

RECORD OF DECISIONS of the meeting of the Cabinet held on Tuesday, 5 September 2023 at 2 pm at the Guildhall, Portsmouth

Present

Councillor Suzy Horton (in the Chair)
Dave Ashmore
Kimberly Barrett
Ian Holder
Lee Hunt
Darren Sanders
Gerald Vernon-Jackson
Matthew Winnington

63. Apologies for Absence (AI 1)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hugh Mason and Steve Pitt. Councillor Horton welcomed Lorna Reavley, Chief Executive Officer, and Reverend Canon Bob White, Chair, of The HIVE Portsmouth, who were attending for item 7.

64. Declarations of Interests (AI 2)

Councillor Sanders declared a prejudicial interest in agenda item 9 (Mandatory Licensing of Houses in Multiple Occupation) as he lived in one. He would leave the meeting for this item.

65. Record of previous decision meeting - 25 July 2023 (AI 3)

The record of decisions from the meeting held on 25 July 2023 was approved as a correct record.

66. Forward Plan omission notice - Christmas Lights 2023 (Supporting infrastructure and Christmas lights provision) (AI 4)

The Christmas Lights 2023 (Supporting infrastructure and Christmas lights provision) by the Assistant Director of Planning & Economic Growth was omitted from the Forward Plan covering 17 August to 17 November 2023. The Chair of the City Council's Scrutiny Management Panel has been notified and a public notice published.

DECISIONS

The Cabinet

- 1. Noted the omission to the Forward Plan for 17 August to 17 November 2023.**
- 2. Noted the publication of the omission notice.**

67. Christmas Lights 2023 (Supporting infrastructure and Christmas lights provision) (AI 5)

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

Members welcomed the report and were happy to continue investing in retail areas. Christmas lights were important for businesses and traders as they attracted shoppers. The effects may be hard to quantify but traders felt the lights enhanced retail areas.

DECISIONS

The Cabinet agreed to

1. Approve funding from city wide Neighbourhood CIL fund to fund the repair and enhancement of Christmas lights infrastructure and additional/replacement Christmas Light Motifs across the city (or otherwise agreed priority sites).

And

2. Give approval that any underspend from the allocated funding is retained as a ringfenced reserve for the future of maintaining the provision of Christmas lights in the city.

68. Lease of open space at King George V Playing Field (AI 6)

Adrian Rozier, Regulatory Services Lead, introduced the report.

Members welcomed the report as part of the city's sports economy. There has already been massive provision in tennis and gymnastics and the increased facilities at the King George V Playing Field was a big win, showing there was no north / south divide in the city. Members thanked officers for their work on getting to this point and looked forward to working with the Hampshire Football Association. Having good partners running sports projects was beneficial. They also thanked all team coaches, who were generally volunteers. Councillor Horton had recently visited the Playing Fields recently and was very impressed.

The improved facilities were part of a major investment in youth provision, especially in northern and eastern areas of the city where it had been weaker. Members noted provision was being improved in Bransbury Park and Moneyfields.

DECISIONS

The Cabinet considered the outcome of the consultation exercise and delegated authority to the Director of Culture, Leisure and Regulatory Services to grant a lease to the preferred operator upon consultation with PCC Legal Services and Property Team, once the final terms are agreed.

69. Portsmouth City Council's strategic relationship with The HIVE (AI 7)

Catherine Ramsay, Business Development and Project Manager, introduced the report.

Lorna Reavley, Chief Executive Officer, and Reverend Canon Bob White, Chair of the HIVE Portsmouth, gave an update on its activities.

The Reverend Canon compared the HIVE to people's life stages so when it was young it started with hopes and aspirations, then it was a teenager during the Covid pandemic and now it had reached adulthood with the Memorandum of Understanding with the council. Its mature years would be marked by having good, stable relationships.

Ms Reavley had joined the HIVE about 15 months ago (having previously worked in Portsmouth) to identify risks and strengthen opportunities. It was amazing to be back and she saw how the HIVE's partnerships had made a difference. Volunteers have done just under 3,000 hours' work which was worth about £43,000. There were also unofficial volunteers. She outlined the volume of visits, telephone calls and emails the HIVE received and illustrated highlights of the activities described in the report, for example:

- Capacity building was a priority and there were enquires from individuals and groups wanting to start groups. New networking sessions focused on children and young people, environmental issues and social care.
- A cost of living event in February showed the real impact the crisis has had on VCSE (voluntary, community and social enterprise) staff and residents. Demand for the school uniform shop was expected to rise dramatically.
- The HIVE had supported Dynamite to become part of MAKE. Portsmouth Parent Voice would be part of Homestart from October.
- BAE Systems helped fund a co-working space for the VCSE sector and were also supporting regular drop-in sessions.
- The HIVE continued to support food pantries which were more sustainable than food banks and ensured food went to those most at risk. There were seven in place with three more planned.
- Service users, carers, experts by experience and those with lived experience were involved, for example, people with lived experience contributed to the "You're Not Alone" mental health campaign.
- To date 17 digital champions have been trained to enable residents to be digitally active, including accessing medical services via an increasing number of online kiosks.
- The Disability Advisory Group was run by people with disabilities and dealt with issues of concerns for those with physical disabilities.
- The Wellbeing Collective to prevent hospital admissions was in its second year and the 434 referrals received so far had saved over 3,000 hours of healthcare staff time and about £40,000.
- If the HIVE was successful as a co-applicant on the Health Determinants Research Collaboration bid, it would host the office and develop community research with residents.

All these activities would continue along with others such as the Paulsgrove Asset based community development project and youth provision in Chaucer House.

The Reverend Canon ran marriage preparation courses to ensure partners realised the commitment they were making and the HIVE's activities showed the depth and breadth of its commitment as a partner to statutory authorities.

The Chair thanked the Reverend Canon and Ms Reavley very much for the review of activities. The HIVE being a member of the Health & Wellbeing Board, as well as having a voice on the Integrated Care Board, was a good strategic move. Initially the HIVE had looked at filling gaps in provision the council could not fund but now it was more a case of standing together, side by side, for example, as shown with Dynamite.

Councillor Winnington, Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing, Health & Care, said the networking groups were a simple but useful idea. He had been discussing strategic partnerships in health and care with Innes Richens, the HIVE's Health & Care Lead. The HIVE was already engaging with people in the community on mental health services. It was not just having conversations nor just the VCSE sector but bringing all services together. Volunteering was a big thing when the HIVE started but it was now much more than that so he gave a big thank you to all involved. Having worked in the sector he knew what a difference it made.

Referring to the marriage analogy, Councillor Sanders, Cabinet Member for Housing & Tackling Homelessness, said working together meant moving forward. The work undertaken during Covid to house rough sleepers and sofa surfers was nothing short of sensational. It was the first crisis in the marriage. The next stage would be how to help communities and families help themselves. He was acutely aware of work on food pantries. It could be said that pantries should not be needed but they were. The marriage had to be in the best possible place as it moved into the pensionable years.

DECISIONS

The Cabinet

- 3. Noted with appreciation the contribution that HIVE Portsmouth made to the city during the pandemic;**
- 4. Noted the renewed focus of HIVE Portsmouth in the post-pandemic environment and the range of activity underway; and**
- 5. Approved the Memorandum of Understanding between PCC and HIVE Portsmouth as the basis for a future strategic partnership agreement.**

70. Discharge to Assess model (AI 8)

Andy Biddle, Director of Adult Social Care, introduced the report.

Councillor Winnington thanked Mr Biddle for the report but was upset the matter had to come to the Cabinet. Discharge to Assess (D2A) was one of the few good things to come out of Covid but it had not been properly funded by central government. Portsmouth was very fortunate in that it worked in an integrated fashion. Adequate funding would enable the right people to leave hospital at the right time, thereby saving money for the NHS and entire health and social care system. Now D2A had to be restricted to specific people and not the community as a whole. Targets were more about getting people out of hospital than preventing admissions. He hoped the recommendation to write to the Integrated Care Board would prompt them to provide further funding as it made a massive difference.

DECISIONS

The Cabinet

- 1. Approved that D2A is restricted to the fully funded beds in the Jubilee and Spinnaker units and Adult Social Care returns to assessment of need prior to discharge from hospital for any Portsmouth resident who is unable to be discharged on this pathway,**

when the available funding identified becomes insufficient to enable continued 'spot placements' in the external care market.

2. **Endorsed that the Council will only be committing to deliver D2A schemes and plans that are achievable, have value to our residents and are supported by funding.**
3. **Asked the Director of Adult Social Care to write to Hampshire & Isle of Wight Integrated Care Board, (HIOW ICB) and inform them of the above decisions, providing the opportunity for the ICB to decide whether to allocate further funds to enable D2A to continue in its current form in the 2023/24 financial year.**

Councillor Sanders left the meeting at 2.50 pm.

71. Mandatory Licensing of Houses in Multiple Occupation (AI 9)

Clare Hardwick, Head of Private Sector Housing, introduced the report.

Members were glad to see increased acceptance of mandatory licensing from landlords. Any misunderstandings about the scheme would gradually abate. Residents living in Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) and in surrounding properties would be happier, leading to a happier city. There would be fewer complaints, including at the Planning Committee. It may take time to weed out substandard HMOs but it would lead to improvements.

DECISIONS

The Cabinet agreed to

1. **Note the outcome of the non-statutory consultation which was undertaken from 26 July 2023 and closed on 16 August 2023, as summarised in section 4 of this report, the full summary of which is in Appendix 1.**
2. **Change the HMO Licensing scheme in light of the consultation results as outlined in this report. This includes agreeing to a new approach to administering licences for different terms as outlined in Appendix 2, a new Licensing fee structure as outlined in Appendix 3, and new licence conditions as outlined in Appendix 4.**
3. **Implement the changes agreed in paragraph 2 above from 1st December 2023. Any licences due to expire on or after 1st December 2023, or any new licence applications received on or after 1st December 2023, will be administered through the new Mandatory Licensing criteria outlined in this report.**
4. **Instruct officers to conduct an annual review of the fee structure for Mandatory Licensing alongside the annual review already agreed for additional licensing fees, and present proposals for any required fee adjustments accordingly to the cabinet member for Community Safety for approval.**

The meeting concluded at 2.58 pm.

Councillor Steve Pitt
Leader of the Council