

MINUTES OF CABINET

8 NOVEMBER 2021

PRESENT:

Councillors Poole (Vice-Chairman in the Chair), Mrs Crane, Miss Lawrence, Poole, Ms Robbins and Mrs Simpson-Vince.

Councillors Mrs O'Rourke and Roodhouse were also in attendance.

48. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 October 2021 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

49. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from Councillors Lowe and Roberts.

50. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

51. QUESTION TIME

In accordance with the Council's public question time procedure, the following question was received. Rebecca Stevenson did not attend the meeting.

(a) Rebecca Stevenson asked the following question of the Leader of the Council, Councillor Lowe:

"When will the baseline work on the council's carbon footprint be published?"

Councillor Lowe, Leader of the Council, submitted a response as follows:

"We have now received the raw data regarding the Council's carbon footprint and expect this to be analysed and interpreted by December. Details regarding the Council's carbon footprint will form a key element of the Council's Climate Change Strategy, which will be consulted on in early 2022."

Leisure and Wellbeing Portfolio

52. EVENT AND MEETING ASSISTANT AT THE BENN HALL

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Officer – Leisure and Wellbeing (Part 1 – agenda item 5) concerning a proposed additional post of Event and Meeting Assistant at the Benn Hall.

RESOLVED THAT –

- (1) IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT a new post of Event and Meeting Assistant be added to the establishment; and
- (2) a net nil salary budget of £9,420 be created using existing Special Activities and Casual Salary budget.

Finance, Performance, Legal and Governance Portfolio

53. FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE MONITORING 2021/22 – QUARTER 2

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Officer – Finance and Performance (Part 1 – agenda item 6) concerning the Council's latest financial and performance position.

RESOLVED THAT –

- (1) the Council's anticipated financial position for 2021/22 be noted;
- (2) various capital virements for 2021/22 as detailed in section 6 be approved; and
- (3) IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT -
 - (a) a supplementary General Fund revenue budget of £0.080m for 2021/22 for increased agency costs within Planning; to be financed through increased Planning income be approved;
 - (b) a General Fund budget virement of £0.080m for 2021/22; to reduce expenditure budgets within services (as detailed in section 6) where savings have been identified and a corresponding reduction in the 2021/22 corporate savings target be approved; and
 - (c) performance information in section 7 and Appendix 3 be noted.

54. START TIMES OF MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Officer – Legal and Governance (Part 1 – agenda item 7) concerning a review of start times of meetings of the Council.

RESOLVED THAT –

- (1) in person meetings of Cabinet and standing committees commence at 6.00pm with immediate effect, with the exception of Planning Committee which will commence at 5.30pm;
- (2) in person meetings of Council continue to commence at 7.00pm;
- (3) Task Group meetings be held virtually to commence at 5.30pm;
- (4) Working Party meetings be held virtually at start times to suit the relevant membership; and
- (5) delegated authority be given to the Chief Officer – Legal and Governance to:

(a) set the start times for meetings of Grievance and Appeals Committees, in liaison with the relevant Chair; and

(b) make arrangements for virtual meetings to be held in the event of any changes in legislation due to the current pandemic, with Cabinet and standing committees commencing at 5.30pm, and Council meetings commencing at 6.00pm.

Communities, Homes, Digital and Communications Portfolio

55. THE SAFE ACCOMMODATION STRATEGY

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Officer – Communities and Homes (Part 1 – agenda item 8) concerning the Warwickshire Safe Accommodation Strategy.

RESOLVED THAT -

(1) the WSAS and associated partnership working requirements be adopted, subject to adoption by all partners;

(2) the pooling of the £34,240 funding awarded to the Council by the MHCLG, with the other Warwickshire District and Borough Councils and WCC, to better maximise and enable accommodation and related support, be supported, subject to all other District and Borough Councils agreeing to the pooling of funds; and

(3) the Chief Officer – Communities and Homes be given delegated authority to agree with the other Councils and WCC how funding can be used effectively, ensuring an equitable service is provided within the Borough.

56. COMMUNITY GRANT ALLOCATIONS FOR 2021/22

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Officer – Communities and Homes (Part 1 – agenda item 9) concerning the allocation of grant funding for community organisations for 2021/22, as recommended by the Grants Working Party.

RESOLVED THAT -

(1) the recommendations made by the Grants Working Party to allocate the funding for the 2021/22 community grants, as summarised in appendices 2 and 3, be approved; and

(2) the under-allocation of £35,144.98 be returned to balances.

Note: this decision is not subject to call-in.

57. IMPROVING THE RESILIENCE OF TELEPHONE CONTACT AT RUGBY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Officer – Digital and Communications (Part 1 – agenda item 10) concerning proposed improvements to the Council's telephone system.

RESOLVED THAT – IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT -

(1) a new telephone system be procured for the Council as detailed within the report; and

(2) delegated authority be given to the Chief Officer – Finance and Performance to undertake a procurement process and enter into a contractual agreement with the successful supplier.

58. CITY FIBRE INFRASTRUCTURE PROPOSAL

The Chairman informed Cabinet that this item had been deferred to a future meeting.

Change and Transformation Portfolio

59. CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Cabinet considered the report of the Deputy Executive Director (Part 1 – agenda item 12) concerning the adoption of a Climate Change and Environmental Impact Assessment for use with all Full Council and Cabinet reports.

RESOLVED THAT - the Climate Change and Environmental Impact Assessment as set out in Appendix 1 be adopted and utilised for all Full Council and Cabinet reports.

Items considered en bloc

60. CLIMATE EMERGENCY WORKING GROUP – CHANGE OF MEMBERSHIP

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Officer – Legal and Governance (Part 1 – agenda item 13) concerning a proposed change to the membership of the Climate Emergency Working Group for the remainder of the 2021/22 municipal year.

RESOLVED THAT - Councillor Roberts be replaced by Councillor Rabin on the Climate Emergency Working Group for the remainder of the 2021/22 municipal year with immediate effect.

Note: this decision is not subject to call-in.

61. TREASURY MANAGEMENT REPORT

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Officer – Finance and Performance (Part 1 – agenda item 14) concerning progress with regard to the Council's Treasury Management Strategy and activities.

RESOLVED THAT -

(1) the report be noted; and

(2) the monitoring and review of the Treasury Management indicators be agreed.

62. MOTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC UNDER SECTION 100(A)(4) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

RESOLVED THAT – under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of information defined in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

Item considered en bloc

63. WRITE OFFS

Cabinet considered the private report of the Chief Officer – Finance and Performance (Part 2 – agenda item 1) concerning write offs.

RESOLVED THAT – the schedule of write offs, as at Appendix 1 to the report, be approved.

CHAIRMAN