

# Cabinet Minutes



**Monday 11 October 2021**

*NOTE: This meeting was held remotely. A recording of the meeting can be watched at on YouTube at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mvlltx3vo8k>*

## **PRESENT**

Councillor Stephen Cowan, Leader of the Council  
Councillor Ben Coleman, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care  
Councillor Wesley Harcourt, Cabinet Member for the Environment  
Councillor Andrew Jones, Cabinet Member for the Economy

## **IN ATTENDANCE VIRTUALLY**

Councillor Adam Connell, Cabinet Member for Public Services Reform  
Councillor Lisa Homan, Cabinet Member for Housing  
Councillor Max Schmid, Cabinet Member for Finance and Commercial Services

### **1. MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETING HELD ON 6 SEPTEMBER 2021**

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 6 September 2021 be confirmed and signed as an accurate record of the proceedings, and that the outstanding actions be noted.

### **2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for virtual absence were received from Councillor Sharon Holder, Councillor Sue Fennimore and Councillor Larry Culhane.

### **3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **4. OUR EQUALITIES PLAN 2021-2025 MEANS BUSINESS**

##### **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY BY THE CABINET MEMBERS PRESENT:**

That Cabinet:

1. Carefully considers all responses to the consultation on the draft Equalities Plan, attached at Appendix 2.
2. Approves and adopts the Equalities Plan 2021-25 and equalities objectives consulted as attached at Appendix 1.

##### **Reason for decision:**

As set out in the report.

##### **Alternative options considered and rejected:**

As outlined in the report.

##### **Record of any conflict of interest:**

None.

##### **Note of dispensation in respect of any declared conflict of interest:**

None.

#### **5. CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITOR & BUDGET VARIATIONS, 2021/22 (FIRST QUARTER)**

The Leader stated that this was a very generous Capital programme with a significant investment in children and young people both in schools and in housing opportunities.

##### **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY BY THE CABINET MEMBERS PRESENT:**

1. To note the net forecast decrease in 2021/22 capital expenditure of £8.8m (5.3% of the approved budget). The variations are detailed in Appendix 2.
2. To approve the updated four-year capital programme 2021-2025 of £488.6m as detailed in Appendix 1.
3. To note the potential risks regarding the Housing Capital Programme, as summarised in paragraphs 33-36.

##### **Reason for decision:**

As set out in the report.

##### **Alternative options considered and rejected:**

As outlined in the report.

##### **Record of any conflict of interest:**

None.

**Note of dispensation in respect of any declared conflict of interest:**

None.

**6. PLANNING OBLIGATIONS DRAW DOWN REPORT 2020/21**

Councillor Andrew Jones presented the report which requested to approve the drawdown of Section 106 and Community Infrastructure Levy monies to fund a wide range of projects with significant investment in infrastructure resources for the community.

**AGREED UNANIMOUSLY BY THE CABINET MEMBERS PRESENT:**

That Cabinet approves the 2020/21 drawdown of Section 106 and Community Infrastructure Levy monies as set out in this report and in the 2020/21 Drawdown Report attached at **Appendix A**, to fund expenditure of **£15,508,265** including **£376,432** of s.106 and CIL monitoring and administration costs.

**Reason for decision:**

As set out in the report.

**Alternative options considered and rejected:**

As outlined in the report.

**Record of any conflict of interest:**

None.

**Note of dispensation in respect of any declared conflict of interest:**

None.

**7. PROCUREMENT FOR THE PROVISION OF THE AGENCY INTERIM AND TEMPORARY WORKERS CONTRACT**

The Leader stated that the Council aimed to considerably reduce agency spend. This was not only financially efficient to the Council but also better for the culture of the organisation, bringing in people fundamentally committed to the residents of this borough and long-term management. He thanked the Human Resources Team and senior directors for their excellent work.

**AGREED UNANIMOUSLY BY THE CABINET MEMBERS PRESENT:**

1. To note that Appendix 2 is not for publication on the basis that it contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) as set out in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

2. To approve the procurement strategy of procuring a contract for recruitment agency staff services via call-off through a mini-competition from the Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisations (ESPO) MSTAR3 framework agreement, Lot 1a Neutral Vendor. The proposed contract will be let for 2 years starting 1 July 2022 with an option to extend for up to 2 years (1+1), for a total value of £80m over 4 years.

**Reason for decision:**

As set out in the report.

**Alternative options considered and rejected:**

As outlined in the report.

**Record of any conflict of interest:**

None.

**Note of dispensation in respect of any declared conflict of interest:**

None.

**8. FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS**

The Key Decision List was noted.

**9. DISCUSSION OF EXEMPT ELEMENTS (IF REQUIRED)**

There was no discussion of exempt elements.

Meeting started: 7.10 pm

Meeting ended: 7.19 pm

Chair .....