

BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET

CABINET

These minutes are draft until confirmed as a correct record at the next meeting.

Wednesday, 4th November, 2015

Present:

Councillor Tim Warren	Leader of the Council and Conservative Group Leader
Councillor Patrick Anketell-Jones	Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Conservative Deputy Group Leader Bath
Councillor Charles Gerrish	Cabinet Member for Finance and Efficiency, Conservative Deputy Group Leader North East Somerset
Councillor Liz Richardson	Cabinet Member for Homes and Planning
Councillor Vic Pritchard	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health
Councillor Anthony Clarke	Cabinet Member for Transport
Councillor Martin Veal	Cabinet Member for Community Services
Councillor Michael Evans	Cabinet Member for Children's Services

39 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Chair thanked Councillor Marie Longstaff for her time as the Cabinet Member for Homes and Planning and welcomed Councillor Liz Richardson as the new Cabinet Member for Homes and Planning.

40 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

Senior Democratic Services Officer drew attention to the evacuation procedure as set out in the Agenda.

41 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

42 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

43 TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

There was none.

44 QUESTIONS FROM PUBLIC AND COUNCILLORS

There were 20 questions from Councillors.

[Copies of the questions and responses, including supplementary questions and responses if any, have been placed on the Minute book at Democratic Services and are available on the Council's website.]

45 STATEMENTS, DEPUTATIONS OR PETITIONS FROM PUBLIC OR COUNCILLORS

David Redgewell, on behalf of the South West Transport Network, expressed his concerns that the Planning Committee, despite the Outline permission retaining a public transport corridor the detail consent, had removed the sustainable transport corridor TR09 (protected in the core strategies of BANES and Mendip Councils) which could prevent reuse of the railway line in the future between Radstock and Frome. South West Transport Network also supported Bathampton Park & Ride Site B.

A full copy of the statement has been placed on the Minute book at Democratic Services and is available on the Council's website.

Sally Collins (Vice Chairman of Marksbury Parish Council) presented a petition, with 90 signatures, asking for a provision of a light controlled pedestrian crossing for the A39 at Marksbury. Sally Collins read out a statement where she described the size of the village of Marksbury and expressed her concerns about the volume and speed of traffic through the village. Sally Collins concluded her statement by urging the Council to provide a safe crossing, a safer route to the Marksbury School and to connect community in the village.

A full copy of the statement has been placed on the Minute book at Democratic Services and is available on the Council's website.

The Chair thanked Sally Collins for the petition and informed the meeting that petition, along with enclosed DVD and other documents would be sent to the relevant department within the Council for response.

Colin Currie said that housing in Radstock and area had increased without adequate infrastructure. Colin Currie expressed his concern on traffic congestion in Radstock and suggested that railway would ease traffic pressure. Colin Currie concluded the statement by inviting the Council to resolve railway issue or Radstock and Kilmersdon would not benefit from economic regeneration.

Charles Draper (Chairman of the Bathwick Estate Residents Association) spoke about the need for a new pedestrian (toucan) crossing on Bathwick Street. Charles Draper pointed out that there was heavy traffic through Bathwick Street and there is a huge gap from Cleveland Bridge to the next crossing hence the need for additional crossing.

46 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS CABINET MEETING

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 9th September 2015 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

47 CONSIDERATION OF SINGLE MEMBER ITEMS REQUISITIONED TO CABINET

There were none.

48 MATTERS REFERRED BY POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY BODIES

There were none.

49 SINGLE MEMBER CABINET DECISIONS TAKEN SINCE PREVIOUS CABINET MEETING

The Cabinet agreed to note the report.

50 BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET COUNCIL CORPORATE STRATEGY 2016-20

Councillor Robin Moss commented that a lot of aspiration had been put into the Strategy, which should be supported by all parties in the Council. Councillor Moss questioned what would be consequences from 100% business rates coming into Local Authorities and reduction, or loss, of the Revenue Support Grant because of it. Councillor Moss also said that some statistics on page 7 of the strategy (climate change – ‘by 2020 summers could be 25% dryer and winters 16% wetter’) might not be right.

Councillor Joe Rayment asked if he could be given a guarantee that nobody would be worse off from the Review of the local Council Tax support scheme (page 21 of the Strategy). Councillor Rayment also asked where a figure of further 15% reduction in net budgets came from (page 22).

Councillor Dine Romero stated that she would expect at least double or more than 469 young people (aged 15-24) coming to Bath to study (page 8). Councillor Romero suggested that an update to this paper could reflect a real change in population.

Councillor Tim Warren thanked officers for the hard work they put into this report and said that Corporate Strategy sets out the 2020 vision and direction of travel over the next 4 years. The Corporate Strategy had been shaped by and would deliver the ‘Putting Residents First’ manifesto commitments. The Bath and North East Somerset 2020 vision sets out our aspirations for the future including good health and wellbeing, economic growth, financial sustainability, an effective transport system and an efficient, well run Council. The vision had been developed in partnership with the NHS, police, local business, education, the fire service and the voluntary sector. Once agreed by Cabinet the Corporate Strategy would become the overarching framework for Council business until 2020. It would also set the context for our financial strategy over the same period.

Councillor Tim Warren moved the recommendations.

Councillor Patrick Anketell-Jones seconded the motion. This was a four-year delivery plan, which would also help inform how the Council plan our finances for the same period. The strategy sets out aims and ambitions for the next four years.

Councillor Charles Gerrish said that business rates proposals would not be due to take place before year 2020.

Directorate Plans would replace the Medium Term Service and Resource Plans (MTRSPs). They would include the Directorate budget summary and details of growth and 2015 savings proposals. Directorate Plans would be submitted to all Policy Development and Scrutiny Panels in November as part of the normal budget development process.

A Review of the local Council Tax support scheme would be debated at the Full Council meeting on 12th November.

RESOLVED (unanimously) that the Cabinet approved the Bath and North East Somerset Council Corporate Strategy 2016-20.

51 FRESHFORD & LIMPLEY STOKE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Councillor Liz Richardson said that she was passionate about Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDP) and highlighted that this was the first plan to cross boundaries of two Councils - Bath & North East Somerset Council and Wiltshire Council. Councillor Richardson welcomed that there was a 50.12% referendum turnout of the overall Freshford and Limpley Stoke Neighbourhood Area electorate. A majority (74%) were in favour of using the Freshford and Limpley Stoke NDP to help decide planning applications in the Neighbourhood Area.

Councillor Liz Richardson moved the recommendation.

Councillor Charles Gerrish seconded the motion by saying that he was delighted that the Cabinet were able to approve this Neighbourhood Plan. The new Freshford & Limpley Stoke Neighbourhood Plans would be used by this Council and Wiltshire Council, as the Local Planning Authorities, to help determine planning applications within their areas.

RESOLVED (unanimously) that:

The Cabinet make and bring into force the Freshford & Limpley Stoke Neighbourhood Development Plan as part of the Development Plan for the Freshford & Limpley Stoke Neighbourhood Area, in accordance with Section 38A(4) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 ("the 2004 Act") (as amended by the Localism Act, 2011).

52 CLUTTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Councillor Cherry Beath welcomed the Clutton Neighbourhood Plan and added that she would hope more area would be able to get their plans. Councillor Beath expressed slight concern that some parts of Bath could not get their Neighbourhood Plans.

Councillor Liz Richardson said that there was no area in England that could not be given a Plan. Nevertheless, Councillor Richardson said that she would investigate an issue raised by Councillor Beath.

Councillor Liz Richardson said that she was pleased that Clutton Neighbourhood Development Plan had successfully passed the referendum. She also said that

significant community resources had been included into the Clutton Neighbourhood Plan preparation, including substantial volunteer time.

Councillor Liz Richardson moved the recommendations.

Councillor Vic Pritchard seconded the proposals by saying that he was delighted that the Cabinet would have the opportunity to approve the Clutton Neighbourhood Plan in the area. Once the Neighbourhood Plan is made, Clutton Parish Council would receive 25% of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) payments for development within their Neighbourhood Area, in line with the CIL Regulations (rather than the typical 15%).

RESOLVED (unanimously) that:

The Cabinet make and bring into force the Clutton Neighbourhood Development Plan as part of the Development Plan for the Clutton Neighbourhood Area, in accordance with Section 38A(4) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (“the 2004 Act”) (as amended by the Localism Act, 2011).

53 REVENUE & CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING, CASH LIMITS AND VIREMENTS – APRIL TO SEPTEMBER 2015

Councillor Andrew Furse expressed his concern that there had been significant overspend in Children and Community Services and underspend in Transport Services due to vacancy management.

Councillor Dine Romero asked if the burden expected from the Care Act would come out of the revenue reserves. Councillor Romero also questioned £0.5m in year savings from Public Health.

Councillor Charles Gerrish said that this report monitors how the Council has performed against the financial targets set in February 2015 through the Budget setting process. The Budget Management Scheme requires that the Cabinet consider the revenue and capital monitoring position four times per year. Councillor Gerrish also said these were still early days to assess impact created by the Care Act. The money put for this year revenue reserves could be used for Care Act issues in future years. The issue of the Public Health would remain uncertain until the Government’s Spending Review is complete. Children Services and Transport Services issues had been considered via joined up activities between services.

Councillor Charles Gerrish moved the recommendation.

Councillor Tim Warren seconded the motion. The report shows that the revenue outturn position was currently forecast with a slight underspend of £8,000 and it was pleasing to see the improvement over the last report which forecast an overspend of £835,000. The Council’s financial position, along with its financial management arrangements and controls, were fundamental to continuing to plan and provide services in a managed way, particularly in light of the medium term financial challenge. The revenue budget for 2015/16 includes delivery of £9.7m of savings and it was good to note completion during the period of some capital schemes including the Royal Victoria Skate Park, the Great Dell Walkway and a number of school improvements.

RESOLVED (unanimously) that the Cabinet agreed that:

- 1) Strategic Directors should continue to work towards managing within budget in the current year for their respective service areas, and to manage below budget where possible by not committing unnecessary expenditure, through tight budgetary control.
- 2) This year's revenue budget position is noted.
- 3) The capital expenditure position for the Council in the financial year to the end of September and the year-end projections are noted.
- 4) The revenue virements listed for approval are agreed.
- 5) The changes in the capital programme are noted.

54 QUARTER 2 TREASURY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE REPORT 2015/16

Councillor Charles Gerrish said that this was a routine report which sets satisfactory position of the Council.

Councillor Charles Gerrish moved the recommendations.

Councillor Anthony Clarke seconded the motion by paying tributes to Councillor Gerrish and to officers for this report.

RESOLVED (unanimously) that the Cabinet agreed that:

- 1) The Treasury Management Report to 30th September 2015, prepared in accordance with the CIPFA Treasury Code of Practice, is noted;
- 2) The Treasury Management Indicators to 30th September 2015 are noted;
- 3) This Treasury Management Report and attached appendices are reported to November Council and December Corporate Audit Committee.

The meeting ended at 5.10 pm

Chair _____

Date Confirmed and Signed _____

Prepared by Democratic Services