

CABINET

RECORD OF DECISIONS of the meeting of the Cabinet held on Tuesday, 21 June 2022 at 12pm at the Guildhall, Portsmouth

Present

Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE (in the Chair)
Suzy Horton
Kimberly Barrett
Darren Sanders
Lynne Stagg
Jason Fazackarley
Lee Hunt
Steve Pitt
Matthew Winnington

- 70. Apologies for Absence (AI 1)**
Councillor Chris Attwell sent his apologies.
- 71. Declarations of Interests (AI 2)**
Councillor Pitt stated that he had to leave at 1:50pm.
Councillor Fazackarley that he had to leave at 2pm.
- 72. Record of Previous Decision Meeting - (AI 3)**
The record of decisions from the previous Cabinet meeting held on 22 March 2022 was approved as a correct record
- 73. Exclusion of Press and Public (AI 4)**
The confidentiality of the appendices 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6 was upheld.
- 74. Provision of Waste Collection Services (AI 5)**
Deputations were given by Mr Jerry Brown and Councillor Asghar Shah.

Colette Hill, Assistant Director (Neighbourhoods) introduced the report.

The Cabinet thanked the team and the previous Cabinet Member for Environment. In the discussion that followed, these points were clarified:

- In terms of bringing services in house, each service is looked at on a case-by-case basis.
- The in-house option gives more flexibility to the city.

DECISIONS

- 1. Waste collection services be brought in house.**
- 2. Noted the work to implement the decision to start immediately to ensure service continuity.**
- 3. Commended the work of the Portsmouth City Council waste management team and the contractor BIFFA municipal for their response to the pandemic in maintaining the city's collection services, noting the largely uninterrupted service delivery throughout the pandemic and additionally the impressive delivery of service**

improvements throughout the pandemic, including the roll out of additional food waste rounds.

- 75. Response to the Housing & Social Care Scrutiny Panel review of the Procedures and Performance of Portsmouth City Council and Housing Associations in Relation to Response Repairs and Maintenance. (AI 6)**
James Hill, Director of Housing Neighbourhoods and Building Services introduced the report.

During the discussion, the following comments were made:

- Many housing associations have an in-house repairs and maintenance service.
- The external contractors seem to be doing a better job than the in-house services.
- Although 99.6% of council residents who responded indicated that they were happy with the repairs service, it was noted that those unhappy with the service may not comment on PCC-led surveys. It is therefore important to make continuous improvements.
- It is hoped that the forum will help identify how the council and housing associations can improve. The Leader requested that the Ministry of Defence are invited to the forum as he is keen to that they improve their repairs service.

DECISIONS

- 1. Thanked the panel for its work in undertaking the review.**
- 2. Noted and supports the recommendations of the review, which are listed in section 4 of the report and responses of officers.**

- 76. Portsmouth City Council - Gas Contract - Update to the Report of March 2022 (AI 7)**
Andrew Waggott, Head of Energy introduced the report.

The Leader thanked Mr Waggott for briefing the Group Leaders on this issue and the Cabinet noted that this is the right course of action as it makes sense morally, ethically and financially.

DECISIONS

- 1. Considered the content of the report, particularly the breakage of the link between Gazprom M&T with the Russian state, which was made by the change in ownership of the single shareholder; from the Russian Federation to Gazprom Germania on 4 April 2022.**
- 2. Noted the change in control of Gazprom Germania, the parent company and single shareholder of Gazprom M&T, enacted by the German Government resulting in Gazprom Germania being under the control of the German Federal Network Agency 4 April 2022.**
- 3. Noted that Gazprom Germania is not directly placing orders for Russian gas.**
- 4. Noted that Gazprom Germania is not directly placing orders for Russian gas and is prevented from doing so, should it wish to, by Russian sanctions.**

5. **Noted the financial and legal risk, detailed within this paper and the paper of March 2022, associated with terminating the contract in June 2022.**
6. **Instructs officers in light of the changed circumstances not to terminate the contract with Gazprom M&T on or before 30 June 2022, in line with the contract conditions.**

77. Household Support Fund Report for Gold (AI 8)

Mark Sage, Tackling Poverty Coordinator introduced the report.

Cabinet noted that:

- The funding is short term and piecemeal which makes it difficult for councils to plan ahead.
- In the current round at least 30% must be spent on families with dependent children. This is not enough for the council to continue with the Free School Meals (FSM) holiday vouchers that started in December 2020. The number of families needing FSM is increasing.
- As the holiday vouchers cannot continue, the council is investing in expanding the well-established model that establishes positive relationships with the poorest families in the city.
- An increasing number of households are in financial hardship but are not quite eligible for the FSM.
- The government had taken away almost £18m per year support for people in financial hardship in Portsmouth with the £20 per week reduction in Universal Credit and is giving back £1.9m.
- This wide-ranging package includes support for food banks, pantries, housing support for people who are fearing eviction, money for pensioners, vouchers for children eligible for FSM is comprehensive but not enough.
- £100,000 will be spent on foodbanks and pantries but that may not be enough to meet demand.

DECISION

The report was noted.

78. Air Quality Quarterly Report (AI 9)

David Blythe, Programme Manager introduced the report.

The team was thanked for their hard work and the Cabinet noted that:

- The Portsmouth CAZ went live on 29 November 2021. The report covers the first quarter to the end of February 2022. Quarterly reports will be produced.
- Engagement with companies and individuals was excellent which resulted in a huge take up of government funding from the Clean Air Fund and 96% compliance from day 1.
- The government did not provide sufficient money to drivers to help buy Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles. Council officers were able to obtain an additional £1,000 from central government funding making the total WAV funding £5,000. A sunset period was granted as these type of vehicles take longer to order.

- The results on how successful the Clean Air Zones (CAZ) have been in reducing air pollution will be available at the end of the year. Defra has confirmed that the CAZ will need to be operational for a minimum of two years.
- Significant amount of work has been carried out including vehicle upgrades and the refuse collection fleet change diesel to HVO oil. There remains a lot to do.
- Despite not receiving the funding that was requested from government, the council has made significant progress.
- The work to improve air quality will continue across the council.
- Government funding should be sustainable to cover improvements to buses, walking, cycling, moving away from gas boilers.

DECISION

The report was noted.

79. Appointments to Outside Bodies & Member Champion Appointments (AI 10)

James Harris, Senior Local Democracy Officer introduced the report.

DECISIONS

Name of Body	Appointment
Aspex Visual Arts Trust (Registered Charity and Company)	Cllr Chris Attwell
Baffins Community Association (Registered Charity)	Cllr Abdul Kadir
Buckland Community Association (Registered Charity)	Cllr Jason Fazackarley Cllr Leo Madden
Building Control Partnership	Cllr Lee Hunt

Bus Lane Adjudication Service Joint Committee (BLASJC) (Linked with PATROL)	Cllr Lynne Stagg Cllr Scott Payter-Harris (Deputy)
City of Portsmouth Sports Council	Cllr Steve Pitt Cllr Lewis Gosling Cllr George Fielding
Eastney Area Community Association (Registered Charity)	Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson
Education Advisory Board	Cllr Suzy Horton Cllr Terry Norton Cllr Ryan Brent Cllr Tom Coles
Elementary Education Act Trust Board	Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson Cllr Ryan Brent
European Cities Twinning Committee	Lord Mayor Cllr Chris Attwell Cllr Lynne Stagg Cllr Lee Mason Cllr Lynda Symes
Farlington Marshes Management Committee	Cllr Steve Pitt Cllr Hugh Mason Cllr Graham Heaney Cllr Ryan Brent
Fitzherbert & Moody	Cllr Chris Attwell David Fuller
Fratton Big Local	Cllr Dave Ashmore Cllr Tom Coles (deputy)
Fratton Community Association	Cllr Dave Ashmore

Hampshire & Isle of Wight Community Foundation (Portsmouth City Council Community Fund)	Cllr Hugh Mason
Hampshire & Isle of Wight Local Government Association	Cllr Darren Sanders Cllr Charlotte Gerada Cllr Lee Mason Cllr Matthew Atkins (Standing Deputy)
Hampshire Archives Trust - Annual Meeting	Jane Singh
Hampshire Buildings Preservation Trust – Annual Meeting (Registered Charity)	Cllr John Smith
Hampshire Countryside Access Forum	Cllr Benedict Swann
Improvement & Efficiency South East (IESE) LGA representative	Cllr Darren Sanders
Improvement & Efficiency South East (IESE) LGA representative - Non Exec Director	Cllr Matthew Winnington
Key Cities	Cllr Steve Pitt
Landport Community Association (Registered Charity)	Cllr Cal Corkery
LGA Coastal Issues Special Interest Group	Cllr Ryan Brent
Lord Mayor of Portsmouth’s Coronation Homes - Board	Cllr Hugh Mason (Lord Mayor)

Maritime Archaeology Trust (formerly Hants & Isle of Wight Trust for Maritime Archaeology).	Cllr Ian Holder
Mary Rose Trust (Registered Charity and Company)	Cllr Gerald Vernon Jackson Cllr Tom Coles Lord Mayor (Ex Officio)
Milton Village Community Association (Registered Charity)	Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson
Motiv8 (Registered Charity)	Cllr Suzy Horton
New Theatre Royal	Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson
Parking & Traffic Regulations Outside London (PATROL)	Cllr Lynne Stagg Cllr Scott Payter-Harris (Deputy)
New Theatre Royal Trust (Registered Charity and Company)	Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson
Overlord Embroidery Trust Liaison Committee	Cllr Steve Pitt Cllr Chris Attwell Cllr Linda Symes
PATCH Ltd (Registered Company)	Cllr Chris Attwell Cllr Ian Holder Cllr Cal Corkery
PfSH (Partnership for South Hampshire) Joint Committee	Cllr Lee Hunt Cllr Matthew Atkins (Deputy)

Port Advisory Board	Leader (ex-officio) Cllr Mark Jeffery Cllr Lynne Stagg Cllr Kimberly Barrett Cllr Judith Smyth Cllr Charlotte Gerada Cllr Daniel Wemyss Cllr Jason Fazackarley (deputy)
Portsmouth & District Friendly Society Homes	Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson Ben Dowling Cllr Cal Corkery
Portsmouth Fostering Panel	Cllr Kirsty Mellor
Portsmouth Plastic Free Coastlines Steering Group	Cllr Kimberly Barrett
Portsmouth Royal Dockyard Historical Trust	Cllr Mark Jeffery
Project Integra Strategic Board	Cllr Kimberly Barret Cllr Dave Ashmore (Deputy)
PfSH Overview & Scrutiny Committee	Cllr Ryan Brent
SIGOMA (Special Interest Group of Municipal Authorities admin by the LGA)	Cllr Lee Mason
Solent Forum	Cllr Hugh Mason
Solent Sea Rescue Organisation	Cllr Lee Hunt

Solent Transport Joint Committee (formerly known as Transport for S Hants - Joint Cttee)	Cllr Lynne Stagg
South East Employers	Cllr Steve Pitt Cllr Matthew Atkins
Southern Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority (formerly Southern Sea Fisheries Cttee)	Cllr Matthew Winnington
Southern Regional Flood & Coastal Committee	Cllr Mark Jeffery Cllr Judith Smyth (Deputy)
St Thomas's Cathedral Council	Cllr Chris Attwell
Stacey Community Centre Management Committee	Cllr Darren Sanders
Stamshaw & Tipner Community Centre Association (GMC)	Cllr Lee Hunt
Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education	Cllr Abdul Kadir Taki Jaffer Cllr Benedict Swann Cllr Asghar Shah
Southern Coastal Group & Standing Conference on Problems Associated with the Coastline (SCOPAC)	Cllr Mark Jeffery
The Guildhall Trust (Formerly Portsmouth Cultural Trust)	Mike Harris (CEO of Southampton City Council)

Tourism South East (Registered Company)	Cllr Linda Symes
Trading Standards South East Limited (known as TSSE)	Cllr Stuart Brown
Transport Liaison Group	Cllr Lynne Stagg Cllr Scott Payter-Harris Cllr Graham Heaney
Violence Against Women & Girls Task Group	Cllr Kirsty Mellor
Elizabeth Mary Claypitt Charity	Cllr Dave Ashmore The Vicar, St Mary's Church

Member Champions.

Heritage - Cllr Lee Hunt

LGBTQ+ & Young People - deferred to give the Young People a chance to interview the nominees and put forward their recommendation to Cabinet.

Armed Forces Liaison - Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson with Cllr Tom Coles as deputy.

Third Sector & City of Service - Cllr Stuart Brown with Cllrs Asghar Shah and Lee Mason as deputies.

Nature - Cllr Kimberley Barrett.

Women, Children & Domestic Violence - Cllr Kirsty Mellor

80. Modern Slavery Statement (AI 11)

Lisa Wills, Strategy and Partnership Manager introduced the report.

DECISIONS

- 1. Approved the Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement for the signature of the Leader and publication on the council's website**
- 2. Approved the programme of work set out in item 10 of this report.**
- 3. Full Council is asked to note the decision of the Cabinet to approve and publish the statement.**

81. King George V Playing Fields Development (AI 12)

Kelly Nash, Corporate Performance Manager introduced the report.

The Cabinet welcomed the report and the benefits that this development will bring to the city.

DECISIONS

- 1. Noted progress with the King George V Playing Fields Scheme and plans for continued development of the scheme.**
- 2. Delegated authority to the Director of Finance and Resources to authorise the entering into a grant agreement for the scheme that includes a clawback period (in the event that the facilities are no longer used for the activities the grant was awarded for) once the final terms and conditions of funding are known and**
- 3. Authorised the formal advertising of disposal of open space, which will be the result of granting a lease to an operator.**

82. TECS Scrutiny Panel Recommendations - A Review into the Accessibility of the Transport Network (AI 13)

Councillors Gemma New and Lee Mason, Chair and former Chair of the Traffic, Environment & Scrutiny Panel commended the report to the Cabinet.

Felicity Tidbury, Acting Assistant Director Regeneration introduced the report.

Members noted that many of the recommended actions were already in progress.

DECISIONS

- 1. Thanked the panel for its work in undertaking this review.**
- 2. Noted and supported the 40 recommendations of the review, which are listed in section 4 and appendix B of the report.**
- 3. Noted and supported the recommendations listed in 4.2.1 to 4.2.30 which are in progress and the responses from officers detailing how these are being met.**
- 4. Noted and supported recommendations listed in 4.3.1 to 4.3.10 and the officers comments that these be accepted and actioned only once funding and resources are identified.**

83. QA Emergency Ward Support (AI 14)

Ian Maguire, Assistant Director for Regeneration introduced the report.

In making the following recommendation, the Cabinet resolved that it regretted that government has not funded the NHS sufficiently to meet its needs.

RECOMMENDED that the recommendations of the report be approved namely to approve: The granting of £864,354.26 from Community Infrastructure Funding to Portsmouth Hospitals University NHS Trust for the provision of infrastructure in accordance with the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010 (as amended) ("CIL Regs") to be funded from Capital Infrastructure CIL.

84. Milton Neighbourhood Plan (AI 15)

Rod Baily, Chair of Milton Neighbourhood Planning Forum gave a deputation in favour of the recommendation.

Ian Maguire, Assistant Director of Regeneration introduced the report and in response to questions, explained that the Langstone Campus already forms part of the allocated land for development. The Neighbourhood Plan provides updated guidance and makes it clearer as to how it could be developed. If it was decided at this meeting not to take the plan forward to referendum, to table a further modification, a consultation with stakeholders for a minimum of six weeks and with the lead-in to Cabinet there would be an approximate three months' delay.

Cabinet urged Milton residents to read all the documents and noted that the plan provides a range of protection for green spaces across Milton.

DECISIONS

- 1. Noted the progression of the Milton Neighbourhood Plan to this point.**
- 2. Accepted all modifications to the Milton Neighbourhood Plan recommended by the Examiner together with the officer's amendments, which provide additional clarity on the modifications made by the Examiner.**
- 3. Approved all appropriate actions to progress the Milton Neighbourhood Plan to referendum. A date for the referendum is set for 18 August 2022.**
- 4. Approved the proposed referendum area as indicated on the attached map.**
- 5. Approved carrying out the proposed referendum with associated costs and publicity (cost to be recouped from government grant).**
- 6. Thanked members of the Milton Neighbourhood Planning Forum for their hard work over the years and bringing this in such a fine form.**

85. National Bus Strategy - Enhanced Partnership Plan and Scheme (AI 16)

Peter Shelley, Bid Manager, Regeneration introduced the report.

It was noted that making them more reliable, comfortable and convenient by extending their operating hours, will encourage more people to take the bus and consequently fares will be reduced.

DECISIONS

- 1. Approved the draft Portsmouth Enhanced Partnership Plan and Scheme, for submission to the Department for Transport by 30 June 2022.**
- 2. Delegated authority to the Cabinet Member for Transport and Transportation in consultation with the Director of Regeneration and the Section 151 Officer to agree any minor amendments to the Enhanced Partnership Plan and Scheme that may be required to take account of future funding changes and policy announcements.**

3. **Delegated authority to the Cabinet Member for Traffic and Transportation in consultation with the Director of Regeneration for the implementation of the Enhanced Partnership Plan and Scheme as set out in this report.**
4. **Noted that the Enhanced Partnership Plan and Scheme will be monitored through the Enhanced Partnership Board.**

86. Urgent item: Council Tax Rebate (Energy Rebate) - Discretionary Fund. (AI 16a)

Chris Ward, Director of Finance & Resources introduced the report and in response to questions, explained that 75% of all eligible households have received their rebate. This includes all customers who pay by direct debits. The 25% who have not received it yet equates to approximately 20,000 households. Letters are being sent to households who do not pay by direct debit at a rate of 4,000 a week explaining what information they need to provide the council in order to receive the rebate. In the event, the information is not provided, a credit could be applied to the Council Tax bill.

DECISIONS

Approved option 3 and the associated Policy at Appendix 1.

Award £150.00 to each household in bands E-H receiving local council tax support on 01 April 2022. (Estimated cost £9,300). An application window be opened for two months, during which demand can be assessed. Applications will be open to:

- **Residents liable for council tax in properties banded E-H on 01 April 2022 in receipt of Pension Credit Guarantee Credit, Housing Benefit, Universal Credit, Working Tax Credit or Child Tax Credit or any other out of work benefit on 01 April 2022, where there is no eligibility to local council tax support. In this instance an application from the energy payer will be required.**
- **Households which are the energy payer occupying band A-D properties on 01 April 2022 that are excluded from payment under the core 'Council Tax Rebate' scheme. In this instance an application from the energy payer will be required.**
- **HMO households occupying band A-H properties that are excluded from payment under the core 'Core Tax Rebate' scheme. In the instance an application from the energy payer will be required.**
- **Recipients of local council tax support who attract funding from the core scheme, may be considered for top up support from any underspend from the 5 www.portsmouth.gov.uk Discretionary Fund once the application window has closed. This will be at the discretion of the Council.**

The meeting concluded at 2:15pm

Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE
Leader of the Council