

# MINUTES OF CABINET

28 JUNE 2021

## PRESENT:

Councillors Lowe (Chairman), Mrs Crane, Miss Lawrence, Poole and Mrs Simpson-Vince.

Councillors Brader (substituting for Councillor Mrs O'Rourke) and Roodhouse were also in attendance.

## 11. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 June 2021 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

## 12. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from Councillors Mrs O'Rourke, Ms Robbins and Roberts.

## 13. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

## 14. QUESTION TIME

There were no questions.

### *Growth and Investment Portfolio*

## 15. ADOPTION OF THE HOUSING NEEDS SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT 2021

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Officer – Growth and Investment (Part 1- agenda item 5) concerning the proposed adoption of the Housing Needs Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) 2021.

### **RESOLVED THAT - IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT -**

- (1) the Housing Needs Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) 2021 be adopted;
- (2) the Housing Needs SPD be published on the Council's website with the adoption statement made available and be sent to any person who has asked to be notified of the adoption of the SPD; and

- (3) delegated authority be given to the Chief Officer for Growth and Investment to make minor grammatical and presentational amendments as necessary to the Housing Needs SPD either prior to or following adoption, and prior to it being published.

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

## **16. ADOPTION OF AIR QUALITY SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT**

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Officer – Growth and Investment (Part 1- agenda item 6) concerning the proposed adoption of the Air Quality Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).

**RESOLVED THAT - IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT -**

- (1) the Air Quality Supplementary Planning Document be adopted;
- (2) the Air Quality SPD be published on the Council's website with the adoption statement made available and be sent to any person who has asked to be notified of the adoption of the SPD; and
- (3) delegated authority be given to the Chief Officer for Growth and Investment to make minor grammatical and presentational amendments as necessary to the Air Quality SPD either prior to or following adoption, and prior to it being published.

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

## **17. REQUEST FOR FINANCE – UPDATING COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY VIABILITY STUDY**

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Officer – Growth and Investment (Part 1- agenda item 7) concerning the funding for an update to the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) viability study.

**RESOLVED THAT -** the use of up to £10,000 to update the Community Infrastructure Levy Viability Study, from existing resources, be noted.

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

### ***Leisure and Wellbeing Portfolio***

## **18. ADOPTION OF TREE POLICY**

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Officer – Leisure and Wellbeing (Part 1- agenda item 8) concerning the adoption of a Council tree policy.

**RESOLVED THAT - IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT** the Tree Policy, as at Appendix 2 to the report, be adopted.

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

***Finance, Performance, Legal and Governance Portfolio***

**19. FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE MONITORING 2020/21 – YEAR END**

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Officer – Finance and Performance (Part 1- agenda item 8) concerning the Council's financial and performance position as at the end of the 2020/21 financial year.

**RESOLVED THAT -**

(1) the Council's anticipated financial position for 2020/21 in Sections 1 to 5 and Appendices 1 and 2 be noted;

(2) performance data included in Section 6 and Appendix 3 be considered and noted; and

(3) IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT -

(a) a General Fund capital budget of £0.036m be included in the 2021/22 programme for the Crematorium Floor Refurbishment, for health & safety compliance, to be funded from the Crematorium Reserve as approved by the Rugby and West Northamptonshire Crematorium Joint Committee in November 2020, as detailed in paragraph 5.4;

(b) the General fund surplus of (£0.281m) and Council Tax compensation scheme of (£0.112m) transfer to the Budget Stability Reserve as per section 3.1 and table 5 be approved;

(c) supplementary revenue budgets of £0.320m for 2021/22 and financed from the carry-forward reserve as a result of carry forwards from 2020/21 at section 3.4 and Appendix 4 be approved;

(d) General Fund New Earmarked Reserves, (£0.500m) – Transformation Fund and (£0.034m) – Family Weight Project Reserve as detailed in section 3.5 be approved;

(e) General Fund transfer of business rates surplus (£6.999m) to the Business Rates Equalisation Reserve as per section 3.3 be approved;

(f) General Fund Movement in Reserves as detailed in Appendices 1 and 6 be approved;

(g) HRA Movement in Reserves as detailed in Appendix 2 be approved;

(h) a supplementary General Fund capital budget of £0.085m for Disabled Facilities Grants for 2021/22 to be funded from additional grant funding in 2021/22 be approved, as detailed in paragraph 5.4;

(i) supplementary capital budgets for 2021/22 as a result of capital project slippage from 2020/21 at Appendix 4 be approved;

a. General Fund - £1.834m

b. HRA - £5.031m

(j) a virement of £0.150m within the 2021/22 HRA capital budget to allocate slippage from Rounds Gardens Demolition to the Rounds Garden Capital budget, as detailed in paragraph 5.4, be approved to meet ongoing decanting costs and design fees; and

(k) reserves forecast and Risk assessment at Appendix 5 and 7 be noted.

## **20. CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2021/22 – COUNCIL MEETINGS**

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Officer – Legal and Governance (Part 1- agenda item 10) concerning changes to some Council dates for 2021/22 due to social distancing and COVID measures for meetings.

**RESOLVED THAT** - meetings of Council for the 2021/22 municipal year be held on the dates as detailed in paragraphs 3.1 and 3.2 of the report, to commence at 7.00pm.

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

### ***Communities and Homes Portfolio***

## **21. ACCELERATION OF THE UK AFGHAN LOCALLY EMPLOYED STAFF RELOCATION SCHEME**

Cabinet considered an additional agenda item of the Chief Officer – Communities and Homes concerning a request from the Home Office for local authorities to support the relocation of Afghan interpreters who served on the frontline to relocate to the UK.

**RESOLVED THAT** -

(1) the Council agrees to participate in the UK Afghan Locally Employed Staff Relocation Scheme; and

(2) the family be accommodated within social housing.

### ***Regulation and Safety Portfolio***

## **22. THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW DRONE TECHNOLOGY TO IMPROVE COUNCIL SERVICES**

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Officer – Regulation and Safety (Part 1- agenda item 11) concerning the proposed introduction of the use of new drone technology to improve Council services.

**RESOLVED THAT** - the purchase of a drone, officers being trained and the establishment of a trial programme for the use of all relevant services be approved.

### ***Items considered en bloc***

## **23. MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES 2020/21**

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Officer – Finance and Performance (Part 1- agenda item 12) concerning allowances paid to all Members for 2020/21.

**RESOLVED THAT** – the allowances claimed by Members for 2020/21, as detailed at Appendix 1 to the report, be noted.

**24. TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21**

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Officer – Finance and Performance (Part 1- agenda item 13) concerning the Council's annual report relating to treasury management for 2020/21.

**RESOLVED THAT** – the Treasury Management report for 2020/21 and the actual treasury management indicators (appendix A) be noted.

**25. 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 items on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of information defined in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

***Change and Transformation Portfolio***

**26. ROUNDS GARDENS REDEVELOPMENT: DEMOLITION BUDGET, COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER AND LAND ACQUISITION**

Cabinet considered the private report of the Executive Director (Part 2 - agenda item 1) concerning arrangements for the redevelopment of Rounds Gardens.

**RESOLVED THAT** – IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT -

(1) a supplementary budget of £5.000m to meet the demolition costs of Rounds Gardens as set out in Table 1 of the report, plus an allowance for additional contingencies, be approved;

(2) a supplementary budget be approved, and delegated authority be given to the Chief Officer/Executive Director to agree, the acquisition of leasehold property at the recommended purchase price; and

(3) a supplementary budget be approved for, and delegated authority be given to the Chief Officer / Executive Director to agree, the acquisition of additional land at the recommended purchase price.

**27. GETTING BUILDING FUND (GBF) – RUGBY BOROUGH COUNCIL (RBC) SHAREHOLDERS AGREEMENT REPORT**

Cabinet considered the private report of the Executive Director (Part 2 - agenda item 2) concerning this Council's shareholder agreement relating to the Getting Building Fund grant.

**RESOLVED THAT - IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT -**

- (1) delegated authority be given to the Executive Director and Monitoring Officer to enter into Shareholder Agreement with Caldecott Square Redevelopment Limited, on the terms as detailed in this report which shall include any future non-material amendments;
- (2) a supplementary budget of £2.000m be added to the 2021/22 capital programme for the delivery of this scheme; and
- (3) the creation of an earmarked reserve be approved to collect dividends received from the arrangement and help to monitor the conditions placed on the use of the money.

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

**28. HOLDING COMPANY AND JOINT VENTURE COMPANY UPDATE AND REQUEST FOR FUNDING**

Cabinet considered the private report of the Executive Director (Part 2 - agenda item 3) concerning an update with regard to the Council's holding company and Joint Venture company.

**RESOLVED THAT - IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT –**

- (1) a maximum £9.76m loan, drawn down over five years be approved, to provide working capital to the Joint Venture Property Development Company ('JV') which shall be subject to the approval of the shareholders committee as detailed in part (5) of this recommendation;
- (2) delegated authority be approved for the Holding Company ('Hold Co') directors to agree the incorporation of the JV;
- (3) a breakeven net present value (NPV) return over forty years, for homes built by the JV, and retained by the Council, either in the Housing Revenue Account ('HRA') or any subsidiary company, be approved as an additional acceptable investment criteria;
- (4) the allocation of an operating budget of £0.04m for year one for the Hold Co, be approved; and
- (5) delegated authority be given to the shareholders committee to approve the £9.76m loan detailed in part (1) of this recommendation and such approval shall require a satisfactory business plan and terms of loan.

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

**CHAIRMAN**