

Cabinet

Minutes of meeting held in Court Room at Eastbourne Town Hall, Grove Road, BN21 4UG on 15 September 2021 at 6.00 pm.

Present:

Councillor David Tutt (Chair).

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

Officers in attendance:

Robert Cottrill (Chief Executive), Homira Javadi (Chief Finance Officer), Ian Fitzpatrick (Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Regeneration and Planning), Tim Whelan (Director of Service Delivery), Becky Cooke (Assistant Director for Human Resources and Transformation), Oliver Dixon (Head of Legal Services), Ola Owolabi (Deputy Chief Finance Officer (Corporate Finance)) and Simon Russell (Head of Democratic Services).

Also in attendance:

Councillor Penny di Cara (Opposition Deputy Leader), Councillor Kshama Shore OBE (Shadow Cabinet Member) and Councillor Robert Smart (Opposition Leader).

20 Minutes of the meeting held on 14 July 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 July 2021 were submitted and approved and the Chair was authorised to sign them as a correct record.

21 Apologies for absence

None were reported.

22 Declaration of members' interests

None were declared.

23 Corporate performance - quarter 1 - 2021/22

The Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Finance Officer and Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Regeneration of Planning, updating members on the Council's performance against Corporate Plan priority actions, performance indicators and targets for the first quarter of the year 2021-22.

Performance highlights for the quarter included benefits processing, planning applications processing and social media engagement. Thanks were conveyed to officers for these highlights. Commentary on those performance indicators

that were currently below target was detailed in the report.

Part B of the report detailed the Council's financial performance for the same quarter. Based on the information to date, the report detailed that the expected use of the capitalisation direction was likely to be reduced by £3.5m to £2.5m, mainly because of the additional Recovery & Reset (R&R) savings and Cultural Recovery Fund grant. Thanks were conveyed to officers on their continued work on the R&R programme.

Visiting members, Councillors di Cara, Shore and Smart addressed the Cabinet on this item. A breakdown of the figures related to household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting would be circulated following the meeting. The Cabinet also advised that the Council was waiting for a Central Government announcement on possible funding to assist those authorities that don't currently collect food waste.

Resolved (Non-key decision):

(1) To note the achievements and progress against Corporate Plan priorities for 2021-22, as set out in Part A of this report.

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

Reason for decisions:

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

24 Medium Term Financial Strategy

The Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Finance Officer, providing them an update on the process and approach to the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy for the period 2021/22 to 2024/25.

The Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) sets the strategic financial direction for the Council and is regularly updated as it evolves and develops throughout the year to form the framework for the Council's financial planning. The report outlined the proposed process for the MTFS for the period 2021/22 to 2024/25, which ultimately leads to the setting of the Council's budget in February 2022.

The MTFS is shaped by the national economic background and external factors such as the impact of Covid-19 and Brexit, inflation, interest rates, Public Sector Pay and Factors affecting demand-led services would be analysed in undertaking a mid-year review of the Strategy.

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

Resolved (Key decision):

To note the background to the Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2022/23 and approve the approach outlined in this report.

Reason for decision:

To progress the Medium Term Financial Strategy process and update Cabinet on the background to this.

25 Planning Technical Advice Notes for Sustainability

The Cabinet considered the report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Regeneration and Planning, seeking their approval for the publication and use of three Planning Technical Advice Notes. The Notes would advise developers and planning applicants on how they can contribute towards achieving sustainability in new developments.

Visiting member, Councillors di Cara addressed the Cabinet on this item.

Resolved (Key decision):

(1) To agree the publication and use of the Sustainability in Development Technical Advice Note contained at Appendix 2 to the report.

(2) To agree the publication and use of the Biodiversity Net Gain Technical Advice Note contained at Appendix 3 to the report.

(3) To agree the publication and use of the Electric Vehicle Charging Point Technical Advice Note contained at Appendix 4 to the report.

(4) To provide delegated authority to the Director of Regeneration and Planning, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Place Services and Special Projects, to make minor or technical amendments to the Technical Advice Notes prior to their publication or as otherwise required following publication.

Reasons for decisions:

(1) To publicise the Council's expectations for the incorporation of sustainability issues, biodiversity net gain and electric vehicle charging points in planning applications

(2) To make minor amendments to address technical or drafting issues.

The meeting ended at 7.07 pm

Councillor David Tutt (Chair)