

RECORD OF DECISIONS of the meeting of the Cabinet held on Tuesday, 26 July 2022 at 12 noon at the Guildhall, Portsmouth

Present

Councillor Suzy Horton (in the Chair)
Chris Attwell
Kimberly Barrett
Jason Fazackarley
Lee Hunt
Steve Pitt
Darren Sanders
Lynne Stagg
Matthew Winnington

87. Apologies for Absence (AI 1)

Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson sent his apologies.

88. Declarations of Interests (AI 2)

David Williams, Chief Executive, declared an interest in agenda item 4 (Provision of GPs) as he is a member of the Integrated Care Board.

89. Record of Previous Decision Meeting - (AI 3)

The record of decisions from the previous Cabinet meeting held on 21 June 2022 was approved as a correct record

90. Provision of GPs (AI 4)

Steve McInnes, Acting Deputy Director Primary Care, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Integrated Care Board, introduced the report on behalf of Jo York, Managing Director, Health & Care Portsmouth, who had sent her apologies. Mr McInnes requested to place on record thanks to GPs, nurses and all healthcare staff involved in the Covid vaccination programme. He drew attention to the summit on 4 August which would consider how to attract more GPs into the city, build more resilience and work with the Portsmouth Primary Care Alliance to develop a proposal to create GP portfolio roles.

Councillor Winnington, Cabinet Member for Health, Wellbeing & Social Care, thanked Mr McInnes and Ms York for the thorough report. He noted that all bar one of the areas with the lowest number of GPs per head were coastal which limits the catchment area for recruitment. The report shows the Portsmouth context and access to GPs; residents' experiences should always be the priority. It acknowledges the enormous pressure GPs are under and how they and primary care can be supported, for example, by having pharmacists write prescriptions. Portsmouth is in a better place than other areas as the council and the NHS work together but central government has ignored the issue for far too long. As the Cabinet Member, Councillor Winnington pledged that everyone was working to do their best with healthcare, bearing in mind the constraints. He thanked all GPs and everyone who works in primary care.

In discussion, the following points were raised:

- A campaign to attract more GPs had been running for the last couple of months. Members had heard shocking as well as great stories about patient experiences. Changing how prescriptions are issued could reduce the amount of paperwork GPs do.
- Government requirements to build 17,000 homes in the city without providing sufficient schools and GPs shows failure in every regard. However, Portsmouth tries to provide a consistent service for all.
- Some people are happy with telephone consultations but others need to see a GP; when family members need an appointment and cannot get one it is really felt.
- Members were very grateful to GPs and all healthcare support staff. They commended the St Mary's walk-in centre.

The Cabinet noted the report.

91. Local Development Scheme (AI 5)

Ian Maguire, Assistant Director of Planning & Economic Growth, introduced the report.

Members thought it was better to progress steadily with the Local Plan rather than rushing for the sake of it, only to have it rejected. Members were aware the administration was a minority one and were working closely with other parties through the cross-party group which has now met 13 times. Everyone wants a successful city.

Members noted Councillor George Madgwick (Portsmouth Independents Party Group Leader) was present but were disappointed that other members did not always attend decision making meetings despite expressing opinions on matters such as the Local Plan.

DECISIONS

- 1. Approved the revised Local Plan timetable set out in this report for the Local Development Scheme (LDS) and the Minerals and Waste Development Scheme.**
- 2. Granted delegated authority to Assistant Director Planning & Economic Growth to make minor amendments to the LDS and Minerals and Waste Development Scheme and Development Plan Document timetables as necessary.**
- 3. Noted the progression of other Portsmouth Development Plan Documents and Supporting Planning Policy documents.**

92. Tipner West development (AI 6)

Members noted this item would be considered at special meeting of the Cabinet on 6 September 2022, for onward submission to an extraordinary Full Council meeting. They noted briefings would be arranged for the other groups and looked forward to the report being brought back as soon as practicable.

93. City Centre regeneration (AI 7)

Tristan Samuels, Director of Regeneration, introduced the report.

In discussion, the following points were raised:

- Members welcomed the report as part of the cultural regeneration of the city; for example, the proposals for Victoria Park, New Theatre Royal and the Guildhall would help attract visitors to the city centre.
- The plans for the area above Charlotte Street would provide homes, green spaces and cultural venues which would condense the retail area; this is advisable in view of there currently being around 40% over-provision of retail space in the UK.
- The council was good at leveraging in outside funding from bodies such as charitable and conservation organisations.
- There was concern that although the "meanwhile strategy" made use of empty buildings it could be difficult to remove the temporary usages.
- The report has an overall vision and avoids a piecemeal approach. It takes ownership of key actions and shows how elements interrelate to create the vision and secure investment. The council needs to work on partnerships and relationships with the high street and developers in what will be a competitive environment. Even if funding is not forthcoming the council will not give up in achieving the plan. Members thanked officers for their work.

DECISIONS

- 1. Noted the high level of activity taking place in and around the city centre, as referenced in the report and appendices, along with the proposed stewardship role the council intends to play to ensure that the future activity and growth in this area is curated sensibly and can be delivered.**
 - 2. Agreed to progress the recommendations and actions suggested in the Unlocking Your Place Potential (UYPP) Report in full.**
 - 3. Noted the progress made by officers, on work delegated by Cabinet in March 2022, to determine an appropriate and achievable delivery strategy for the City Centre North (CCN) workstream.**
 - 4. Noted the progress made by officers on land assembly as approved under the Cabinet and Full Council meetings in October 2021 and Cabinet in March 2022.**
 - 5. Noted the progress made by officers on the development of a meanwhile strategy, following the production of a business justification cases for the proposals.**
- 94. Response to the Traffic, Environment and Community Safety Scrutiny Panel's recommendations regarding biodiversity (AI 8)**
- James Hill, Director of Housing Neighbourhoods and Building Services, introduced the report. He thanked Claire Watkins, Business Development & Projects Manager, for co-ordinating the responses to the recommendations across directorates, and Kelly Nash, Corporate Performance Manager, for considering how the recommendations work with other council strategies. It is intended to use the Climate Change Strategy to co-ordinate approaches as the review covers several areas which are inextricably linked to each other and to the climate change agenda. Mr Hill advised that some responses would have to be updated in the light of the Notice of Motion on pesticides debated at Full Council on 19 July. In addition, more detailed information has

been received from Colas. If members agree, an updated report could be brought to a meeting of the Climate Change & Environment portfolio.

In discussion, the following points were raised:

- Councillor Barrett, the Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment, said the report shows the huge amount of work across portfolios and departments. It was commendable how many people care about biodiversity and good that the TECS Scrutiny Panel recognised much was being done already. Twenty recommendations are already being worked on or are in the framework. The financial implications now need to be considered. Since passing the nature emergency motion there are two new countryside officers. The report shows the council can work together and not in silos. She thanked all those who contributed.
- The key point is that biodiversity is treated as part of an overall approach.
- Members would be interested in updates, for example, on the three-year phasing out of pesticides on allotments and the Buckland allotments trial.
- Members emphasised the importance of involving schools and children in environmental matters and using them as a resource. If children become involved at a young age they are likely to be enthusiastic for life and pass on their enthusiasm to their parents. For example, children are involved with a tree planting project at Baffins Pond. Free whips (young trees) can be obtained from the Woodland Trust so if each of Portsmouth's 63 primary schools planted 100 whips that would be over 6,000 trees which can be replanted elsewhere when they are bigger.
- Transport was trying its best though efforts were not always successful, for example, trying to having green roofs on bus stops. Colas are extending their wildflower meadows.

Summing up, the Chair said the interrelationship of issues was clear and consistent across portfolios and directorates. The pace of change around environmental issues was phenomenal. The council is responding to crises and also planning for the future. It is important to involve children as the environment was connected to other issues like health and education. Manor Infant School was very engaged with the environment. She thanked the panel for the review.

DECISIONS

- 1. Thanked the Panel for its work in undertaking the review.**
- 2. Noted and supported the recommendations of the review, which are set out in Appendix 2 to this report, together with the officer responses to the recommendations.**

95. Appointments to Outside Bodies & Member Champion Appointments (AI 9)

David Williams, Chief Executive, introduced the item. No further nominations had been received for representatives on the Elementary Education Act Trust Board and the Port Advisory Board.

Councillor Pitt, Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure & Economic Development, had received a representation from the Chair of the Kings'

Theatre Trust requesting that the appointment of member representatives to the Board be postponed as they wanted to conclude complex negotiations on the repairs budget first. As the Board was negotiating directly with the council they wanted to avoid any conflict of interest. The postponement would be no greater than six months from today. The Board had no concern about members' ability to get up to speed. The Chief Executive and Deputy Monitoring Officer advised it was the Cabinet's decision whether to accept the proposal to postpone the appointments. Councillor Pitt said the Leader had not objected to a postponement.

Some members were unhappy as they felt postponing the appointments showed a lack of confidence in the appointees who would be impartial and put the Trust's interests first. The Kings Theatre receives a lot of public money. Others felt that if a delay meant the Trust were more comfortable with the process they would be willing to postpone the appointments. However, the appointments should be made well before the proposed six-month deadline. An update would be brought back to the Cabinet meeting on 27 September.

The appointment of the LGBTQ+ Young People Member Champion was deferred until September as the young people wanted to know which members will have done the Stonewall training as that might affect their views on nominations.

DECISIONS

- 1. Noted that no additional appointments to represent the Council on the Elementary Education Act Trust Board nor the Port Advisory Board for the 2022/23 municipal year had been received.**
- 2. Noted that an update on appointments to the Kings Theatre Trust Ltd would come to the Cabinet on 27 September.**
- 3. Noted that the appointment of an LGBTQ+ Young People Member Champion will be deferred at the request of the young people until September.**

96. Local Partnership governance review (AI 10)

David Williams, Chief Executive, introduced the report and outlined the background to the governance review which recommended that council directors cannot be directors of companies wholly owned by the council. Chris Ward, Director of Finance & Resources, and Mike Sellers, Director of the Port, have resigned from their company director roles which enables them to advise members impartially. External expertise has been brought into Portico.

DECISIONS

- 1. Notes and accepts in full the report and recommendations made by Local Partnerships;**
- 2. Agrees to develop an action plan to implement the recommendations;**
and in order to facilitate that process;
- 3. Agrees to the appointment of a cabinet member as the portfolio lead for Company matters;**

- 4. Agrees to the appointment of the Chief Executive as the Council's "shareholder representative" to all its companies (the role as detailed from paragraph Error! Reference source not found.).**

97. Exclusion of Press and Public (AI 11)

The confidentiality of appendix 1B was upheld.

98. Hambrook Street (AI 12)

Tristan Samuels, Director of Regeneration, introduced the report, noting that he had resigned as a director of the Ravelin Group Limited.

Officers explained they were taking advice to recruit replacement directors with the necessary expertise for the council owned companies. Broader external expertise is invaluable.

DECISIONS

- 1. Approved the Business Case for the setting up of the Company.**
- 2. Delegated authority to the Director of Regeneration, in consultation with the City Solicitor and S.151 Officer to set up the Company, appoint suitably qualified Directors and set up governance arrangements necessary for the Company to start trading with an obligation to report regularly to Cabinet on the Company's performance.**
- 3. Delegated authority to the Director of Finance and S151 Officer in consultation with the Directors of the Company to agree a mortgage lending agreement to fund the property transfer.**

99. Ravelin group of companies (AI 13)

Tristan Samuels, Director of Regeneration, introduced the report.

DECISIONS

- 1. Noted and approved the Q4 2021/22 Quarterly Update report as submitted to Cabinet by the Company at Appendix One.**
- 2. Noted and approved the financial accounts for the Company for the period ending 31 March 2022, at Appendix Two.**
- 3. Noted the progress reported on the existing project at Brewery House, Hambrook Street.**
- 4. Noted the appointment of the two Non-Executive Directors to RHL and the formal board meeting that was held for both RHL and RGL on 12th April 2022.**
- 5. Noted that the engagement and collaboration of the Company with the Council on the Horatio and Leamington private Build-to-Rent units in Somerstown is progressing in-line with the approved development pipeline in the five-year business plan for the Company.**
- 6. Noted the Director of Regeneration is no longer a board member of the Ravelin Group and has been replaced by the Acting Director for Property and Development in line with the decision made by the Board on 12th April 2022. The change allows the Director of Regeneration to act unencumbered in supporting the Shareholder in any required commercial decision making.**

100. Treasury Management Outturn report 2021/2022 (AI 14)

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

DECISIONS

- 1. 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 is contained in Appendix C).**
- 2. Noted that the report go to Full Council on 11 October 2022 for noting.**

The meeting concluded at 1:18 pm

Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE
Leader of the Council