

DECISIONS of the meeting of the Cabinet held on Tuesday 10 September 2024 at 2 pm at the Guildhall, Portsmouth

Present

Councillor Steve Pitt (in the Chair)

Darren Sanders
Dave Ashmore
Chris Attwell
Kimberly Barrett
Peter Candlish
Suzy Horton
Lee Hunt
Matthew Winnington

63. Apologies for Absence (AI 1)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Hugh Mason.

64. Declarations of Interests (AI 2)

There were no declarations of interest.

65. Record of previous decision meeting - 23 July 2024 (AI 3)

The record of the previous decision meeting held on 23 July 2024 was agreed as a correct record.

66. Dog Control - Public Spaces Protection Order - Pre-consultation Report (AI 4)

Mark Collings, Seafront Operations Officer, introduced the report.

Members noted that a recent meeting of the Traffic, Environment & Community Safety (TECS) Scrutiny Panel, who were reviewing environmental anti-social behaviour, had unanimously agreed on the cleanliness and tidiness of parks and open spaces in the city. The current administration issued more fines for dog fouling and littering. It employed 16 wardens full-time whereas previously they were on yearly contracts. Prosecutions were increasing thanks to the Legal team and fixed-penalty notices were being paid, which showed the proposals could be supported by enforcement from the council.

Members thanked officers for the report and noted dogs on the beach was a contentious issue which generated considerable correspondence, especially in wards adjoining the beach. Some residents were in favour of extending the areas open to dogs and others wanted to restrict them further or have no dogs at all. Members were not pre-supposing outcomes but whatever came out of the consultation would have had the consent of residents and ensured that beach users, both those with and without dogs, had had their voices heard. The beach attracted many visitors so patrols needed to be maintained. It would be interesting to see the results of the consultation.

DECISIONS
The Cabinet

1. **Agreed that approval is given by Cabinet to hold a public consultation on the details of the exclusion of dogs from the beach during the bathing season in the next PSPO. The two suggested revisions to the order relating to the beach areas between Eastney and Old Portsmouth are as follows:**
 - **Consultation on whether to make any amendments to the eastern boundary of the seasonal dog exclusion zone on the beach.**
 - **Consultation on whether to make any amendments to the period of exclusion from 24 hour exclusion of dogs to a daily time constrained exclusion period.**
2. **Agreed that the section of the PSPO relating to dog control orders in city parks renews without revisions following the advice of the Environmental Enforcement Manager who reports no issues with the current legislation and with no recorded evidence of any member of public or organisation raising an issue with the current legislation.**
3. **Agreed that following assessment of data from the consultation the PSPO be brought back for approval of revision, or renewal of existing order should the data suggest revisions are not suitable.**

67. Update on Enforcement of Waste Management Policy (AI 5)

David Emmett, Head of Waste Management Services, introduced the report.

Members thanked officers for the report as streets should be accessible. They agreed that education was important as the first stage of enforcement, before moving to fines, in tackling the issue of bins left on the pavement. In one ward about 30% of the population changed every year and new residents might not realise they had to bring bins in. When bins were managed properly it made a massive difference to the street scene. There was real positive feedback, for example, one street of flat-fronted houses now had no bins, perhaps because of peer pressure. It made a difference to residents not having to negotiate bins on the pavement and streets looked and felt cleaner.

The policy had proved the council would take action about bins left on the pavement. It had also provided the opportunity to speak to residents. The remaining streets were being tackled in priority order. There were now an additional 27 assisted collections for residents who needed help moving bins. Councillor Barrett thanked the bin crew for moving a bin for her when she was unwell. Members suggested the TECS Scrutiny Panel's review could involve student representatives, the University and the landlords' association to give evidence about these sorts of changes. It was important Portsmouth was an attractive city as it wished to be a weekend destination break for people from all over the world.

The Cabinet noted the report.

68. Update on the transfer of Solent LEP functions into Upper Tier Local Authorities (AI 6)

Paddy May, Corporate Strategy Manager, introduced the report. Since it had been published the Memorandum of Understanding about the disaggregation of the Solent LEP (Local Enterprise Partnership) legacy funds had been

agreed in principle and was being examined by the Legal team; hopefully it would be settled by the end of September.

Councillor Pitt explained that the council used to have an appointee to the Solent LEP and had delegated powers as a director of the company. The Solent Growth Partnership had a different structure so a new scheme of delegation was needed to give the Leader of the council the same powers.

DECISIONS

The Cabinet

- 1. Noted the update contained within this report**
- 2. Agreed that the Leader of the Council should have delegated responsibility to make decisions on behalf of Portsmouth City Council at the Solent Growth Partnership in line with the terms of reference for the Solent Growth Partnership attached at Appendix 1 and paragraph 3.4.1.**

69. Devolution deal for Portsmouth / Hampshire and Solent (AI 7)

Paddy May, Corporate Strategy Manager, introduced the report. Since the report had been published the "expression of interest" in exploring devolution deals had been submitted to the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government and initial discussions with the government would take place the following week. Government policy on devolution was developing and it would probably be many months before it emerged.

Some members remembered when Portsmouth had broken away from Hampshire and now developments were moving the other way. The council had to be involved in discussions to see what was happening and then decide what was good for Portsmouth. However, the process would take a long time and there might be different government policy by then. Members agreed the process had been "waxing and waning" for a very long time. The signs from the current government were more encouraging in that the process would be more bottom-up than top-down and the new government did not seem to like the presidential style of government. However, the system still seemed two-tier and clinging on to the elected mayor model, which was perhaps just an opportunity for individuals to have a well-paid role but not do very much. Hampshire had been consistently against the mayoral system. All local authorities had to agree to a deal but any deal had to be part of something that worked for Portsmouth so the council should work with its counterparts and not rush into something that did not work.

Councillor Pitt said the council preferred the Solent deal as Portsmouth sat within the Solent economic area. The "expression of interest" was merely that and if the council ended up pursuing a deal based on the Solent geography it would do so in a joined-up way with Hampshire. Portsmouth worked with its near neighbours in areas such as employment, industry and tourism so would not do anything that deliberately caused them harm. However, the council would only work on a larger basis if it was good for Portsmouth. It was welcome and positive that the Leader of Hampshire County Council was willing to have conversations on devolution. Councillor Pitt requested to put on record his appreciation of Lorna Fielker and Phil Jordan (the Leaders of

Southampton and Isle of Wight councils respectively) for their collegiate approach to the post-LEP arrangements.

DECISIONS

The Cabinet

- 1. Noted that there are currently discussions underway to explore the potential for a devolution deal for local authorities across Hampshire & the Isle of Wight (including sub-regional geographies such as the Solent).**
- 2. Agreed that delegated authority be given to the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive to engage with Government, and neighbouring authorities, to understand whether there is a devolution deal that would be worth bringing back for Cabinet and Full Council to consider.**

The meeting concluded at 2.35 pm.

Councillor Steve Pitt
Leader of the Council