

CABINET

RECORD OF DECISIONS of the meeting of the Cabinet held on Tuesday, 8 March 2022 at 1.00pm at the Guildhall, Portsmouth

Present

Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE (Chair)
Suzy Horton (Vice-Chair)
Chris Attwell
Dave Ashmore
Kimberly Barrett
Jason Fazackarley
Darren Sanders
Lynne Stagg

Welcome and introductions

Councillor Suzy Horton, Vice Chair and Deputy Leader, noted that it was International Women's Day and that she particularly had in mind the women of the Ukraine this year. Councillor Gerald Vernon Jackson agreed and noted that a candlelight vigil for the Ukraine would be taking place in Portsmouth's Guildhall Square on Saturday, 12 March from 5.30pm to 7.00pm and that everyone was welcome to attend.

30. Apologies for Absence (AI 1)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Hugh Mason.

31. Declarations of Interests (AI 2)

For transparency Councillor Vernon-Jackson informed those present that in relation to agenda item 10 (Solent Freeport Full Business case) he is a Council appointed director of the Solent Freeport Consortium and as such this does not constitute an interest.

33. Record of Previous Decision Meetings (AI 3)

The record of the previous decisions taken at Cabinet on 30 November 2021 and 8 February 2022 were approved as a correct record.

34. Capital Strategy 2022/23-2031/32 (Pages 27 - 68)

Julian Pike, Deputy Director Finance and Resources introduced the report.

In response to questions from members, Mr Pike confirmed that as set out in the Capital Strategy, all funding for schemes must be identified before they commence.

DECISIONS - Cabinet agreed:

- 1. That Part I of the Capital Strategy (Capital Expenditure and Aspirations) be approved including:**

- ii. **borrow to finance short term cash deficits and capital payments from any reputable source within the authorised limit for external debt of £963m approved by the City Council on 9 February 2021;**
- iii. **(reschedule debt to even the maturity profile or to achieve revenue savings;**
- iv. **to buy and sell foreign currency, and to purchase hedging instruments including forward purchases, forward options, and foreign exchange rate swaps to mitigate the foreign exchange risks associated with some contracts that are either priced in foreign currencies or where the price is indexed against foreign currency exchange rates;**

6. That the Director of Finance and Resources (Section 151 Officer) has the power to delegate treasury management operations to relevant staff;

7. That the Chief Executive, the Leader of the City Council and the Chair of the Governance and Audit and Standards Committee be informed of any variances from the Treasury Management Policy when they become apparent, and that the Leader of the City Council be consulted on remedial action (paragraph 1.2.2 of Treasury Management Policy Statement).

36. Carbon Budget Approach (AI 6)

Kristina Downey, Principal Strategy Advisor Carbon Management, introduced the report.

DECISION:

Cabinet recommended the contents of this report be referred to Full Council for noting.

37. Health and Wellbeing Strategy (AI 7)

Matt Gummerson, Strategic Lead for Intelligence, introduced the report and the Cabinet Member for Health, Wellbeing and Social Care, Councillor Jason Fazackarley noted that the strategy had received wide consultation.

Members welcomed the report which complimented the Council's corporate aspirations and city vision work. Members noted that the relationship with the Integrated Care System (ICS) and its work across Hampshire has not yet been fully resolved.

DECISION:

Cabinet recommended the Health and Wellbeing Strategy (HWS) for 2022-23 attached at Appendix 1 of the report be referred to Full Council for approval.

38. Developing the Telecare Service (AI 8)

Paul Fielding, Assistant Director Housing), introduced the report. The Cabinet Member for Housing and Preventing Homelessness, Councillor Darren Sanders noted the importance of services which support people in their own homes, that this had been particularly important during the pandemic and that links to community organisations were an essential part of supporting residents.

Members noted that social isolation was an important issue and that the service offered to people without support from friends and family was vital.

DECISIONS - Cabinet agreed:

- 1. That councillors recognise the developments in the Telecare service, the new service offer, and agree to the changes proposed.**
- 2. To approve the financial fees for the new service, that are set on a cost recovery basis.**
- 3. That officers bring back an update report before the end of 2022 on the progress of the new service, and also outline how community and voluntary groups could be used to support service users to stay safe in their own home.**

39. Portsmouth Local Plan Progression Update (AI 9)

Ian Maguire, Assistant Director Planning and Economic Growth, introduced the report and noted that page 4 of the New Portsmouth Local Plan 'Regulation 18' draft consultation (September 2021) document RAG-rated Portsmouth Strategic Development policies and that paragraph 4.2 of the report set out the revised timetable for the Council's Regulation 19 version of the Plan.

The Cabinet Member for Culture Leisure and Economic Development, Councillor Ben Dowling, noted that it was important to take the time necessary to respond to all the issues. Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson commented that he hoped further cross-party working would be in evidence when the Regulation 19 version is considered at Full Council later in the year.

DECISIONS - Cabinet:

- 1. Noted the progression of the draft new Portsmouth Local Plan *and the summary of responses to the 'Regulation 18' consultation during September-October 2021.***
- 2. Approved the revised Local Plan timetable set out in the Local Development Scheme (LDS).**
- 3. Granted delegated authority to Assistant Director Planning & Economic Growth to make minor amendments to the LDS and Development Plan Document timetables as necessary.**

40 Solent Freeport Full Business Case (AI 10)

Mark Pembleton, Economic Growth Manager, introduced the report.

DECISIONS:

Cabinet recommended that this report be referred to Full Council on the 15 March 2022 for approval.

The Cabinet recommends that Full Council agrees to delegate to the Chief Executive and the S.151 Officer in consultation with the Deputy Leader of the City Council to approve the Solent Freeport Full Business Case (FBC) on behalf of Portsmouth City Council, and to see it submitted to Central Government following consultation with the S.151 and Monitoring Officers of each of the tax sites.

41. Regeneration of the City Centre (AI 11)

Anna Limburn, Project Manager Regeneration, introduced report.

Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson suggested additional recommendations to reflect the changes to retail taking nationally, the need for the city council to work with retailers and landlords to ensure that the retail offering is as strong as possible and that by continuing to work together the regeneration, culture and children, families and education directorates could ensure that it meets the needs of young people.

Members agreed that culture needs to be at centre of the regeneration of the city, including the Tricorn area, and that cross-directorate working is already taking place.

DECISIONS - Cabinet:

- 1. Noted the progress made on land assembly to support the development in paragraph 7 of this report and that land assembly continues as approved by Full Council on the 13 October 2021.**
- 2. Noted work done by officers to support the wider City Centre's economic recovery through the multiple workstreams listed below and the role of the new City Centre North development in that programme of work.**
- 3. Noted the progress of all work to complete the planning application and submit it in Spring 2022.**
- 4. Delegated authority to the Director of Regeneration and the S151 officer to deliver meanwhile uses in all PCC owned assets where possible and viable to do so, to further support the economic recovery of the City Centre.**
- 5. Delegated authority to the Director of Regeneration and S151 Officer on the advice of the City Solicitor in consultation with the Leader to investigate funding and delivery options including internal delivery and potential partnering options for the City Centre North Development.**
- 6. Noted that the way retail operates has changed nationally and recognises that while Commercial Road is adapting to modern needs to deliver the stronger retail offer that residents want, it**

might be possible to help accelerate this. Therefore to help this transition the Council will work with landlords and retailers to ensure that the city centre becomes the vibrant and engaging high street residents want and that the shopping offer is as strong as possible.

- 7. Agreed that the Culture & Leisure and Children, Families and Education directorates continue to work with colleagues within the Regeneration directorate to ensure the regeneration of the city centre is culturally led and meets the needs of young people.**

42. Museum Strategy 2022-26 (AI 12)

Dr Jane Mee, Portsmouth Museums & Visitor Services Manager, introduced the report. The Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Economic Development Councillor Ben Dowling, commented that this strategy was a good example of how residents are at the heart of decision making in Portsmouth.

Members agreed that it was exciting, the consultation had been wide-ranging and inclusive and that offering hands-on experiences was attractive to children and young people. It was also noted that the strategy complimented the work to regenerate the city centre in a similar way to the Box museum, gallery and archive in Plymouth. It was noted that the strategy supported the great museums in Portsmouth and that working with communities would help increase footfall.

DECISIONS - Cabinet agreed:

- 1. That the number of people contributing their views and the findings of the consultation are noted.**
- 2. That the Museums Strategy 2022-2026 is approved without further change.**

43. S75 Arrangements with Portsmouth Clinical Commissioning Group (AI 13)

David Williams, Chief Executive, introduced the report. Councillor Jason Fazackarley, Cabinet Member for Health Wellbeing and Social Care, noted that the report linked to the Health and Wellbeing Strategy considered earlier in the meeting and that changes to the s75 arrangements were being imposed nationally.

Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson commented that close working relationships with health colleagues had generated very positive effects for Portsmouth residents, he would be looking to ensure this continued and there were some unanswered questions around governance of the new arrangements. In response, David Williams explained that the Lords had proposed changes to the Bill which would allow directly elected members to be on the Board and that he would be continuing to discuss this at officer level. Councillor Vernon-Jackson thanked Mr Williams for his work on the integration of health and care services in the city.

DECISIONS - Cabinet:

- 1. Noted the work undertaken to bring about greater integration of health and care services in the city.**
- 2. Approved in principle (on the basis of the summary document attached) the s75 agreement between Portsmouth City Council and Portsmouth Clinical Commissioning Group, with delegated responsibility to the Chief Executive to agree final amendments and to authorise the execution of the agreement in final form.**
- 3. Delegated authority for associated schedules to be completed and signed off by the relevant Director in consultation with the s151 officer or his authorised delegate.**

44. Violence Against Women and Girls Safety Audit (AI 14)

Councillor David Ashmore, Cabinet Member for Community Safety & Environment, introduced the report noting that it was appropriate that it had come before Cabinet on International Women's Day and that dealing with this issue should not require women to behave differently.

Councillor Suzy Horton agreed, adding that until women do not have to change their behaviours monitoring is academic. Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson commented that although much had been done, such as installing cctv in taxis and PHVs and improvements to lighting in public spaces, women continued to be at risk at home and further work was needed.

DECISION:

Cabinet agreed for a further report to Cabinet with an update on the outcome of the community safety survey.

45. Skills Strategy Review 2021 (AI 15)

Jane Lamer, Business Manager Regeneration, introduced the information report which had been requested by the portfolio holder, Councillor Suzy Horton. Councillor Suzy Horton, Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education, commented that monitoring the impact of the focused skills strategy on individual's lives, particularly following covid, is important.

The Cabinet noted this information report.

THE COUNCIL AS COMPANY OWNER

46. Ravelin Group Limited (AI 16)

Tristan Samuels, Director of Regeneration, introduced the report.

Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson proposed an amendment to recommendation 2 to strengthen the importance of cross-party working in businesses where the Council is a shareholder. This was agreed.

Councillor Ben Dowling, Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Economic Development commented that Ravelin Group would help the Council provide

additional housing to residents who may not find good quality housing by other means.

DECISIONS - Cabinet:

- 1. Noted the proposed future changes to the Ravelin group of company's directorships; and**
- 2. Delegated authority to the Director of Regeneration, after consultation with the Group Leaders and the Council's Monitoring Officer, to make changes to the appointment or removal of Council officers as directors of the Ravelin group of companies, and ensure the Group Leaders are kept informed of all changes made.**
- 3. Noted, for the avoidance of doubt, the delegation at 2 (above) would not apply in relation to the appointment or removal of directors to the Ravelin group of companies who are independent non-executive or executive directors and who are also not Council officers. Such appointments would need to be agreed by Cabinet as shareholder.**

The meeting concluded at 2.10pm

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Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson
Leader of the Council