

## **BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET**

### **CABINET**

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

Tuesday, 20th July, 2021

#### **Present:**

Councillor Kevin Guy	Leader of the Council, Liberal Democrat Group Leader
Councillor Dine Romero	Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, Communities and Culture
Councillor Richard Samuel	Deputy Council Leader (statutory) and Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Resources
Councillor Sarah Warren	Deputy Council Leader and Cabinet Member for Climate and Sustainable Travel
Councillor David Wood	Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services
Councillor Tom Davies	Cabinet Member for Adults and Council House Building
Councillor Alison Born	Cabinet Member for Adults and Council House Building
Councillor Manda Rigby	Cabinet Member for Transport

#### **29 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The Chair (Councillor Kevin Guy) welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The Chair invited all Cabinet Members to introduce themselves.

The Chair also informed the meeting that speakers will have their opportunity to address the Cabinet before questions from public and Councillors.

#### **30 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE**

The Senior Democratic Services Officer drew attention to the evacuation procedure with health and safety notice.

#### **31 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Councillor Tim Ball had sent his apologies for this meeting.

#### **32 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Interim Monitoring Officer issued a dispensation for the duration of the Cabinet meeting in respect of agenda item 14. The formal dispensation is attached to the minutes.

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

There was none.

The Chair used this opportunity to read out the following statement:

*'Good evening. I would like to make a statement about the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic on our community and our Council, and on the Council's approach to it.*

*Cllr Richard Samuel will provide further detail shortly, but at a time when Central Government's messaging is all about freedom and an end to the dark days, I have to warn you that we are far from through the worst of the effects of this crisis, and, indeed, I expect things to get significantly worse before we can expect to see any real signs of improvement.*

*As you know, the level of infections within the Bath & North East Somerset area is continuing to rise and is now higher than the general rate in England or within the South West Region. The impacts of this, and the associated strain from the number of local people receiving messages from the NHS App to self-isolate are adding intense pressure to the essential services provided by the Council and by our partners. All of our key services are now under unprecedented strain, and some – I must be honest – are close to breaking point.*

*And I want to pay tribute here to our wonderful staff, who are facing immense challenges every day, who are going about their jobs with calm professionalism and incredible dedication, and who continue to deliver awesome levels of service in our communities. Will Godfrey and his team are doing a magnificent job, and we all owe them a huge debt of gratitude. I couldn't be prouder to be Leader of this council at this time. Thank you all for what you do.*

*I can't promise that we will be able to maintain all our services at regular levels through the months to come. Some of our neighbouring councils are already suspending some refuse and other services in the face of the difficulties we are all encountering. But I can promise you this: the commitment of this council to deliver for its residents – whatever the challenges – remains undimmed. Our team remains determined to continue to deliver to the very best of its ability.*

*Yesterday, as you know, the Government dropped the final rules and controls it had imposed to keep people safe in the face of the dangers of the Covid 19 pandemic. We, as a council, have reviewed the situation carefully – driven by the Public Health advice, by the wishes of our staff and by sound common sense.*

*We have decided that it is both prudent and proper to keep some measures in place on Council properties, such as the Guildhall, our offices and our visitor attractions. We ask people coming to these premises to continue to wear masks or other face coverings – unless for medical reasons they are unable to do so – and to continue to wear them when moving around within the buildings.*

*We want people – whether colleagues or visitors - to feel both safe and confident in our places of work, and to show each other the respect and consideration which the last sixteen months have shown us is both effective and wise.*

*So I ask everyone, please, to continue to make these small sacrifices for the common good of us all. I will wear a mask to keep you safe, and I ask that you extend that same courtesy and care to others, so that we, as a community, can come through these dark days together, and look forward with confidence to better times and to soundly and scientifically-based freedoms in the future.*

*Thank you. '*

Councillor Dine Romero – Cabinet member for Children and Young People, Communities and Culture, read out the following statement:

*'Like it or not COVID restrictions have been lifted by Government.*

*This Lib Dem administration and our residents are very worried that the end of most restrictions has come in now, while case rates are rising, and the RUH is receiving more serious cases.*

*Remember that we are not allowed by law to hold these meetings in any other way than as a physical meeting.*

*Government guidance is not being driven by the science. Data has been thrown to the wind and our residents are now more at risk than ever before with the onus now resting on us to use our personal judgement to protect ourselves but with no directive to protect others.*

*Infection rates are now over 1000 in Bath & North East Somerset which is above both the SW and English average.*

*We in this council will be encouraging our staff to remain cautious and to look out for each other. We will be encouraging all to wear masks when entering and moving about council buildings and maintaining a metres distance wherever possible. We will continue with our regime of cleaning, of wiping down surfaces after use, washing hands and following one-way systems.*

*These expectations are for our staff and for everyone who accesses our buildings. These measures are being followed for all those attending this meeting.*

*We will continue to encourage everyone to get vaccinated, and to take lateral flow tests twice a week, 3-5 days apart. And to self-isolate if the test is positive, or if they are asked to do so due to close contact with a positive case.*

*The key messages we are giving, are for all to remain responsible, COVID has not gone away, we are still in a global pandemic.*

*I wanted also to take this opportunity to speak of the challenges that our schools and early years settings have faced. And would like to express my thanks, and the thanks of the DPH, and Director of education, and indeed of the whole council, to leaders and staff for their continued hard work support, and dedication to our CYP. We recognise that the past 18 months have been extremely difficult, and many have had to make sacrifices.*

*Staff have risen to every challenge that has come their way, including responding to the continuous and rapidly changing guidance and national policy. And indeed, to the many times when there hasn't been adequate guidance.*

*Schools have had to change how they operate, to running combinations of on-line and physical classrooms, to never knowing whether there will enough staff or how many children would be in any one setting from day to day.*

*We are acutely aware this has had, and still has, an unbearable toll on school leaders, teachers, support staff, and on our CYP themselves.*

*The guidance for schools came to a muddled stop at the end of last week. Our PH and schools teams have worked amazingly hard to ensure that all schools have some clarity on how to work in this last week of term, and what to expect from September onwards.*

*I would like to end by thanking again but no less sincerely our schools and early years staff, and all those in the council who supports our education settings and wish everyone a much needed and well-earned break over the summer holidays.'*

Councillor Alison Born – Cabinet Member for Adult Services, read out the following statement:

*'The health and social care system have been experiencing significant pressures for several months as demand increases and all areas suffer staff shortages.*

*Mental health services have been particularly badly affected with a significant increase in demand and people experiencing greater complexity in their conditions. This includes an increase in the number of young people experiencing mental health problems, particularly eating disorders.*

*There has been a rise in s136 detentions (Police detention in a public place) for young people and adults, with delays to admission due to a shortage of in-patient beds for these very vulnerable people.*

*In addition, there are significant delays in discharging people from the RUH into reablement services. People being discharged have increasingly complex needs and staffing shortages in reablement are resulting in long delays. There is also a shortage of capacity within the home care market which is compounding the issue.*

*Adult Social Care have seen an increase in those waiting for an assessment, with 50 people waiting more than 28 days for an urgent assessment.*

*Demand continues to increase and the rise in Covid rates over the last three weeks has exacerbated the staffing crisis. Our Community Resource Centres have been impacted by staff needing to self-isolate and we have struggled to secure agency staff. We are seeing a small but rising rate of Covid infections amongst staff in the independent care home sector which if it continues to rise will impact on their ability to care for their residents.*

*Staff continue to work hard to mitigate the risks across the system, including risk assessing those waiting and prioritising those most at risk. They are also focusing on recruitment and retention of staff and working to increase home care capacity.*

*Adult social care provision has been precarious for a number of years and successive governments have promised to fix it, but action has not been taken. Those long-standing problems have been exacerbated by the twin challenges of Covid which has increased demand and Brexit which has significantly reduced the availability of staff in the sector.*

*Speculation that the government is planning to raise additional funds for adult social care through national insurance payments provides some hope but it appears that this funding may be used to bring down hospital waiting lists in the short term (how long will that be for) and will then be targeted on capping individual liability to social care costs rather than on developing robust, resilient services that can be relied on to meet need in a timely manner. The pressures faced in BANES are being experienced across the Country and we are in contact with colleagues to support and learn from other systems but these services cannot be fixed without significant investment across the system and a recognition that urgent action is needed to address staff shortages.'*

## 34 STATEMENTS, DEPUTATIONS OR PETITIONS FROM PUBLIC OR COUNCILLORS

Lily Hughes in a statement [*a copy of which is attached to the Minutes as Appendix 1 and on the Council's website*] asked the Cabinet to vote on stopping the use of glyphosate for the treatment of street weeds, and focus on manual and mechanical methods of removal. Lily Hughes also presented Council Leader with a petition called 'Stop spraying Bath & North East Somerset streets with toxic weed killer glyphosate'

<https://www.change.org/p/kevin-guy-leader-b-nes-council-stop-spraying-bath-north-east-somerset-streets-with-toxic-weed-killer-glyphosate?redirect=false>

Kari Erickson in a statement [*a copy of which is attached to the Minutes as Appendix 2 and on the Council's website*] invited the Cabinet to reflect on some of their goals as a Liberal Democrat Administration, and how these intersect with their relationship with the private sector.

Simon Marshall in a statement [*a copy of which is attached to the Minutes as Appendix 3 and on the Council's website*] expressed his concerns about future of parking spaces in Bath for Blue Badge holders.

Ian Perkins in a statement [*a copy of which is attached to the Minutes as Appendix 4 and on the Council's website*] expressed his concerns about future of parking spaces in Bath for Blue Badge holders and called for a consultation with all affected residents.

Susan Charles in a statement [*a copy of which is attached to the Minutes as Appendix 5 and on the Council's website*] expressed her concerns about future of parking spaces in Bath for Blue Badge holders and medical personnel.

Julie Gregory in a statement [*a copy of which is attached to the Minutes as Appendix 6 and on the Council's website*] described her personal experience as a Blue Badge holder. Julie Gregory felt that the consultation on this matter had not been done correctly.

Lindsay Holdoway in a statement [*a copy of which is attached to the Minutes as Appendix 7 and on the Council's website*] expressed his support for the City Centre Security and High Street Renewal with the hope that the existing scheme would become permanent and possibly lead to full pedestrianisation in due course.

Lynda Lloyd in a statement [*a copy of which is attached to the Minutes as Appendix 8 and on the Council's website*] expressed her concerns about future of parking spaces for Blue Badge holders.

Harry Tedstone in a statement [*a copy of which is attached to the Minutes as Appendix 9 and on the Council's website*] asked the Cabinet to defer the decision on 'On Street Parking Permits And Charges' in order that it be properly looked into and with an urgent economic impact assessment undertaken.

Sylvia Sinclair in a statement [*a copy of which is attached to the Minutes as Appendix 10 and on the Council's website*] supported the Cabinet's proposal to require "Inner Zone" hotel guests to park their cars in Council owned carparks, rather than on residential streets.

Councillor Jess David in a statement [*a copy of which is attached to the Minutes as Appendix 11 and on the Council's website*] expressed her support for the paper on investment in neighbourhood services, and in particular, the decision to move away from the use of weedkiller containing glyphosate in the treatment of street weeds.

Councillor Eleanor Jackson in a statement [*a copy of which is attached to the Minutes as Appendix 12 and on the Council's website*] expressed his concerns about future of parking spaces in Bath for Blue Badge holders and a need for long term parking permits for professions such as medics, carers and traders.

Councillor Vic Pritchard addressed the Cabinet about the Bath City Centre Security agenda item and questioned the rationale for the report, the allocated budget for this project, and that the Cabinet had not fulfilled their duty under the Equalities Act of proper consultation with disabled people.

## **35 QUESTIONS FROM PUBLIC AND COUNCILLORS**

There were 23 questions from Councillors and no 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 as Appendix 13 and are available on the Council's website.]*

## **36 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS CABINET MEETING**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2021 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

## **37 CONSIDERATION OF SINGLE MEMBER ITEMS REQUISITIONED TO CABINET**

There were none.

## **38 MATTERS REFERRED BY POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY BODIES**

There were none.

### **39 SINGLE MEMBER CABINET DECISIONS TAKEN SINCE PREVIOUS CABINET MEETING**

The Cabinet agreed to note the report.

### **40 BATH CITY CENTRE SECURITY**

Councillor Manda Rigby introduce the report by saying that in 2016 the police contacted the Council and said that although there was no specific evidence of an imminently planned attack, as an area with a high footfall, and specifically the Abbey, the Council would need to look at what would be needed in terms of protection against a terrorist attack, including an hostile vehicle attack. Terrorist acts could come in a variety of ways, and there were measures in place to protect from non-vehicular attack, which were included in our risk assessments. Temporary hostile vehicle mitigations had also been brought in for large events, including remembrance services, the Bath Half and the Tour of Britain.

Some concrete moveable bollards were installed to support the Christmas Market on the advice of Police. These have been retained where appropriate and would be replaced with permanent measures.

A consultation went out at the start of the year, and the report was a result of amendments of proposals in it having listened to consultation input, and commissioning a report about accessibility, more specifically for disabled residents and visitors.

The report contains the details of which streets would be closed

There was also an operating schedule which would allow Blue Badge holders disabled access via a video link to the operating centre, with access for emergencies whether city wide or for a resident needing a trade person in a hurry.

The Council took on board obligations under the Public Sector Equalities Duty Act and there would be further phases of work subject to monitoring the results of these measures to amend and adapt based on evidence and data.

Councillor Manda Rigby moved the recommendations.

Councillor Richard Samuel seconded the motion by saying that he was pleased to second recommendations in this report. Bath streets referred to in this report were very crowded and densely populated, and the police have commented and have advised on security and protection of citizens, and it would be totally untenable for the Council to ignore their advice. The difficulty the Council had was in the balancing off the needs of residents, visitors, and the security. Councillor Samuel believed that the report had outlined an appropriate balance, it will undoubtedly not please everybody.

In terms of the financing of this project – there would be a few stages to the project and those stages would involve the firming up of the estimates of the cost of implementing this scheme as set out in the report. The report has highlighted that there were risks with possibilities that the cost may drift upwards. In agreement with Council Rigby and the director of finance, Councillor Samuel would run one more check on top of the ones that already exist in the Council's control processes, and those processes normally permit officers to exercise delegation in developing schemes for the good governance of the Council which require all schemes to go through a business planning process. Therefore, paragraph 2.13 of the report has been introduced as an extra check that would sit on top of the normal processes the

Council uses in order to provide a scheme that would work for residents and visitors, and also the one that was affordable to the taxpayer.

Councillor Dine Romero supported the motion by saying that this scheme has been in the pipeline during at least 2 different political administrations. The anti-terrorist police team had told the Council that areas with high footfall were key targets for terrorists. This scheme was absolutely not designed to provide protection from every form of attack, but it was part of a range of protective measures.

It was clear that the needs of people with disabilities would need to be considered at every step. Councillor Sarah Moore became the Council's advocate for Access and has used her knowledge and passion to help this particular group of people.

Councillor Moore had been able to ensure that the needs of people with disabilities had been accommodated in this scheme.

Nevertheless, the Council had to balance the needs of a wide variety of groups, and issues.

The scheme before the Cabinet would give an appropriate level of protection based on the current known level of threat. And it would allow adequate access for residents, and for Blue Badge holders.

Councillor Romero thanked the Police, Council officers and Councillors (in particular Councillor Moore) for working together to find the solutions.

Councillor David Wood welcomed the report by thanking Councillor Rigby, and officers for turning this issue around. The first duty of the Council was to protect its citizens, with a duty to listen. Councillor Wood also said that he believed that, in the last few months, the Council took an intelligent and a considered approach to demonstrate that this was a listening Council and one that takes its duty seriously.

**RESOLVED** (unanimously) that the Cabinet agreed to:

1. To approve the TRO (for anti-terrorism purposes) for advertisement such that it would operate between 1000 hours and 1800 hours on the following streets:

- (1) Lower Borough Walls, Stall Street, including Abbeygate Street, Abbey Green, Swallow Street (South), Bath Street and Hot Bath Street
- (2) York Street

2. To approve the TRO (for anti-terrorism purposes) for advertisement such that it would operate between 1000 hours and 1800 hours on the following streets:

- (1) Cheap Street, Westgate Street, Saw Close and Upper Borough Walls with access to the restricted streets also being provided to Blue Badge Holders, carers transporting Blue Badge Holders, and taxi's transporting Blue Badge Holders. Access would be provided via Controlled Authorised Access by the Council's CCTV team.

3. To advertise the TRO between 1800 hours and 2200 hours on York Street, to reflect its proximity to the Roman Baths and to support the increased footfall from Terrace Walk through York Street to the new Clore Learning Centre and World Heritage Centre. The Roman Baths, Clore Learning Centre and World Heritage Centre will, at times, be open late into the evening.

4. To note that we will not advertise the TRO between 2200 hours and 1000 hours on York Street.

5. To note that we will not advertise the TRO between 1800 hours and 1000 hours for the following streets:

(1) Lower Borough Walls, Stall Street, including Abbeygate Street, Abbey Green, Swallow Street (South), Bath Street and Hot Bath Street

(2) Cheap Street, Westgate Street, Saw Close and Upper Borough Walls when the streets are not deemed as crowded, based on footfall data and the security risk is not considered to be proportionate to the terrorist threat.

ATTRO - 1000 to 1800 hours with no blue badge access	ATTRO – 1000 to 1800 hours with blue badge access	TRO - 1800 to 2200 hours	No TRO 2200 to 1000 hours	No TRO 1800 to 1000 hours
York Street Lower Borough Walls Stall Street Abbeygate Street Abbey Green Swallow Street (south) Bath Street Hot Bath Street	Cheap Street Westgate Street Saw Close Upper Borough Walls	York Street	York Street	Lower Borough Walls Stall Street Abbeygate Street Abbey Green Swallow Street (south) Bath Street Hot Bath Street Cheap Street Westgate Street Saw Close Upper Borough Walls

6. Delegate to the Director of Place Management in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport the operational management procedures for access to the restricted streets.

7. To note that subject to investigations which are currently taking place on vault survey works, to determine exact locations, based on engineering design options, a series of suitable Hostile Vehicle Mitigation (HVM) measures to be installed at the entrance/exit to the following streets within the city centre. Exact locations to be delegated to Director of Place Management in consultation with Cabinet Member for Transport, with access provided via Controlled Authorised Access by the Council's CCTV team:

- (1) York Street
- (2) Cheap Street
- (3) Upper Borough Walls
- (4) Lower Borough Walls
- (5) Hot Bath Street

8. To note that subject to investigations, enhance existing street furniture with a series of public realm HVM measures to the following streets:

- (1) Old Bond St (North)

- (2) Burton St (North) (incl occasional access)
- (3) New Bond St Place (North)
- (4) New Bond St Place (South)
- (5) Northumberland Place
- (6) The Corridor
- (7) Barton St/ Saw Close (incl occasional access)
- (8) Seven Dials (incl occasional access)
- (9) Chandos Buildings (West)
- (10) Hetling Court (West)
- (11) Beau St (East) (incl occasional access)
- (12) New Orchard St (East) (incl occasional access)
- (13) Southgate St (south)
- (14) Kingston Buildings (Orange Grove)

9. To note the recommended series of mitigation measures, to support the City Centre Security programme, as highlighted in the Accessibility Study, namely:

- (1) Additional seating to be installed on Cheap Street and Westgate Street
- (2) Dropped kerbs and footway surface improvements to allow improved accessibility from existing city centre car parks and proposed additional blue badge bays.
- (3) Provide additional blue badge and loading bays (as detailed in 3.20 below)
- (4) Clear and accessible Communications Plan

10. To note that recommended additional measures, in a phased approach, from both the Consultation Report and Accessibility Study will be considered as part of wider Bath City Centre public realm and transport improvement programmes, with an holistic approach, working with Accessibility Groups, businesses and residents. This request is subject to approval of the revenue and capital budget provisions by Cabinet and Council as part of the council's budget setting process.

11. Advertise TRO's as necessary for all the restricted streets to prevent all waiting, except for the provision of parking for Blue Badge Holders and loading/ unloading for specific time periods

12. Enable the TRO (for anti-terrorism purposes) restrictions to prevent access by Blue Badge Holders, and identified delivery vehicles, should the National or local security risk increase to severe or critical, and as advised by the Police, either for an unplanned incident or planned event, ie Bath Christmas Market/Remembrance Services, as per the Operational Management Procedures.

13. To note the resource implications set out in section 5 of the report, final scheme design and financial implications will require the approval of the Chief Financial Officer and Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Resources and Economic Development.

## **41 BATH CITY CENTRE HIGH STREET RENEWAL**

Councillor Richard Samuel introduced the report by saying that our high streets have been struggling over the last 18 months, and help was needed to try and encourage footfall back into the city centre. The Cabinet were asked to agree that the funds that the Council had applied for, from the West of England Combined Authority, both for the 'love of our high streets' fund and for the recovery fund, now be drawn down so that the Council could begin the projects that were set out in the report. Councillor

Samuel thanked WECA for enabling these funds which would be used wisely. The Council would work with the business community for the benefit of successful intervention.

Councillor Samuel thanked the team who have been working on this project and also partners who brought their own interesting ideas to the table.

Councillor Richard Samuel moved the recommendations.

Councillor Dine Romero seconded the motion by saying that it was clear pre-pandemic that high streets, including Bath city centre, were in need of help. Changes to shopping habits had sped up during the last year, due to lock downs and the fear many now have on spending time in potentially unsafe indoor spaces. More people than ever were buying their goods and groceries on-line, yet many shops now stood empty.

The funding from WECA from the Love our High Streets has been welcomed as well as the £500k from the recovery fund.

The use of vacant shops and spaces was part of the regional culture and was a reminder of how important culture and arts were to the Council, to local businesses and individuals, particularly in terms of increasing jobs and opportunities locally. Councillor Romero concluded by saying that she did recognise that there was not a great deal of detail yet on the equalities impact but that she would look carefully at the proposals coming forward, to make sure that in a drive for improvements to the local economy, and for more vibrancy in the city, the Council would not inadvertently disadvantage groups of residents or visitors.

**RESOLVED** (unanimously) that the Cabinet agreed to:

- 1 Delegate approval to the Director of Place Management, in consultation with the s151 officer, to accept the £1,235K Love our High Streets grant from WECA to be spent over a five year period in line with the Full Business Case and concept design approved. This will allow full approval of confirmed capital of £1,102k for Bath City Centre High Street Renewal and provides £240K for revenue budget support as outlined in section 5 of this report.
- 2 Delegate approval to the Director of Place Management, in consultation with the s151 officer, to accept £255k from the WECA Recovery grant offered to deliver phase 2 capital works to bring vacant shops back into active use for cultural and commercial and arts initiatives as part of the 'vacant unit action project'. The split between this programme and Commercial Estate Refurbishment and revenue budget support to be confirmed.

## **42 ON STREET PARKING PERMITS AND CHARGES**

Councillor Manda Rigby introduced the report by reading out the following statement:

*'I am very pleased to be proposing this motion to you today. My first task is to thank the officers for their very diligent work on this, especially Andy Dunn and Chris Major. This is the first time in 8 years we have addressed on street parking permit charges. I'd like to take a bit of time saying what the drivers, see what I did there, for this change were.*

*Looking at residents parking permits, the cost has not increased for 8 years. In that time, cars have grown in size, the number of journeys has increased massively, people have become far more aware of the health and wellbeing impacts of a sedentary lifestyle and poor air quality...and we have declared a climate emergency. Owning and running a car is a very expensive endeavour, and we want to ensure when people are coming to the point that they need to replace their car, they are very aware of the other options which exist, so decide if they need the car or not....some absolutely will need a car, others may not. Part of the expense is the purchase of a parking permit, but in the scheme of overall costs, it is in some cases not as high as a full tank of petrol. We want people to look at not owning the most polluting vehicles as part of our overall Clean air programme, and so we are proposing an emission-based parking permit system.*

*The poorest in our society predominantly don't own a car, or indeed have access to one, but they suffer the results of poor air quality caused by those who do. Those on lower incomes who do have a car are more likely to have an older one, with higher emissions, and we know how much many are suffering financially, so we have introduced a monthly and quarterly way of paying for our permits to spread the cost. As is common with most payment plans, we will pass on the 62p bank charge per transaction to those using the monthly option.*

*I'll also look at hotel permits. We know, and have heard from speakers earlier, that our hospitality industry has really suffered this year. That's why we as a council are trying to help by extending the Christmas market, and promoting the high street and Bath as a destination for people, whilst being as safe as we can be. However, we have to address the long-standing anomalies in hotel permit allocations.*

*It makes no sense for visitors to drive round and round our local streets looking for somewhere to park and for residents to do the same because they are in competition for scarce on road parking spaces. We are rebalancing this, so that locals can park closer to their homes, and visitors in the central area will need to park in a council car park. This brings us very much in line with many tourist destinations where there is no expectation a visitor can park on the streets in the centre, and, as a World Heritage site, it is even more important we protect our built as well as natural environment. If you go to the vast majority of the cities in the UK with a compelling tourist offer, you don't expect to park in the centre, you do expect to pay extra if you bring your car, and we want to encourage visitors to use public transport to access Bath as well.*

*Some, though by no means not all, hotels have also been abusing the system. They have purchased an annual hotel permit for £160 per stated bedroom, and have been selling them on to their guests, or others, on a daily basis at a significant uplift, up to £30 per day.*

*We are introducing an automated system, which will lessen the admin burden on the accommodation providers and get rid of the paper permits. If an overnight visitor stays in Bath, they will be charged what a day visitor would be charged for a full day parking.*

*We don't anticipate this will put people off coming to wonderful Bath, and as all the accommodation providers in central Bath without their own car parks will be in the same position, it will not be a commercial disadvantage to individual establishments. As an example, we have listened and changed the original plans so that there is an inner and outer circle zones, to avoid many trips across the City from further out establishments*

*I appreciate these changes are very very welcomed by our local residents, and despite the compromises made, less so by our hotel and guest house community. I think history will show were we to go forward with these changes, that it is the status*

*quo which is wrong, and that this rebalance will not adversely impact the local economy.*

*I am very pleased to move this motion, and hope that you can all support it.'*

Councillor Manda Rigby moved the recommendations.

Councillor Tom Davies seconded the motion by thanking members of the public who responded to the consultation on these changes and to the officers who had been involved in designing this proposal. Councillor Davies added that these changes were part of Administration's delivery of its promises to tackle the climate and ecological emergency and to address the damage caused by air pollution. It would be the Administration's role to ensure that where changes such as these were required, would be balanced especially against those for whom such change would come at a cost.

Councillor Tom Davies concluded by commending the new monthly payment option for the residents parking charge and the revisions made to the hotel permit scheme following the public consultation.

Councillor Sarah Warren welcomed the report by the proven impacts on public health of air pollution arising from vehicles were the reason behind the implementation of Bath's Clean Air Zone (CAZ) earlier this year, which charges those vehicles with the highest emissions, entering the city centre, in order to encourage an upgrade to lesser polluting models.

In the first quarter of this year, even during lockdown, there had remained at least 4 spots in Bath where air pollution lingered above legal limits. There was no safe level of nitrogen dioxide pollution, so the Council must continue with efforts to reduce both the presence of, and the mileage driven by, the highest emitting vehicles in our historic city.

Councillor Warren added that the Council has acknowledged that there were individuals living on low incomes within the residents' parking zone area, who have a real need for a vehicle, and who would struggle to upgrade a vehicle attracting a high charge. The Council would be exploring all avenues and intend to find a means of providing support for these people.

However, the young, the unborn, the elderly, and those with pre-existing lung conditions would suffer the most from poor air quality in our city, and for those reasons Councillor Warren supported this measure.

Councillor Richard Samuel also welcomed the report by saying that encouraging people to buy smaller and environmentally friendly vehicles rather than SUVs was not a new initiative as it has been standard practice in London for many years.

**RESOLVED** (unanimously) that the Cabinet agreed to:

1. Consider the feedback to the consultation on proposals for on street parking permits, including terms and conditions.
2. Support and agree to the progression of proposals outlined in section 3 of this report to statutory consultation and notification progression, namely Emissions based residents permits; Hotel permits; Medical permits; Visitor and Trade parking permits.
3. Support and agree to the adoption of the On-street Parking Permit Terms and Conditions (Appendix 2).
4. Support and agree to delegate future operational changes to the On-street Parking Permit Terms and Conditions, including the withdrawal of permits, to

be agreed between the Cabinet Member for Transport and the relevant Director.

5. To note the approvals previously provided by Single Member Decision (E3253) to take proposals to statutory consultation, namely on street parking charges; Sunday on street charges; Prioritise transport hierarchy; and the use of any surplus raised from the proposals.
6. To support and agree to the recommendation that only existing properties with a Hotel; Holiday Let; or Guest House permit will be able to have Hotel permits from the date the Traffic Regulation Order is sealed.

### **43 INVESTMENT IN NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES FROM 2022**

Councillor David Wood introduced the report by saying that for ten years Council Tax bills have been going up and service levels had been going down due to severe cuts from central government.

One of the first actions from the current Administration was to reverse cuts to city centre cleaning and to leaf clearing in the autumn. Last year more cuts were reversed to keep our streets cleaner and to litter pick A and B roads in North East Somerset. This year the Council would spend an extra £100k on keeping our streets cleaner.

In April next year the Council would trial £950k of investment in frontline services from street cleaning to graffiti, from repairing roads to banning glyphosate for street weeds with immediate effect.

Councillor Wood concluded his statement by saying that the Administration would be looking to reverse even more cuts, balance the books and give residents the services they deserved.

Councillor David Wood moved the recommendations.

Councillor Alison Born seconded the motion by saying that Neighbourhood services were cut significantly during years of austerity budgets, leaving gaps in service that impacted on the day to day experience of all residents and visitors to the area. This Administration have taken measures to mitigate these cuts over the past two years with positive effects. This targeted investment would build on those improvements and would extend them.

**RESOLVED** (unanimously) that the Cabinet agreed to:

1. Agree that the Council will no longer use glyphosate to control street weeds and will prioritise funding to mechanical and manual weed removal for street weeds in 22/23 whilst continuing to research viable alternatives.
2. Agree the areas to be considered within the Neighbourhood Services portfolio for further investment as a 12-month pilot, making a commitment against the council's £2m Covid contingency budget that has been earmarked to manage council priorities and backlogs on operational services. This money to be released from 2022/23. At the completion of the pilot, the outcomes will be reviewed to ensure they deliver the necessary service improvement and considered as part of the council's financial planning processes for long term service investment in the 23/24 budget.
3. The Cabinet is asked to take into account issues raised by the Scrutiny Panel when they report back on their findings.

4. Delegate authority to the Director of Place Management, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods, to develop the most operationally effective and value for money delivery arrangements.

#### **44 WASTE INFRASTRUCTURE & MODERNISATION PROGRAMME**

Councillor David Wood introduced the report by saying he was pleased with the report that would bring the Council closer to a brand-new state-of-the-art recycling centre in Keynsham. The Council was one of the best performing areas of the country with record breaking recycling rates this year. Councillor Wood thanked the staff and residents for this achievement and added that he was proud that the Council were investing even more to ensure even higher recycling rates in the future. Councillor Wood used this opportunity to reaffirm to residents that there would be no gap in recycling centres in the city of Bath.

Councillor Wood informed everyone that Cabinet Members have been sent a supplementary paper about plans for Bath recycling centres (attached to these minutes as E3306 Supplementary Paper) in advance of the meeting. Councillor Wood also informed the meeting that recommendation 2.2 would read as follows:

‘Cabinet notes the progress towards securing a new permanent waste and recycling site for Bath at Odd Down as set out in the supplementary paper and affirms its intention to provide a new interim facility at Bath Western Riverside in advance of the final closure of the Midland Road site.’

Councillor David Wood moved the recommendations (as amended above).

Councillor Sarah Warren seconded the motion by saying that besides the modernisation of the Council waste facilities, she was particularly pleased that the design for the new facility in Pixash Lane would incorporate a solar PV installation rainwater collection and recycling, and high standards of energy efficiency, as well as tree planting. Councillor Warren was also pleased with the commitment to ensure an alternative facility at Bath would be operational before Midland road is shut, to minimise the car mileage driven to the waste facility.

**RESOLVED** (unanimously) that the Cabinet agreed to:

1. Fully approve the total capital of £29.9m needed to deliver the construction phase, in order to complete and relocate according to programme in early 2023. This requires an uplift of £13.6m on the current provisional programme item of £16.3m, with the additional borrowing costs implied of £522k to be funded from the revenue budget contingency.
2. Note the progress towards securing a new permanent waste and recycling site for Bath at Odd Down as set out in the supplementary paper and affirms its intention to provide a new interim facility at Bath Western Riverside in advance of the final closure of the Midland Road site.

**E3306 Supplementary Paper**

#### **45 COMMERCIAL ESTATE REVIEW UPDATE**

Councillor Richard Samuel introduced the report by saying that the Council's commercial estate was one of the jewels of the Council's assets, and in good times it would deliver around £18m of gross income to the Council. That income would be used to support all sorts of Council services as a key part of Council's funding. Councillor Samuel said that the impact of COVID had hit that service badly, and for those reasons he had worked with the senior management team to propose some major change to the service. In determining to improve the situation, the Council had decided to bring in an external advisor to examine the Council's estate from a completely impartial perspective, and that was what the Montague Evans report did. The report had highlighted a whole range of pointers on what could be done better. Ultimately, the Council and its residents would see the benefits with a high functioning, good returning property estate that benefits the area and its citizens. Councillor Samuel concluded by saying that the Council was the premier landlord in most parts of the city of Bath, and if its properties were neglected or not run properly then the Council would contribute to a downturn in that area.

Councillor Richard Samuel moved the recommendations.

Councillor Manda Rigby seconded the motion by saying that she was pleased with the ongoing work in this area in order to prevent the commercial estate becoming a deteriorating asset, and avoid any financial, social, commercial and economical impact.

**RESOLVED** (unanimously) that the Cabinet agreed to:

1. Note the findings and the executive summary from the Commercial Estate review.
2. Approve the Commercial Estate review plan, workstreams and governance arrangements and delegate to the Property Review Board / S151 Officer, responsibility for implementing the governance arrangements and required restructuring, respectively.
3. Approve the Capital budget of £2.337m for Commercial Estate Refurbishment Programme, utilising funding as described in section 5.2.
4. Approve the creation of a capital reserve to be funded from dilapidation and insurance income relating to capital refurbishments.
5. Approve the approach to Commercial Estate repurposing to residential accommodation using the Council's housing company Aequus, with delegation for transfer arrangements given to the Chief Financial Officer (S151) in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Resources and Economic Development.

## **46 REVENUE & CAPITAL OUTTURN 2020/21**

Councillor Richard Samuel introduced the report which detailed what had happened in the last year, with an incredibly good achievement in balancing the books in the most difficult year for the Council's finances. It was not easy managing last minute funds from the government with around twenty different grant schemes that came to the Council, some for the business community and some for specific purposes. Councillor Samuel thanked everyone who contributed to that achievement.

Councillor Richard Samuel moved the recommendations.

Councillor Kevin Guy seconded the motion by thanking all Councillors and Council staff who contributed to achieving a positive balance for 2020/21 in probably the most financially difficult time in the nation's history.

**RESOLVED** that the Cabinet agreed to:

1. Note the revenue budget outturn on budget position for 2020/21, after allowing for carry forwards and transfers to reserves.
2. Approve the revenue carry forward proposals listed in the tables in paragraph 3.8.
3. Approve that all over budgets are written-off as an exception to the Budget Management Rules for 2020/21.
4. Approve the transfer of £5.42m to corporate earmarked reserves, the breakdown of which is detailed in paragraph 3.9;
5. Note the revenue virements for 2020/21 reported for information in Appendix 2(i)
6. Note the reserve positions and the use of flexible capital receipts shown in paragraphs 3.18-3.20;
7. Note the outturn position of the 2020/21 capital programme in paragraph 3.35, and the funding outlined in paragraph 3.37;
8. Approve the capital rephasing and write-off of net underspends as listed in Appendix 3. This reflects the outturn spend position on projects against final budgets as detailed in Appendix 4(ii).

#### **47 REVENUE & CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING, CASH LIMITS AND VIREMENTS – APRIL TO JUNE 2021**

Councillor Richard Samuel introduced the report by saying that this was the first quarterly monitoring report of the current financial year. Councillor Samuel expressed his concerns that, following an announcement from central government to ease COVID restrictions from 19<sup>th</sup> July, there would be further waves of COVID with a possibility that further variants would occur. Therefore, the Council may encounter further lockdowns which may affect businesses in the area which would also affect the Council's financial position. Tourist attractions in Bath, such as Roman Baths and the Pump Rooms may be also be affected due to higher COVID case numbers, which were currently higher than they have been since the pandemic started. This would coincide with the total removal of government assistance, and financial assistance to local authorities, which came to an end on 30<sup>th</sup> of June. Any support for businesses and employees would also disappear.

Councillor Samuel added that this was a warning to all of us, and that the Council may need to take further action to stabilise its finances and may need to call for further government funds in order to get through this.

Nevertheless, Council Samuel hoped that these measures would not be necessary, yet he hoped that residents of Bath and North East Somerset would understand that the months ahead could be very precarious ones for the Council.

Councillor Richard Samuel moved the recommendations.

Councillor Dine Romero seconded the motion by saying that the Council could expect further lockdowns which could have a devastating impact on Council's finances, particularly if heritage services had to close again. Councillor Romero did

believe government would help even in the limited way it did previously with 75% paid on expected income.

The Council could be £6million short for funding children with higher needs.

Councillor Romero said that she had written to the Secretary of State highlighting these concerns and asked the government to urgently find additional funding for provision of the right services for children with special educational needs.

Councillor Romero also said Mental Health services as well as Public Health would be severely impacted with further lockdowns, as well as Library Services and Free School Meals during summer holidays.

Councillor Romero concluded her statement by saying that the government must fund local councils better; they must fund this Council better.

**RESOLVED** (unanimously) that the Cabinet agreed to:

1. To note the 2021/22 revenue budget position (as at the end of June 2021).
2. To note the revenue virements listed for information only in Appendix 3(i).
3. To note the capital year-end forecast detailed in paragraph 3.21 of this report;
4. To note the changes in the capital programme including capital schemes that have been agreed for full approval under delegation listed in Appendix 4(i).

#### **48 TREASURY MANAGEMENT OUTTURN REPORT 2020/21**

Councillor Richard Samuel introduced this agenda item by saying that this report, prepared in accordance with the CIPFA Treasury Code of Practice, gave details of performance against the Council's Treasury Management Strategy and Annual Investment Plan for 2020/21. Councillor Samuel also said that the Council had been doing work on moving its funds to more socially and environmentally acceptable investments.

Councillor Richard Samuel moved the recommendations.

Councillor Tom Davies seconded the motion by praising the Council's intention to move its funds to more socially and environmentally acceptable investments.

Councillor Davies also said that the report described key aspects of the Council's balance sheets and thanked Councillor Samuel and Andy Rothery (Section 151 Officer) for highly effective management of the Council's treasury.

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

1. The Treasury Management Report to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021, prepared in accordance with the CIPFA Treasury Code of Practice, is noted.
2. The Treasury Management Indicators to 31st March 2021 are noted.

#### **49 TREASURY MANAGEMENT MONITORING REPORT TO 30TH JUNE 2021**

Councillor Richard Samuel introduced the report by saying that this was the first quarterly report on revenue and capital spending for this year. The environmental investment has been referenced and it would come forward for an internal discussion with Councillors in the next few weeks.

Councillor Richard Samuel moved the recommendations.

Councillor Tom Davies seconded the motion by welcoming the report.

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

1. The Treasury Management Report to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021, prepared in accordance with the CIPFA Treasury Code of Practice, is noted.
2. The Treasury Management Indicators to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021 are noted.

The meeting ended at 8.55 pm

Chair \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Prepared by Democratic Services**