. Councillor Hunt, Cabinet Member for Community Safety, outlined the Council's recognition of energy efficiency prowess.

DECISIONS - The Cabinet:

- (1) Noted the progress made in the development of the Air Quality Local Plan; and**
- (2) Approved the proposed preferred package as set out in paragraph 5.12 as the preferred option to be taken forward to outline business case development; that is a Class B CAZ is combined with a number of non-charging measures to ensure that compliance is achieved within the shortest possible time i.e by 2022.**
- (3) Supported amendments to Appendix 1 review of options and packages for Outline Business Case (pages 59 and 60 of Cabinet pack of papers) to add:**
 - i) ask the Director of Public Health to write to parents of children in Portsmouth Schools regarding the health benefits of children walking to school**
 - ii) investigate fast charging points at taxi ranks and where private hire vehicles gather**
 - iii) ask the government to give the same level of financial support to Portsmouth, to encourage cycling, walking and bus use, as happens for London**
 - iv) ask for government investment to fund bus passes for Portsmouth residents****and**
 - v) regarding A1 and A2 of 'Measures to reduce private car use' it was noted that as most parking in the city centre is outside the control of the City Council, these measures are unlikely to produce any change in air quality.**

96. Treasury Management Outturn Report for 2018/19 (AI 6)

Chris Ward, Director of Finance and S151 Officer, presented his report. The conclusions were set out in Appendix B and he confirmed that the Council had remained within its limits. In response to a question from Councillor Wood, he confirmed that borrowing had tended to take place at times of low interest rates, but these take place in tranches.

RECOMMENDED to Council that the actual prudential and treasury management indicators based on the unaudited* accounts, as shown in Appendix B, be noted (an explanation of the prudential and treasury management indicators is contained in Appendix C).

* Since this report was written the Council's auditors have issued an unqualified audit opinion on the Council's accounts and the prudential and treasury management indicators are therefore confirmed.

97. Draft Portsmouth Economic Development and Regeneration Strategy 2019-36 (AI 7)

Mark Pembleton, Economic Growth Manager, presented this report and explained the need to update the strategy to bring it in line with the Local Industrial Strategy and the national planning framework, so this document would underpin the emerging Local Plan. Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson agreed that the strategy was crucial for the provision of better paid jobs for local families.

DECISIONS:

(1) Cabinet noted the consultation responses from both the survey and the focus groups (see appendix 2) which are on the whole positive and supportive of the strategy.

(2) Cabinet delegated to the Director of Regeneration to consider the key objectives and proposed actions of the strategy and to ensure that the Council is able to deliver measurable outcomes supporting the economic development and regeneration agenda, working with key stakeholders in the city subject to Council approval of the strategy.

(3) Cabinet noted the alignment of the strategy with Council corporate objectives and its commitment to the environment following the Declaration of a Climate Change Emergency for Portsmouth.

(4) Cabinet noted the alignment of the strategy with the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership's work on the new Local Industrial Strategy.

And Cabinet RECOMMENDED to the City Council that:

(5) Council adopts the Portsmouth Economic Development and Regeneration Strategy 2019-36.

98. Directors' Response report to the Economic Development, Culture & Leisure (EDCL) Scrutiny Panel's review of Portsmouth International Port (AI 8)

Councillor George Fielding, Chair of the Economic Development, Culture & Leisure (EDCL) Scrutiny Panel commended the report's recommendations to the Cabinet. Mark Webb, Port Finance Manager, presented the Port Director's response report which supported the panel's recommendations and detailed actions that were already underway.

Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson, as Leader, commended the work of the Port's management team and the importance of investment in the Port for the benefit of the city. He was delighted that Brittany Ferries had entered a long term contract and that Geest had returned. Councillor Winnington (who had previously been an EDCL Scrutiny Panel member), was grateful for the report and welcomed the recommendations and the marketing campaigns which highlight this resource for the local area. Councillor Wood also welcomed the

expansion of Port activities and he would be kept informed of the unaccompanied minors issues (recommendation 8) as Cabinet Member for Children & Families. Councillor Hunt was pleased to read the environmental measures being taken at the terminal building and on-site.

DECISIONS:

(1) That the Economic Development, Culture & Leisure (EDCL) Panel be thanked for its work in undertaking the review;

(2) That the EDCL Scrutiny Panel's recommendations be approved in line with the responses noted in section 4 of the response report by the Port Director.

99. Oxford Economics Study of Portsmouth International Port (information report) (AI 9)

The information report was noted.

100. Victory Energy Supply Limited - Disposal (information item) (AI 10)

The information report was noted.

The meeting concluded at 5.15 pm.

Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE
Leader of the Council