

BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET

CABINET

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

Wednesday, 7th September, 2016

Present:

Councillor Tim Warren	Leader of the Council and Conservative Group Leader
Councillor Liz Richardson	Cabinet Member for Homes and Planning
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 Vic Pritchard	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health
Councillor Anthony Clarke	Cabinet Member for Transport
Councillor Michael Evans	Cabinet Member for Children's Services
Councillor Paul Myers	Cabinet Member for Policy, Localism & Partnerships

24 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

25 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

The Chair drew attention to the evacuation procedure as set out in the Agenda.

26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Martin Veal had sent his apologies for this meeting.

Councillor Patrick Anketell-Jones left the meeting at 5pm due to other engagements.

27 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

28 TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

There was none.

29 QUESTIONS FROM PUBLIC AND COUNCILLORS

There were 25 questions from Councillors and 3 questions from members of the public.

[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.]

30 STATEMENTS, DEPUTATIONS OR PETITIONS FROM PUBLIC OR COUNCILLORS

Rosemary Naish (National Neighbourhood Planning Champion) in a statement *[a copy of which is placed on the Minute book at Democratic Services and is available on the Council's website]* said that policies in all three made plans in B&NES had been breached in recent decisions.

Keith Betton (Chair of Stowey Sutton Parish Council) said that the Cabinet had approved Stowey Sutton Neighbourhood Plan (NP) in September 2015. Stowey Sutton Parish Council had considered 19 planning applications since October 2015 and planning officers made reference to NP in only one application. Keith Betton said that the Council, Parish Councils and community had invested considerable time to support the NPs. The Council had had a legal duty to make reference to NPs when considering planning applications. Keith Betton asked the Cabinet to ensure that officers give the NPs the importance that they deserve when they consider planning applications.

Councillor Karen Warrington in a statement *[a copy of which is placed on the Minute book at Democratic Services and is available on the Council's website]* said that some planning decisions had ignored the NPs and asked that appropriate training regarding Neighbourhood Plans is undertaken for all officers and Members who were involved with any planning decision-making.

Councillor Alison Millar in a statement *[a copy of which is placed on the Minute book at Democratic Services and is available on the Council's website]* said that the Cabinet should consider a number of points before making their final decision on Park & Ride and that the Meadows were no place for a park and ride - especially one that cannot be justified as a solution to Bath's traffic problem.

David Redgewell in a statement *[a copy of which is placed on the Minute book at Democratic Services and is available on the Council's website]* spoke about public transport cuts, budgets and on transport impact that the Devolution deal would have on the area.

31 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS CABINET MEETING

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 13th July 2016 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

32 CONSIDERATION OF SINGLE MEMBER ITEMS REQUISITIONED TO CABINET

There were none.

33 MATTERS REFERRED BY POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY BODIES

There were none.

34 SINGLE MEMBER CABINET DECISIONS TAKEN SINCE PREVIOUS CABINET MEETING

The Cabinet agreed to note the report.

35 APPROVAL OF THE FOXHILL REGENERATION AND DEVELOPMENT CHARTER

David Bevan in a statement [*a copy of which is placed on the Minute book at Democratic Services and is available on the Council's website*] expressed his concern to changes in the Charter and asked the Cabinet to hear comments from the residents of Foxhill before approving this Charter.

Councillor Cherry Beath gave an ad-hoc statement by saying that the Charter would be a very useful tool in working with Curo, though the document as such was a high level document. Councillor Beath said that Foxhill residents were not against the development but that they felt that the development would need to blend in with the area.

Councillor Bob Goodman gave an ad-hoc statement supporting the Charter but also supporting residents' views on the development.

Councillor Liz Richardson thanked everyone who was involved in drafting the Charter. The Foxhill Regeneration Charter had been developed over a series of 3 workshops between November 2015 and January 2016 run by ATLAS with Cabinet, Ward members and senior officers from the Council and the Curo Senior Management team. The purpose of the workshops and the resulting Charter was to establish a baseline of understanding of the issues surrounding regeneration of Foxhill, the opportunities for intervention created by the development of Mulberry Park, and to agree a set of underlying ambitions for the area.

Councillor Liz Richardson moved the recommendations.

Councillor Tim Warren seconded the motion by welcoming this joint Charter. The charter sets out shared ambitions for both the development of Mulberry Park and the regeneration of the existing Foxhill estate and would give a framework for continued engagement with Curo and the community. Councillor Warren also said that he would be looking forward to seeing how the Charter evolves and develops over time as the Housing Zone progresses.

The rest of the Cabinet also supported the Charter, in particular that it had undergone a period of independent consultation with the community and stakeholders and had also been supported twice at the Council's Planning, Homes and Economic Development Scrutiny Panel.

RESOLVED (unanimously) the Cabinet agreed that:

- 1) The consultation outcomes for the Foxhill Regeneration and Development Charter are noted;
- 2) The Foxhill Regeneration and Development Charter 2016 is approved;
- 3) The Charter is reviewed and updated periodically and changes be approved by Single Member Decision.

36 TREASURY MANAGEMENT MONITORING REPORT TO 30TH JUNE 2016

Councillor Paul Crossley made an ad-hoc statement by saying that report had given an interesting review of the European state post EU referendum. Councillor Crossley asked for detailed analysis on the post EU referendum impact on the Council and also detailed analysis on our economy in regards of Hinkley Point.

Councillor Charles Gerrish said that he would ask the relevant officers to include this information in a future report.

Councillor Charles Gerrish said that this was a routine report which sets out the satisfactory position of the Council. Councillor Gerrish highlighted that the average rate of investment return for the first three months of 2016/17 was 0.50%, which was 0.09% above the benchmark rate. Councillor Gerrish also summarised borrowings and returns; strategic and tactical decisions; future strategic and tactical issues and budget implications.

Councillor Charles Gerrish moved the recommendations.

Councillor Michael Evans seconded the motion by saying that investments returns continue to be ahead of the benchmark rate; investment rates continue to reflect the Bank of England's policy on maintaining low interest rates, which decreased to an historical low in August; and, the Council continues to not hold any direct investments in countries within the Eurozone.

RESOLVED (unanimously) that the Cabinet agreed:

- 1) The Treasury Management Report to 30th June 2016, prepared in accordance with the CIPFA Treasury Code of Practice, is noted;
- 2) The Treasury Management Indicators to 30th June 2016 are noted.

37 REVENUE & CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING, CASH LIMITS AND VIREMENTS – APRIL TO JULY 2016

Councillor Robin Moss asked the following questions: was the Council up to date with Sirona and other health providers within Adult Social Care and Health area; clarification on use of Adult Social Care and Health reserves; and, details on capital spending in improving services and revenue.

Councillor Paul Crossley asked about the progress on Bath Quays.

Councillor Charles Gerrish responded to questions from Councillors Moss and Crossley by saying that; the report would incorporate any external issues within Adult

Social Care and Health budget; use of Adult Social Care and Health reserves was always within the budget; and, the Council was half way into the Bath Quays South project, with the residential part in waiting to be resolved within planning services.

Councillor Charles Gerrish said that the report was presented as part of the reporting of financial management and budgetary control required by the Council. Councillor Gerrish also said that for revenue budgets which were forecast to be overspent, the Divisional Directors would be expected to seek compensating savings to try and bring budgets back to balance. The report had highlighted any significant areas of forecast over and under spends in revenue budgets and outlines the Council's current revenue financial position for the 2016/17 financial year to the end of July 2016 by Cabinet Portfolio. The current forecast outturn position is for an overspend of £2,219,000, which equates to 0.72% of gross budgeted spend (excluding Schools). There had been an overspend forecast at this stage in each of the past four financial years. 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. Close monitoring of the financial situation had provided information on new risks and pressures in service areas, and appropriate management actions were then identified and agreed to manage and mitigate those risks.

Councillor Gerrish moved the recommendations.

Councillor Paul Myers seconded the motion by saying that, like many others across the country, this Council would be facing a tough financial situation. This year, in addition to the financial pressures prepared for, the Council would be also faced with a number of new challenges, such as increases in the cost of managing Housing Benefit and Welfare Reform. Despite all these pressures, this Council remains committed to helping our most vulnerable residents. The Cabinet would continue to monitor Council expenditure very closely, and if pressures continue into mid-year the Cabinet would take action to bring the budget back into line at the year-end.

RESOLVED (unanimously) 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 develop an action plan of how this will be achieved, including not committing any unnecessary expenditure and stringent 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 July 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.

The meeting ended at 5.25 pm

Chair _____

Date Confirmed and Signed _____

Prepared by Democratic Services