

RECORD OF DECISIONS of the meeting of the Cabinet held on Tuesday, 27 September 2022 at 12 noon at the Guildhall, Portsmouth

Present

Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE (Chair)
Chris Attwell
Kimberly Barrett
Jason Fazackarley
Lee Hunt
Steve Pitt
Darren Sanders
Lynne Stagg
Matthew Winnington

Also in attendance - Councillor Brian Madgwick.

105. Apologies (AI 1)

Councillor Suzy Horton and David Williams, Chief Executive, had sent their apologies.

106. Declarations of interest (A1 2)

Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson declared a prejudicial interest in Item 16 Portico Shipping - 3 Year Business Plan in that he is a Director of Portico Shipping. He would therefore leave the room and take no part in the discussion or decision. Councillor Darren Sanders would take the Chair for this item.

107. Record of previous decision meetings - 26 July 2022 and 8 September 2022 (AI 3)

The record of decisions from the previous meetings of the Cabinet, held on 26 July 2022 and 8 September 2022 were approved as a correct record.

Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson proposed, and it was agreed, to consider Item 8 'Making' the Milton Neighbourhood Plan first as the Chair of the Milton Neighbourhood Planning Forum had asked to make a deputation. Following consideration of this item, the meeting reverted to the order of business set out on the agenda.

108. Climate Change Strategy (AI 4)

Kristina Downey, Principal Strategy Advisor Climate Change, introduced the report informing members that this replaces the existing strategy which was approved in 2015 and reflects best practice and independent reviews. The new strategy describes the climate risks to Portsmouth and options for delivering its net carbon emissions target by 2030.

Councillor Kimberley Barrett, Cabinet member for Climate Change and Environment, commented that the strategy will help underpin decisions across the Council. She added that it was important, complex, urgent and ambitious and set out strategic priority areas. There are challenges going forward but the Council is already further ahead than others around the country and the strategy provided future residents with the steps needed to move forward. Councillor Barrett offered her thanks to Kristina Downey.

Councillor Steve Pitt, Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Economic Development, noted that he had attended a Shaping Portsmouth event on behalf of Councillor Barrett recently and it demonstrated that the Council was forward thinking, that the Switched on Portsmouth team was an important enabler and that mobilising the business community would play a key part in what the Council was doing to meet the net zero target by 2030.

Councillor Lynne Stagg, Cabinet Member for Traffic & Transportation, commented that transport is a major contributor to emissions and that she and officers were working closely with the Climate Change Advisor to help change behaviour. She added that residents needed to reduce their reliance on cars and that alternative forms of transport were needed to encourage that change. The Council had received £56m grant funding for road network improvements to help improve bus punctuality and that other improvements to encourage more active travel including cycle networks and EV charging points were being added. She noted that without changes in transport use, the city would be unlikely to achieve its net zero target and that the gap would instead increase.

Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson commented that there is only one Council with more EV charging points and that changing the rules so that pensioners can travel on buses from 9.00am rather than 9.30am was to be welcomed. In response to a question about the action plan, the Principal Strategy Advisor Climate Change informed members that it would be published as soon as input from some teams had been received.

Councillor Lee Hunt, Cabinet Member for Planning Policy & City Development, noted that encouraging insulation on homes was important and that the sea defences needed to be completed as soon as possible as sea levels are expected to rise by 70cm in a short period of time.

DECISIONS:

Cabinet approved and adopted the Climate Change Strategy for Portsmouth City Council.

109. PCC Support for the National Migration Programme (AI 5)

Paddy May, Corporate Strategy Manager, introduced the report informing members that there were a range of schemes nationally which Portsmouth was aiming to deliver more efficiently to support the most vulnerable families locally.

Councillor Darren Sanders, Cabinet Member for Housing and Preventing Homelessness, commented that safe and secure accommodation was needed and that too many people were having to stay in hotels for too long. Portsmouth had done a lot to help these families and it was now time for other councils to do more.

Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson noted that having two Ukrainian schemes is unhelpful. He also stated that government support for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children and young people to age 18 is adequate but there is a funding gap of £1m which the Council must find to support them until they are 25.

DECISIONS:

1) Noted the contents of this report.

- 2) **Placed on record a note of thanks to all those involved in setting up and supporting the schemes referenced in this report. The early schemes required the local authority, and its partners, to set up schemes quickly often using existing resources and in the context of the additional demands arising from the pandemic. As the funding for the schemes has become certain, an officer team has been formed to work alongside mainstream services to administer and support the team.**
- 3) **Agreed that we should look to continue (where appropriate), for the full 12 months, our support for Ukrainian families that have left the homes for Ukraine scheme by moving into the private sector (see paragraph 3.2.4 of the report).**

110. Revenue Budget Monitoring 2022-23 to end June 2022 (AI 6)

Chris Ward, Director of Finance & Resources, introduced the report. He informed members that the Council is financially challenged for several reasons including the cost-of-living crisis and covid legacy. The reasons for budget variances are set out in the report. Currently the Council has financial resilience, but some current pressures will have continued pressure going forward into future years and there are therefore reviews ongoing relating to some capital schemes. He highlighted recommendation 7 which sought to place up to £3m of contractually uncommitted Capital Schemes on "hold" pending the outcome of the cost and funding reviews.

Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson noted that the Council would continue to carefully monitor the situation and that the city was not alone in facing these pressures. He proposed an amendment to Recommendation 7 to add the words "unless potential costs of capital projects fall". The Cabinet agreed the amendment.

DECISIONS:

- 1) **The General Fund Forecast Outturn for 2022/23 (as at 30th June 2022) be noted consisting of:**
 - a. **£2,991,300 overspend (before the Employers 2022/23 Pay Offer of a flat increase to all Spinal Column Points of £1,925); and**
 - b. **£6,791,300 overspend (after the pay offer)**

The overspend is analysed as follows:

FORECAST OUTTURN 2022/23		£000
Forecast Net Overspend (before transfers to/from) Reserves		8,121.1
Less Expenditure funded from Corporate Contingency:		
	Covid-19 Costs	(2,643.7)
	Windfall Costs	(2,127.0)
Less Transfers From Portfolio / Cabinet Reserve:		
	Overspendings (in accordance with approved Council resolutions)	(856.9)

Add Transfers to Portfolio and Other Reserves:		
	Underspendings (in accordance with approved Council resolutions)	497.8
Forecast Net Overspend Before 2022/23 Pay Award		2,991.3
Impact of Employers Pay Offer of a Flat Increase of £1,925		3,800.0
Overall Forecast Net Overspend 2022/23 (after Pay Award)		6,791.3

- 2) **The forecast additional spending and forgone income as consequence of the continuing impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic totalling £2.64m be noted**
- 3) **Members noted that the financial consequences arising during 2022/23 from the Covid-19 pandemic will be met from the provision held within the Council's Corporate Contingency which was set aside specifically for this purpose as approved by City Council on 15th February 2022.**
- 4) **Members noted the impact of the overspending capital schemes outlined in Section 7 and the consequent effect this will have on the availability of new capital resources to fund new capital schemes commencing in April 2023.**
- 5) **Members noted that in accordance with approved policy as described in Section 8, any actual non Covid-19 overspend at year end will in the first instance be deducted from any Portfolio Reserve balance and once depleted then be deducted from the 2023/24 Cash Limit.**
- 6) **Directors, in consultation with the appropriate Cabinet Member, consider options that seek to minimise any forecast non Covid-19 overspending presently being reported and prepare strategies outlining how any consequent reduction to the 2023/24 Portfolio cash limit will be managed to avoid further overspending during 2023/24.**
- 7) **Cabinet plan for placing up to £3m of contractually uncommitted Capital Schemes on "hold" pending the outcome of the cost and funding reviews described in Paragraphs Error! Reference source not found. and Error! Reference source not found. of the report unless potential costs of capital projects fall.**

111. Civic Offices Member Working Group Report (AI 7)

James Hill, Director of Housing Neighbourhoods and Building Services, introduced the report, stating that this was an information report on behalf of Civic Offices Member Working Report. It had been widely shared and responds to the Notice of Motion at Full Council on 19 July 2022. The Working Group has met 4 times and is looking at a complex range of work within the parameters and structures set out in the report.

Councillor Chris Attwell, Cabinet Member for Communities and Central Services, noted that the cross-party working group was working well and had a good a sense of the direction of travel.

In response to a question, the Director of Housing Neighbourhoods and Building Services, explained that the time scales set out in the report were realistic but there may be interim reports to update on progress and a need for third party support, he felt that many of the options will be considered before the March 2023 deadline.

DECISIONS:

- 1) **The next steps set out in section 6 of the report were agreed.**
- 2) **To forward this report to Full Council following the Notice of Motion entitled "Civic Offices Sustainability", passed on the 19 July 2022.**

112. 'Making' the Milton Neighbourhood Plan (AI 8)

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

Rod Bailey, Chair of the Milton Neighbourhood Planning Forum made a deputation in support of the recommendations.

Deputations are not minuted and can be viewed on the Council's website at: [Agenda for Cabinet on Tuesday, 27th September, 2022, 12.00 pm Portsmouth City Council](#)

Councillor Lee Hunt, Cabinet Member for Planning Policy & City Development, thanked Mr Bailey and the Milton Neighbourhood Planning Forum for their understanding of key issues including those relating to Bransbury Park.

Councillor Kimberly Barrett, Milton Neighbourhood Planning Forum, added her thanks for the 7 years of work to get to this point which she said provided lots of opportunity for residents.

Councillor Steve Pitt, Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Economic Development, noted that this was a fantastic result for residents, though the restrictions placed on the Council which meant it could not support residents in advertising that the referendum was happening was unhelpful.

Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson proposed the addition of a recommendation to thank the Milton Neighbourhood Planning Forum for its work in bringing the Plan forward. This was agreed by the Cabinet.

DECISIONS:

- 1) **Noted the result of the public referendum on the Milton Neighbourhood Plan held on the 18 August (88.7% in favour).**
- 2) **Recommended that a report goes to full Council seeking that the Milton Neighbourhood plan is made and adopted as part of the Development Plan for Portsmouth enabling it to be used in the determination of planning decisions for the part of the city that the Milton Neighbourhood Plan covers.**
- 3) **Offered thanks to the Milton Neighbourhood Planning Forum for its work in preparing and submitting the Milton Neighbourhood Plan to the City Council.**

113. Forward Plan Omission Notice - Cosham Development Sites (AI 9)

DECISIONS:

Noted that the Cosham Development Sites report by the Director Regeneration was omitted from the Forward Plan covering 26 August to 26 November 2022. The Chair of the City Council's Scrutiny Management Panel has been notified and a public notice published.

114. Cosham Development Sites (AI 10)

Tom Southall, Assistant Director Property and Investment, introduced the report which updates previous recommendations and recent changes in approach.

Councillor Steve Pitt, Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Economic Development, agreed that the current position was different than previously anticipated and that it would be pragmatic to adopt the recommendations. He noted that building costs have increased and progress needed to be made to provide a new fire station in the north of the city which would help keep Portsmouth residents safe. He raised concerns that the NHS Property Company, which sits outside the NHS, may not support the other public sector partners involved.

Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson agreed that public sector services needed to work together, adding that the Council was doing its best to ensure that the Fire Service gets its new fire station in Cosham.

Councillor Matt Winnington, Cabinet Member for Health, Wellbeing & Social Care, noted that new public service provision is an important element of regeneration in Cosham adding that it was likely that some essential services including health care and community services would not go ahead as some public sector services were not working collaboratively and this was to the detriment of local residents in the north of the City.

DECISIONS:

- 1) Noted that the previous decision taken on the 2 February 2021 is no longer deliverable, as the previously agreed terms and conditions that underpinned that decision have now been varied by one of the parties.**
- 2) Approve a new recommendation to dispose of the former Portsmouth Craft and Manufacturing Industries Site, as per the terms agreed and set out in the Cabinet Report 'Cosham Development Sites' 2 February 2021, to be completed as soon as possible to enable the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service to progress with the development of their new Fire Station.**
- 3) Agreed new recommendations for Portsmouth City Council to acquire the existing Police and Fire sites via separate contractual agreements still to be negotiated.**
- 4) Delegated to the Director of Regeneration in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Section 151 Officer to negotiate and agree terms with Hampshire Constabulary (HC) to secure development through acquisition or via other contractual means, of the existing Cosham Police Station.**

- 5) **Delegated to the Director of Regeneration in consultation with the Leader of the Council, and the Section 151 Officer to negotiate and agree terms with Hampshire & Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue service for the acquisition of the existing Cosham Fire Station.**
- 6) **Delegated to the Director of Regeneration, the Section 151 Officer and the City Solicitor authorisation to finalise negotiations, prepare and complete the necessary documentation to give effect to 2), 3, 4) and 5) above.**
- 7) **Noted that the promoter team remain committed to development principles established by the work of the Cosham Working Group currently being consulted on with the local community, subject to the properties being available to purchase as previously agreed.**

115. Adult Social Care Carers Leave Bill (AI 11)

Andy Biddle, Director Adult Care, introduced the report which includes information from Carers UK and demonstrates the impact of caring on carers.

Councillor Matt Winnington, Cabinet Member for Health, Wellbeing & Social Care, commented that the new private members Bill was important as it considers carers circumstances and potentially reduces costs to employers. He called on Portsmouth MPs to support the Carers Leave Bill.

DECISIONS:

To support and formally endorse the Carers Leave Bill.

116. Adult Social Care Funding Changes (AI 12)

Andy Biddle, Director Adult Care, introduced the information report which set out 4 key components of social care funding changes and the potential financial burden to the Council for delivering social care.

Councillor Matt Winnington, Cabinet Member for Health, Wellbeing & Social Care, thanked officers for working toward the changes adding that it would be difficult for the Council to take on additional burdens without adequate funding.

117. Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) - findings from the community safety survey (AI 13)

Caroline Hopper, Corporate Projects Manager, introduced the report which provided an update following a report to Cabinet in March 2022.

Councillor Jason Fazackarley, Cabinet Member for Safety in the Community, noted the progress made to address the concerns of women and girls in the City and that £1.6m funding had been received to tackle the issue. He asked that his thanks to officers, including Caroline Hopper, be recorded.

The Cabinet noted the report which was for information only.

118. Appointment of LGBTQ+ Young People Member Champion

Noted that the LGBTQ+ Young People Member Champion will be appointed at a future meeting as the nominees are meeting the Young People on 12 October 2022.

119. Exclusion of Press and Public

DECISIONS:

The confidentiality of Appendices 1, 2, and 3 only, relating to financial and business affairs, was upheld.

Before consideration of Item 12 Portico Shipping Limited -Three Year Business Plan and following his earlier declaration of a prejudicial interest, Councillor Vernon-Jackson left the meeting.

Councillor Darren Sanders took the Chair.

120. Portico Shipping Limited -Three Year Business Plan

Mike Sellers, Port Director and Mark Webb, Finance Manager, introduced the report.

The Cabinet noted a typographical amendment to recommendation 2 which replaced the words "Appendix C" with "exempt Appendix 1".

DECISIONS:

- 1) The Company's three-year business plan was approved, as set out in Appendix A.**
- 2) Cabinet noted the likely call-down on the £15 million loan approved within the Council's existing Capital Programme in the Financial Year 2022/2023, as set out in exempt Appendix 1 which will be:**
 - a. At a rate of interest consistent with Subsidy Control rules.**
 - b. Necessary either for the sustainability of existing income streams of the Company or for the generation of additional income for the Company.**
 - c. Represents the most favourable return to the Council**
- 3) Cabinet directed the Company to provide the Cabinet with an indicative business plan by the 31 December each year, and for the Company to bring forward its next annual business plan to Cabinet for approval by no later than the 31 March in each year.**
- 4) The Company business plan, in addition to the requirements set out in article 146 of its' Articles of Association, must in addition demonstrate to the Cabinet's satisfaction that it is:**
 - a) based on robust assumptions with a more than reasonable chance of being achievable.**
 - b) prepared to illustrate the financial effect of reasonable optimistic and reasonable pessimistic scenarios to enable the Cabinet to understand the reasonable range of risk associated with the "Base Case" Business Plan.**
 - c) reflects the exposure of the company to cyclical trade factors and adverse weather and demonstrates to the Cabinet that the three-year Business Plan provides an overall net return to the Council over the period considering all returns received by the Council through rents, dues and all other profit elements of services provided by the Council (including the Portsmouth International Port).**

The meeting concluded at 13.25pm.

.....
Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson