

## **BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET**

### **CABINET**

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

Wednesday, 19th October, 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,<br>Conservative Deputy Group Leader Bath                  |
| Councillor Charles Gerrish        | Cabinet Member for Finance and Efficiency, Conservative<br>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 Martin Veal            | Cabinet Member for Community Services                                                              |
| Councillor Michael Evans          | Cabinet Member for Children's Services                                                             |
| Councillor Paul Myers             | Cabinet Member for Policy, Localism & Partnerships                                                 |

#### **38 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

#### **39 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE**

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

#### **40 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence.

#### **41 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

#### **42 TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIR**

There was none.

#### **43 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS CABINET MEETING**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 7th September 2016 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

#### **44 STATEMENTS, DEPUTATIONS OR PETITIONS FROM PUBLIC OR COUNCILLORS**

Christine Boyd in a statement [*a copy of which is available at Democratic Services Minute Book and on the Council's website*] urged the Cabinet to approve the documents for consultation subject to officers making a minor amendment, as outlined in her statement.

Andrew Mercer in a statement [*a copy of which is available at Democratic Services Minute Book and on the Council's website*] urged the Cabinet not to rush in making the decision on Park and Ride.

Vicky Drew in a statement [*a copy of which is available at Democratic Services Minute Book and on the Council's website*] asked the Cabinet to consider all aspects, and the potential impacts before finalising contract with Virgin Healthcare.

Note: Councillor Paul May left the room before Vicky Drew read out her statement and returned when the statement was finished.

Councillor Eleanor Jackson in a statement [*a copy of which is available at Democratic Services Minute Book and on the Council's website*] said that Westfield Parish Council had supported strategic planning, though they had had concerns that important employment sites have been designated for housing. Councillor Jackson also said that the improvement of strategic transport corridors for the benefit of employment in the area must be adhered to; no development should take place in Westfield until there were substantial improvements of A367; and the railway line Radstock-Westbury-Frome should be restored.

Councillor Dine Romero welcomed that the West of England Partnership would carry out consultation, and asked for an assurance that statements read at this meeting would be considered as early responses to the consultation. Councillor Romero said that Liberal Democrats had expressed their concerns about any plans for Green Belt within the heritage site; that plans for Bathampton Meadows Park and Ride would not make any difference to the amount of traffic and levels of pollution in the city; that the Council would need to work closely with neighbouring authorities, especially with Wiltshire, to address existing problems in Bath; focus on integrated transport scheme which would not depend solemnly on car usage; concerns over proposed bypass and support for train station in Saltford; and concerns that report had had little about Somer Valley.

Councillor Tim Ball said that the failure to manage the Bristol housing situation had had an impact on Whitchurch. Councillor Ball urged the Cabinet to hold on to our Core Strategy and added that too much additional housing was likely to make people leave the area.

Councillor Will Sandry in a statement [*a copy of which is available at Democratic Services Minute Book and on the Council's website*] said that there was everything to welcome about a public consultation, and the residents of Bath and North East Somerset should be encouraged to respond.

Councillor Andrew Furse expressed his concerns that the Spatial Plan focuses on the existing economic areas and the A4 corridor. Councillor Furse felt that there was a significant risk that leave Radstock/Westfield/MSN would be left behind. The area already had had 2500 houses planned in the Core Strategy, and this spatial plan which was looking forward over 20 years, should be the mechanism used to improve jobs and economics of this area by building infrastructure to enable growth and opportunity. The infrastructure should include improved road links as well as reopening the Radstock to Frome rail link.

Councillor Cherry Beath said that the Council must make sure to have balanced communities and to continue to develop employment sites across the area. Councillor Beath also said that the Council should protect Green Belt and resist providing a solution to the housing problems from Bristol.

Councillor Paul May in a statement *[a copy of which is available at Democratic Services Minute Book and on the Council's website]* said that the Cabinet would probably have to approve the JSP moving to full consultation. However, the Cabinet should record their own reservation on the gap between the JSP and the Transport Vision in relation to the proposals in Whitchurch village (identified as suitable for an additional 3500 houses and a park and ride). Councillor May felt that this was unrealistic proposal and that he would be campaigning strongly against these proposals during the consultation period and beyond.

David Redgewell in a statement *[a copy of which is available at Democratic Services Minute Book and on the Council's website]* expressed concerns from South West Transport Network.

#### **45 WEST OF ENGLAND JOINT SPATIAL PLAN AND TRANSPORT STUDY - EMERGING SPATIAL STRATEGY AND BATH & NORTH EAST SOMERSET CORE STRATEGY REVIEW**

Councillor Liz Richardson said that this report would trigger three key policy elements:

- Consultation on an important high-level cross-authority spatial document “towards the emerging Spatial strategy”;
- Consultation on Council’s Core Strategy review commencement document;
- Adjustments to the Council’s local development scheme, to ensure timetables were adjusted to reflect the timescales attached and modifications required as a result of work on these documents.

This report asks the Cabinet to endorse the proposal to agree that these documents are released into a consultation process. This would enable people across the West of England (WoE) to have a further say on the West of England Joint Spatial Plan (JSP) and Joint Transport Study (JTS), when the next phase of the consultation opens on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2016. Those responses would be welcome information to

help shape this into a draft document next year. The four West of England Councils - North Somerset, Bristol City, South Gloucestershire and Bath and North East Somerset – had signed a commitment to work together in March 2014, as a result of a need to demonstrate A Duty to Co-operate – based on legislation introduced in the 2011 Localism Act.

Councillor Liz Richardson concluded her statement by saying that no decisions had been made at this stage, and she urged all the communities and stakeholders across the West of England to engage in the consultation which would start on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2016.

Councillor Liz Richardson moved the recommendations.

Councillor Anthony Clarke seconded the motion by saying that the Council, and the whole region, would need to think on transport issues now, and no housing or economic development should go ahead before an adequate infrastructure is in place. Councillor Clarke stressed the importance of planning and transport departments working together and also said that this Council would work with neighbouring authorities (Wiltshire and Somerset) and not only with the WoE region. This was a high-level document which should give an overall approach on what the Council, and the region, aspire to achieve. Councillor Clarke concluded his statement by saying that this was not the final document and urged everyone to respond to the consultation.

Councillor Patrick Anketell-Jones said that this document had represented 20 years of progress and this would be transformative period for WoE. This document would be an important part in developing the economy across the region. Councillor Anketell-Jones highlighted growing importance of Keynsham, links to Bath and importance of consultation responses on Green Belt issues.

Councillor Charles Gerrish said that this document had reflected all of the hard work that Council's planning team had undertaken over years. This document also recognises the importance of the definition of Green Belt. Councillor Gerrish also said that the infrastructure should be put in place first before any development takes place. Councillor Gerrish expressed his concerns about the vision for transport and urged the public to respond to the consultation. Councillor Gerrish concluded by expressing his concern that the document did not address aging population considering that the document mainly highlighted the need for walking and cycling.

Councillor Martin Veal said that he had fully endorsed and supported public consultation on this Study as a must to invest in infrastructure and observe and protect the Green Belt, and he supported comments from Cllr Gerrish and asked all officers to make a concerted effort to engage the majority of residents throughout the West of England, rather than be over-influenced by the easy access of lobby groups. Councillor Veal supported this document in principle, but challenged some of its assumptions, and asked for even-handed consultation and an in-depth look at proposals through the scrutiny process. Councillor Veal concluded his statement by saying that he supported promotion of walking and cycling, but he would want to see evidence that reflects the views of the many car drivers, many of whom must use their vehicles to access services, such as medical care, and to traverse the Towns and Cities and the wider area out of necessity.

Councillor Michael Evans also supported the need for a full consultation and highlighted more emphasis on highways.

Councillor Vic Pritchard said that this was not a complete document and that the transport report was in its infancy. Councillor Pritchard also expressed his concern on Saltford bypass and urged the residents to fully engage in the consultation.

Councillor Tim Warren said that the Council would be responding to the needs of our growing population and on increasing demands for homes and jobs. Councillor Warren also agreed that no development should take place before an adequate infrastructure is put in place. This next phase in the consultation would give local residents a further say on the West of England Joint Spatial Plan and Joint Transport Study. Councillor Warren concluded his statement by encouraging people to get involved and make their views known from 7<sup>th</sup> November 2016.

**RESOLVED** (unanimously) that the Cabinet endorsed:

- (1) The “Towards the Emerging Spatial Strategy” and the “West of England Transport Vision” document for the public consultation on the Joint Spatial Plan and Joint Transport Study commencing on 7 November 2016;
- (2) The Core Strategy Review commencement document for public consultation commencing on 7 November 2016;
- (3) The amendments proposed to the B&NES Local Development Scheme which will need to be agreed by Full Council in due course.

The meeting ended at 7.15 pm

Chair \_\_\_\_\_

Date Confirmed and Signed \_\_\_\_\_

**Prepared by Democratic Services**