

Cabinet

Minutes of meeting held in Court Room at Eastbourne Town Hall, Grove Road, BN21 4UG on 11 September 2019 at 6.00 pm

Present:

Councillor David Tutt (Chair)

Councillors Alan Shuttleworth (Deputy-Chair), Margaret Bannister, Jonathan Dow, Stephen Holt, Colin Swansborough and Rebecca Whippy

Officers in attendance:

Robert Cottrill (Chief Executive), Ian Fitzpatrick (Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Regeneration and Planning), Homira Javadi (Chief Finance Officer), Philip Evans (Director of Tourism & Enterprise), Tim Whelan (Director of Service Delivery), Becky Cooke (Assistant Director for Human Resources and Transformation), Peter Finnis (Assistant Director for Corporate Governance), Catherine Knight (Assistant Director for Legal and Democratic Services), Jo Harper (Head of Business Planning and Performance) and Simon Russell (Committee and Civic Services Manager)

21 Minutes of the meeting held on 9 July 2019

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 July 2019 were submitted and approved and the Chair was authorised to sign them as a correct record.

22 Apologies for absence

None were reported.

23 Declaration of members' interests

None were declared.

24 Corporate performance - quarter 1 2019/20

The Cabinet considered the report of the Director of Regeneration and Planning and Chief Finance Officer updating them on the Council's performance against Corporate Plan priority actions, performance indicators and targets for quarter 1 for the year 2019-20.

Cabinet were notified of the comments from Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 2 September 2019 in relation to the key performance indicator for 'Increase the percentage of calls to the contact centre answered within 60 seconds'. Any adverse changes of more than 5% would now be included in the narrative for future reports.

Part B of the report detailed the Council's financial performance for the same quarter. The Chief Finance Officer clarified that the Housing Revenue Account variance figure at 2.1 of the report was £45,000.

Visiting members, Councillors Ansell, Di Cara and Smart addressed the Cabinet on this item.

Resolved (Key decision)

(1) To note the achievements and progress against Corporate Plan priorities for 2019-20, as set out in Part A of the report.

(2) To agree the General Fund, HRA and Collection Fund financial performance for the quarter, as set out in part B of the report.

(3) To approve the amended capital programme as set out at appendix 4 to the report.

Reason for decisions:

To enable Cabinet members to consider specific aspects of the Council's progress and performance.

25 Climate emergency resolution

The Cabinet considered the report of the Director of Regeneration and Planning seeking agreement to the next steps of action following the declaration of a climate emergency by Full Council in July 2019.

Councillor Dow reported that as part of the next steps, a Climate Change Strategic Panel would be established, comprising five councillors (three from the administration and two from the opposition), to oversee the strategy's development and make recommendations regarding carbon reduction and climate adaptation.

The report detailed that a launch event would be arranged to bring together interested parties and raise the profile of the work being undertaken. It would aim to gain more commitment and support from partners and would provide a forum for view to be shared about priorities for action.

Councillor Dow was the lead member on this issue and given the scale and volume of work to be undertaken, part of his current portfolio, covering other topics would be transferred to Councillor Swansborough. Updated portfolio statements would be published to due course.

Visiting member, Councillor Ansell addressed the Cabinet on this item.

Resolved (Key decision):

That £36k per annum be approved towards the cost of a dedicated post, shared with Lewes District Council, to develop and support the delivery of a Climate Change Strategy.

Reason for decision:

Following the declaration of a climate emergency and a commitment by the Council to work in close partnership with local groups and stakeholders to deliver a carbon neutral town by 2030, this report seeks Cabinet's allocation of funds to enable the progression of the commitments made.

26 Pesticide policy and pollinator strategy

The Cabinet considered the report of the Director of Service Delivery regarding the introduction of a Pesticide Policy and Pollinator Strategy.

Resolved (Key decision):

- (1) To approve the Pesticide Policy for adoption.
- (2) To approve the Pollinator Strategy for adoption.

Reason for decisions:

To provide a framework and action plans for Eastbourne Borough Council in its approach to land management.

27 Access Audit

The Cabinet considered the report of the Director of Regeneration and Planning seeking their approval of plans for an access to be undertaken and for an access accreditation scheme to be set up.

An initial programme would cover audits of a range of council owned buildings and facilities over a four year period.

Under the new accreditation scheme, businesses wishing to participate would initially submit an online form about accessible design features of their premises, provision of staff disability training and policies that make their organisation accessible to disabled people.

Resolved (Non-key decision):

- (1) To approve plans for an Access Audit.
- (2) To approve the establishment of an Access Accreditation Scheme for Eastbourne.

Reason for decisions:

An access audit and accreditation scheme would enable the council to determine the current levels of accessibility for disabled people of public buildings and services in the Borough. As well as raising the profile of access issues the audit could also act as a catalyst for driving improvements in accessibility.

28 Sovereign Energy Centre

The Cabinet considered the report of the Director of Regeneration and Planning seeking approval to progress a renewable energy centre at the Sovereign Centre site.

Resolved (Key decision):

To agree a budget of up to £115k to carry out additional feasibility and design work for a standalone energy centre at the Sovereign Centre site; this could potentially provide low carbon heat sourced from the embedded energy in the nearby sewer network. If viable, a decision to invest would be considered at the February 2020 Cabinet.

Reason for decision:

To invest in solutions that will reduce the town's overall carbon footprint whilst also enabling an income generation.

29 Housing delivery update: Bedfordwell Road

The Cabinet considered the report of the Director of Regeneration and Planning setting out options for delivery of new homes and community facilities at Bedfordwell Road.

Resolved (Key decision):

(1) To delegate authority to the Director of Regeneration & Planning in consultation with the Portfolio holder for Housing and the Chief Finance Officer to move the development of the Bedfordwell Road scheme through to Stage 2 of the Clear Sustainable Futures (CSF) process to allow the Council to fully understand the financial and delivery options for the site.

(2) To delegate authority to the Chief Finance Officer in consultation with the Council Leader to release £1.218m from the existing scheme capital allocation to meet the costs of progressing the development of the scheme through to Stage 2 with CSF.

(3) To bring a further report back to Cabinet once the Council had reached Stage 2 and are in a position to report comprehensively on the financial viability of the scheme and to determine the best way of proceeding for tax

efficiency purposes and agree a budget in the Housing Revenue Account and/or General Fund.

Reason for decisions:

To enable the next stages of procurement required to allow the construction works to deliver new homes and facilities for the town.

30 Exclusion of the public

Resolved:

That the public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting as otherwise there was a likelihood of disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. The relevant paragraph of schedule 12A and a description of the exempt information was shown below. (The requisite notice having been given under regulation 5 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.)

31 Housing delivery update: Bedfordwell Road - Exempt appendix 1

The Cabinet considered the exempt appendix in relation to agenda item 12 (Housing delivery update: Bedfordwell Road).

Visiting member, Councillor Smart addressed the Cabinet on this item.

Resolved (Non-key decision):

That the exempt appendix be noted.

Reason for decision:

As detailed in minute 32.

The meeting ended at 7.07 pm

Councillor David Tutt (Chair)