

CABINET

RECORD OF DECISIONS of the meeting of the Cabinet held remotely on Tuesday, 2 February 2021 at 12pm.

Present

Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE (in the Chair)
Chris Attwell
Steve Pitt
Dave Ashmore
Suzy Horton
Darren Sanders
Lynne Stagg
Matthew Winnington
Hugh Mason

7. Declarations of Interests (AI 1)

Agenda item 8 - New Theatre Royal

Councillor Hugh Mason asked the City Solicitor whether his position as a council appointed director on the Kings Theatre would be considered a prejudicial interest.

Peter Baulf, the City Solicitor advised that it was a personal but not prejudicial interest.

8. Apologies for Absence (AI 2)

Councillor Lee Hunt sent his apologies.

9. Record of Previous Decision Meetings - 1 December 2020, 17 December 2020 and 5 January 2021 (AI 3)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the following meetings be agreed and signed as correct records:

1 December 2020

17 December 2020

5 January 2021

10. Extension of Food Waste Collections. (AI 4)

Colette Hill, Assistant Director of Neighbourhoods introduced the report.

Members were pleased that the scheme has made a significant impact on reducing waste and carbon emissions and increasing recycling.

DECISIONS

The Cabinet:

- i) Noted the progress and outcomes of the existing two food waste collection round trials and agree to continue these for a further 12 months from September 2021.

- ii) Approved an extension of a further two rounds for a 12 month period from September 2021 at a cost of £300,000 and that this be funded from the Cabinet Reserve but subject to the following:
 - a. Full Council approval on 9th February 2021 of the mainstreaming of the current 2 Food Waste Recycling rounds into base budgets at a cost of £300,000 (including the associated necessary savings to fund it).
 - b. Full Council approval on 9th February 2021 of the Capital Scheme to fund the associated Capital Costs of £340,000 which includes 2 additional waste vehicles, additional bins and receptacles plus project costs.

11. Portsmouth Lottery (AI 5)

Catherine Ramsay, Business Development and Projects Manager introduced the report.

During the discussion that followed members noted that the approach was sensible and would help increase participation.

DECISION

The transfer of the Portsmouth Lottery to HIVE Portsmouth as the community strategic partner was approved.

- 12. This agenda item is no longer required as this report has been combined with the report in agenda item 6. (AI 7)**
- 13. Portsmouth City Council - Budget & Council Tax 2021/22 & Medium Term Budget Forecast 2022/23 to 2024/25 (AI 6)**

Chris Ward, Director of Finance & Resources introduced the report and asked members to note the following corrections to the report:

Section 3.4. Should read: That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the financial year 2021/22 in accordance with Section 31 and Sections 34 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

The reference to council tax surplus should read deficits.

During the discussion the following points were clarified:

- The £3m underspend from last year would be transferred to the savings account to be spent on the Capital Programme.
- The council works hard every year to spend less than projected.
- There are a number of risks regarding income from business rates and a 1% decrease has been factored in.

RECOMMENDED to Council that the recommendations set out in section 3 of the report be approved subject to the following correction:

That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the financial year 2021/22 in accordance with Section 31 and Sections 34 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

14. New Theatre Royal (AI 8)

Claire Looney, Partnership & Commissioning Manager introduced the report.

Members noted that the council had been involved with the trust early last year about the difficulties it was experiencing even before Covid 19. It is of paramount importance that this asset survives particularly as it is in an area where cultural assets are at a premium.

DECISION

The Cabinet authorised officers to complete the negotiations for the sale of the freehold of the New Theatre Royal to Portsmouth City Council in order to retain the building for public use.

15. EU Exit - Provision of Border Control Points at Portsmouth International Port (AI 9)

Mike Sellers, Port Director introduced the report and in response to questions from members he and John Royal, National Farmers Union representing the Livestock industry in the UK clarified the following points:

A number of EU ports had been contacted. Calais replied to state that it would only transport horses and live poultry.

The government is investing in the White Cliffs inland facility but this is at very early stages.

There are no alternatives to Portsmouth available.

As nothing will be ready by 1 July, a transition period has been requested.

Penny Mordaunt MP has applied pressure on the government to progress this issue.

Portsmouth Port is recognised as strategically important and resilient.

Councillor Vernon-Jackson noted that the council will not pursue the building of the BCP at a cost of £7m to facilitate a trade that is limited to £23,000/ year. However, it was agreed that the council would continue to apply pressure on the government to obtain funding.

DECISION

The report was noted.

16. Shareholder Committee - appointment of members (AI 10)

Sophie Mallon, Head of commercial, procurement and regeneration introduced the report.

Members noted the importance of ensuring that the council has oversight of the companies it runs.

DECISION

The Cabinet appointed:

- i. Members of the Shareholder Committee in accordance with the terms of appointment as per the Cabinet Report of 26 March 2020 (as detailed below);
- ii. Members of the Shareholder Committee to work with the City solicitor to finalise terms of reference and incorporate the Local Government Lawyer best practice guidance (at appendix A) to ensure the necessary constitution changes take place.

17. Forward Plan Omission. (AI 11)

DECISIONS

1. The omission to the Forward Plan for 4 January to 23 February 2021 was noted.
2. Publication of the omission notice was noted.

18. Exclusion of Press and Public. (AI 12)

DECISION

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 appendices B, D & F of the Cosham Development Sites report as it contains information defined as exempt in Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act, 1972.

19. Cosham Development Sites. (AI 13)

Tom Southall, Assistant Director Property & Investment introduced the report.

Chris Ward asked members to note that recommendations 2.2 - 2.4 were subject to the approval of 2.5.

Members noted that:

This is part of a significant package of investment in the north of the city which will improve the health and wellbeing of residents in not only Cosham but also Wymering, one of the most deprived communities in the area.

The council has worked with public sector partners for this project.

It will enable the police and fire services to modernise with delivery of services in the new site.

DECISIONS

The Cabinet approved and authorised that:

1. Subject to the approval and successful negotiation of recommendations 2.2 and 2.3 the Freehold of the land known as Portsmouth Craft and Manufacturing Industries (PCMI), 85 Northern Road, Cosham, Portsmouth PO6 3EP as shown edged red on the plan at Appendix A and forming part of title PM24912 be sold freehold to the acquiring party (for the consideration outlined confidentially in Appendix B).
2. The Freehold of the land known as Cosham Fire Station, Wayte Street, Cosham, Portsmouth PO6 3BS as shown edged red on the plan at Appendix C and forming part of title PM35957 and PM37047 be acquired by Portsmouth City Council (for the consideration set out confidentially in Appendix D).
3. The freehold of land known as Cosham Police Station, Wayte Street, Cosham, Portsmouth PO6 3BS as shown edged red on the plan at Appendix E and forming part of title PM13256 be acquired by Portsmouth City Council (for the consideration set out in confidential Appendix F.)
4. The Director of Regeneration and City Solicitor be authorised to finalise negotiations, prepare and complete the necessary documentation in line with the intent of the Heads of Terms, to appoint a third party solicitor and to complete all necessary documentation in order to undertake 1, 2 & 3 above.

And that the Cabinet recommends to City Council that:

5. Authority is delegated to the Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer in consultation with the Leader of the Council to allocate all proceeds of the sale of PCMI, (85 Northern Road) to be used to acquire Cosham Fire Station and Cosham Police Station and that any surplus proceeds remaining are used to bring forward the development opportunity.

The meeting concluded at 1.05pm.

Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE
Leader of the Council