

CABINET

RECORD OF DECISIONS of the meeting of the Cabinet held on Tuesday, 27 July 2021 at 12.00 pm at the Guildhall, Portsmouth

Present

Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE (in the Chair)

Councillors Suzy Horton
Dave Ashmore
Chris Attwell
Hugh Mason
Darren Sanders
Lynne Stagg

52. Apologies for Absence (AI 1)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Kimberly Barrett, Ben Dowling, Councillor Jason Fazackarley, Peter Baulf (City Solicitor and Monitoring Officer) and Colette Hill (Assistant Director of Neighbourhoods). Start at 52.

53. Declarations of Interests (AI 2)

There were no declarations of interests.

54. Record of Previous Decision Meeting (AI 3)

The record of decisions from the previous Cabinet meeting held on 22 June 2021 were approved as a correct record.

55. Draft Portsmouth Local Plan Consultation with Local Plan Consultation Strategy (AI 4)

Members agreed to discuss the agenda item with agenda item 5 they are closely linked. Ian Maguire, Assistant Director, Planning & Economic Growth, introduced the report and outlined the consultation process.

Councillors Cal Corkery and Judith Smyth made deputations which can be viewed at

[Agenda for Cabinet on Tuesday, 27th July, 2021, 12.00 pm Portsmouth City Council](#)

Councillor Vernon-Jackson thanked Planning officers for their work and read out five proposed additional recommendations. The plans for Tipner West are highly sensitive and attracting a great deal of interest so it would be sensible to establish a cross-party working group (three members from each one) to give a chance to challenge the government's proposed target of 17,000 homes in Portsmouth. As well as Councillor Vernon-Jackson, the Liberal Democrat representatives would be Councillors Ben Dowling and Hugh Mason due to their respective portfolios.

In discussion, members made the following points:

The Local Plan should be considered as a whole and as an integrated plan for the city rather than a set of separate possibilities. It is understandable that people may be concerned about new developments. The council needs to consider the implications of various options. Under the requirements of Regulation 18 the council should consult as widely as possible. Community engagement is important and the council must learn from councils who did not fully engage with residents.

The 30% affordable housing target has been difficult to achieve so far but should be kept as an aspiration even though realistically it may not be achieved. However, the Tipner development will have 30% or even more. Travellers' sites need more space per family than with ordinary housing; it is a demanding use of land. Suggestions of locations for sites that do not reduce housing opportunities for Portsmouth residents are welcome.

The target of 17,000 homes is unachievable unless there is compromise. People want green spaces not tower blocks. One third of council housing tenants receive housing benefit, a third receive partial housing benefit combined with a low-paid job (in-work poverty) and a third do not receive housing benefit. People in work would like to own their home so the council needs to increase the number of homes people own. There have been issues around site specific plans like the former Kingston Prison and St James' Hospital. There are some issues around walking and cycling between Landport and the city centre.

Although the proposed Tipner development is a concern members will continue to work with rather than against organisations such as the RSPB and Environment Agency. Whatever form it takes there has to be a 10% increase in biodiversity and the council will have to find compensatory sites to mitigate against any environmental impact. There are three options for Tipner - an aspirational plan use only the land the council has in different ways, do nothing - all of which have sub-options which the cross-party working group will consider in greater detail as the Local Plan is not set in stone. Tipner is a low-lying area and will be flooded in 50 to 100 years if nothing is done with sea defences. There are many questions to be considered such as transport links with Stamshaw, the balance between protecting nature and the need for housing, how to manage City Deal funding and how much to spend on sea defences. The solution needs to be something the city can sustain, not a government algorithm. The cross-party working group is a good idea as the Local Plan does not belong to any particular party.

Portsmouth is an advanced manufacturing city, particularly for advanced marine manufacturing, and should build on this heritage. There are some great opportunities and the council must look to the next 30 years.

In response to questions from members, officers explained that

Ian Maguire will speak to the portfolio holder about additional face-to-face engagement events around affordable housing. National Planning Policy Guidance requires a significant proportion of affordable housing as part of the First Homes scheme. With regard to the perceived lack of need for gypsy and

traveller sites, accommodation assessments for these sites are very different to those for static demand as there is a big overlap between choice and demand as they require a type different accommodation; a transit site is more an amenity than a home. Furthermore, people within traveller communities have different approaches to transience. Historically there has been a very low number of unauthorised encampments in Portsmouth which indicates low demand for sites.

The policy on community and leisure facilities is to retain and improve existing ones. New communities like Tipner will need to be integrated with existing communities and proportionate to their growth.

Site specific viability appraisals have been conducted. Tipner is capable of achieving the 30% affordable homes target; others would be below the aspiration number. However, proposals are still being formulated. There are concerns about connectivity in Landport because of the large road network between housing and the city centre so this is a driver for improvement.

Councillor Smyth requested that it be recorded that it is not Labour policy to support Walter Menteth's scheme but they support considering alternatives. It was disappointing as a prelude to inter-agency working, particularly as Councillor Sanders has pioneered work on inter-agency working for rough sleepers.

Summing up, Councillor Vernon-Jackson said that the target of 17,000 homes would have a detrimental effect on residents' lives and the environment. Portsmouth is a unique city so needs a unique solution. Fulfilling the target would mean taking over green space and land for employment; it is not desirable for people to drive out of Portsmouth for work. He was pleased to see questions raised over Tipner West; however, other options are not straightforward and 3,000 homes would need to be situated elsewhere. All parties have to work together to find an option that suits everyone. He would prefer a different Local Plan with more affordable housing and employment but the council is constrained by the government. He thanked James Hill, Director, Housing, Neighbourhoods & Buildings, and his team for their work on consultation.

DECISIONS

Cabinet

- 1. Approved the Portsmouth draft Local Plan consultation document for at least 6 weeks of public consultation.**
- 2. Approved the Local Plan consultation communications plan and suggested budget of £30,000.**
- 3. Delegated authority to the Assistant Director of Planning and Economic Growth to modify and make editorial changes to the Portsmouth draft Local Plan consultation document, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning Policy and City Development (if required).**
- 4. Rejected the Government's target of more than 17,000 homes for Portsmouth.**

5. Believed the decision on housing need in Portsmouth should be made by local people in Portsmouth.
6. Also believed the target cannot be met without significant impact on the protected habitats that surround Portsmouth. It would be wholly wrong for the Government to unaccountably require the Council to cause environmental harm by over-riding environmental protection legislation.
7. Asked therefore the Leader to write to the Government to establish whether the Secretary of State for Housing Communities and Local Government believes the housing target and the necessary associated development in the Tipner-Horsea Island area are of such overriding public interest as to justify the scale of development required and the impacts on the ecology of the Solent Waters.
8. Believed that, if Government does not consider there to be such a justification, then Portsmouth demands a significantly lower housing target so that environmentally sensitive areas are not forced into development.

56. Local Development Scheme update (AI 5)

Ian Maguire, Assistant Director, Planning & Economic Growth, introduced the report which was discussed together with agenda item 4.

DECISIONS

Cabinet

1. Approved the revised Local Plan timetable set out in the Local Development Scheme (LDS). The revised LDS to have effect from 27th July 2021.
2. Granted delegated authority to Assistant Director Planning & Economic Growth to make minor amendments to the LDS and Development Plan Document timetables as necessary.
3. Noted the progression of other Portsmouth Development Plan Documents and Supporting Planning Policy documents.

57. Future of Waste Collection Services 4 (AI 6)

David Emmett, Head of Waste Disposal, introduced the report. Members were pleased to note that Portsmouth was ahead of the curve in adopting recycling initiatives.

DECISION

Cabinet

1. Noted the likely outcomes of the Environment Bill - in particular the requirement for a consistent set of materials to be collected.
2. Agreed with the principle of the provision of a twin stream recycling collection system rather than a kerbside sort system, and delegate authority to the Director of Housing, Neighbourhoods and Building Services to develop a detailed plan for implementation of a twin stream collection service in the City. (Twin stream will require 2 recycling containers, kerbside sort will require 4 recycling containers, see 3.7).

3. **Noted that the delivery of a twin stream collection system is dependent on the outcomes of the Environment Bill, agreement by Waste Disposal partners on the provision of a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) to enable twin stream collection, and agreement from other Hampshire waste collection authorities to deliver a twin stream collection service.**
4. **Noted that a further report will be brought to Cabinet with the business case for the provision of the MRF later this year.**
5. **Agreed that a further report is brought to Cabinet for decision to agree a final specification for the twin stream collection service ahead of implementation.**

58. Household Waste Recycling Centre Operations update and booking system (AI 7)

David Emmett, Head of Waste Disposal, introduced the report. Members noted that the booking system is proving a success.

DECISIONS

Cabinet

1. **Approved the retention of the HWRC booking system until at least March 2022 to manage customer demand and facilitate continuation of a controlled and safe HWRC operation while visitor numbers are increased as, social distancing restrictions are reduced. This is in-line with our Waste Disposal Authority Partners Hampshire County Council and Southampton City Council.**
2. **Approved the reintroduction of access to cyclists on a controlled basis at Portsmouth HWRC, from July 2021, utilising the HWRC booking system.**
3. **Noted Hampshire County Council (HCC) have approved the commencement of the £5 charge for non-residents using Hampshire's 24 HWRCs from 1 September 2021. This decision will not impact residents of Portsmouth wishing to use Hampshire's sites because of the joint HWRC and disposal partnership arrangements we have in place with HCC. Hampshire residents will also not be impacted using Portsmouth HWRC. Portsmouth residents will be required to register their vehicle with HCC to use the Hampshire sites, but not if they only wish to use Portsmouth HWRC. Registration is free of charge for Portsmouth residents because of the reciprocal use agreement with HCC. The Portsmouth HWRC cross-border policy decision was made by the Cabinet Member for Environment & Community Safety on 05 February 2019 - Household waste recycling centre cross border charging.**
4. **Noted that HCC has approved the removal of glass banks from Hampshire's 24 HWRCs from 1 July 2021 in line with the previously taken decisions, which were deferred during covid-19 restrictions. This decision will not impact Portsmouth HWRC, and PCC will retain the glass banks at the site because of separate glass collections arrangements we have in place with Biffa, the City Council's waste collections contractor.**

59. The 2021 Annual Status Report of Air Quality (AI 8)

Richard Lee, Regulatory Services Manager, introduced the report and explained that the Annual Status Report (ASR) is likely to be submitted to Defra before the end of this calendar year. The majority of data has been collected and verified and shows a significant reduction of nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) levels. Although the reduction will affect the three to five year trends it should be taken into account that 2020 was a unique year and that measures to improve air quality should still be maintained.

The Cabinet noted the report.

60. Port Health Readiness - Delivery of Official Controls (AI 9)

Richard Lee, Regulatory Services Manager, introduced the report and explained the challenges involved in implementing the new controls. The timetable is likely to be deferred further. A key concern is how many checks will be required which is made more complicated as it is difficult to estimate import levels, which in turn impacts on the proposed full-cost delivery system. More information will be known in October and January. The staff rota may only need to operate 18/24 hours rather than 24/24 hours. Some specialist veterinarians, who have not been needed before, have now been recruited. Predictions of readiness are being discussed with a wide range of government agencies. Officers are working on estimates and engaging with other Port Health Authorities. There is some confidence systems will be ready in November.

In response to concerns from members about the £2m staffing costs and safe transportation of live animals, Mr Lee explained that the Port is asking the government to pay the staffing costs for next year at least because of delays. They are also discussing how animals can be transported safely; they are more likely to be the responsibility of the Animal and Plant Health Agency. There is enough room at the Port for the new infrastructure that is required.

The Cabinet noted the report.

61. Annual Fostering Service Report (AI 10)

Members agreed that agenda items 10, 11 and 12 should be considered together as they are closely linked. Alison Jeffery, Director of Children, Families & Education, introduced the reports, highlighting successes such as the Mockingbird model for foster care, the preventative Early Help service and the Family Safeguarding model where adult safeguarding workers help parents with their issues. The review of children's social care is useful as it shares the history of development of social care in Portsmouth. There are three strong lines of critique of the existing system though Portsmouth rejects any possible structural changes to split support from child protection. She thanked the administration for their investment in children's social care. She is immensely grateful as it has helped keep families together and prevent children entering the social care system.

Members agreed the initiatives were driven by what is best for children and the belief that families can help themselves with the right support. They were proud of a single service that uses a restorative approach and agreed that support and protection should be together. They noted some countries which

had separate services were now reviewing them. It was good that Children & Families was now reunited with the Education portfolio as children's relationships in schools are important.

Councillor Vernon-Jackson said Ms Jeffery was moving to a new post and thanked her officially on behalf of the Cabinet for everything she had done to make a major impact on children's lives in the city. Councillor Horton (Cabinet Member for Children, Families & Education) gave her personal thanks and said she had learned much from Ms Jeffery's values and decisions.

The Cabinet noted the report.

62. Annual Adoption Report (AI 11)

Alison Jeffery, Director of Children, Families & Education, introduced the report together with items 10 and 12.

The Cabinet noted the report.

63. Response to the Interim Report of the National Independent Review of Children's Social Care Strategy (AI 12)

Alison Jeffery, Director of Children, Families & Education, introduced the report together with items 10 and 11.

The Cabinet noted the report.

64. Heritage Strategy (AI 13)

Kelly Nash, Corporate Performance Manager, introduced the report. Members said Portsmouth had a unique heritage and was a good place to live and raise children. It was the right time to review its heritage as the city needs to consider how it uses it properly. Members congratulated Councillor Dowling (Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure & Economic Development) and Councillor Hunt (Heritage Champion).

DECISIONS

Cabinet approved that the draft heritage strategy go out to consultation.

65. Treasury Management Outturn Report 2020/2021 (AI 14)

Chris Ward, Director of Finance & Resources, introduced the report.

Members thanked the Director of Finance & Resources and his team for their effective management of the council's finances, which protects services from cuts.

DECISIONS

Cabinet noted the actual prudential and treasury management indicators based on the unaudited accounts, as shown in Appendix B (an explanation of the prudential and treasury management indicators are contained in Appendix C).

The meeting concluded at 1:50 pm

Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE
Leader of the Council