

MINUTES OF CABINET

4 JANUARY 2021

PRESENT:

Councillors Lowe (Chairman), Mrs Crane, Poole, Ms Robbins, Roberts and Mrs Simpson-Vince.

Councillors Bearne, Brader, Douglas, Gillias, Miss Lawrence, Mrs O'Rourke, Picker, Roodhouse, Sandison and Srivastava were also in attendance.

NOTE: The Leader of the Council announced that he had visited the COVID rapid testing centre in Rugby today, which would open to residents tomorrow. The Leader urged all residents of the Borough, particularly those in wards with high rates of positive COVID cases, to book a test. Details could be found on the Council's website.

62. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 December 2020 were approved by the Chairman.

63. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

64. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

65. QUESTION TIME

There were no questions.

Item not within a specific portfolio

66. CORPORATE STRATEGY 2021-24

Cabinet considered the report of the Deputy Executive Director (Part 1 – agenda item 5) concerning the Council's proposed Corporate Strategy for 2021-24.

RESOLVED THAT -

(1) the Executive Director, in consultation with the Leader, be granted delegated authority to make necessary changes to the Corporate Strategy 2021-24, prior to it being brought to Full Council; and

(2) a final draft of the Corporate Strategy 2021-24 be brought to Full Council in February 2021 for adoption.

Corporate Resources Portfolio

67. DRAFT GENERAL FUND REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGETS 2021/22 AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2021-25

Cabinet considered the report of the Interim Chief Financial Officer (Part 1 – agenda item 6) concerning the Council’s draft General Fund and Capital budgets for 2021/22 together with the Medium Term Financial Plan for 2021-25.

The Portfolio Holder informed the meeting that, since the publication of the agenda, the provisional settlement had been announced which had led to the Council being allocated £715,000 in government funding. This would be used to reduce the amount of reserves required to secure a balanced budget.

RESOLVED THAT -

- (1) the updated draft General Fund Revenue and Capital Budget position for 2021/22 be considered alongside the Council’s 2021-25 Medium-Term Financial Plan; and
- (2) Cabinet considers the Key Decisions in table section 5 table 3 and identifies other policy or service changes required for consideration.

Communities and Homes Portfolio

68. COMMUNITY GRANTS 2021/22

Cabinet considered the report of the Head of Communities and Homes (Part 1 – agenda item 7) concerning the allocation of community grants for 2021/22.

RESOLVED THAT –

- (1) the proposals related to the Council’s funding of one-off community grants, as identified in table 1, be endorsed for implementation in 2021/22, subject to budget setting;
- (2) the proposals set out in section 2 of this report, relating to the under allocation of grants for 2019/20 and 2020/21, be endorsed;
- (3) the proposed amendments to eligibility criteria, set out in section 3 of the report be approved;
- (4) a review of the community grants programme be undertaken by a cross-party working group led by the Portfolio Holder, in consultation with the Head of Communities and Homes, with support from the Communities and Projects Manager, ahead of the opening of the 2021/22 grants round. This will ensure that resources are aligned to meet the priorities outlined in the new Corporate Strategy, support post Covid-19 recovery and meet the wider needs of the community; and
- (5) delegated authority be given to the Portfolio Holder, in consultation with the Head of Communities and Homes, to establish a cross party Working Group to agree terms of reference and undertake the review.

69. TEST AND TRACE SUPPORT PAYMENTS SCHEME

The Leader of the Council informed the meeting that, further to Rugby being moved into Tier 4 of current restrictions, together with the imminent announcement from the Prime Minister that evening on further restrictions, it was proposed that this item be deferred pending further clarification on any implications arising from these.

RESOLVED THAT – this item be deferred pending further clarification on any implications of the current restrictions.

70. TEST AND TRACE SUPPORT PAYMENTS – PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY SCHEME

As with the previous agenda item, the Leader of the Council informed the meeting that, further to Rugby being moved into Tier 4 of current restrictions, together with the imminent announcement from the Prime Minister that evening on further restrictions, it was proposed that this item be deferred pending further clarification on any implications arising from these.

RESOLVED THAT – this item be deferred pending further clarification on any implications of the current restrictions.

Item considered en bloc

71. COUNCIL TAX BASE 2021/22

Cabinet considered the report of the Interim Chief Financial Officer (Part 1 – agenda item 10) concerning the council tax base for 2021/22.

RESOLVED THAT -

- (1) following publication of the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement and funding allocations for 2021/22, it be recommended that the Council Tax Base 2021/22 be approved; or
- (2) subject to consultation with the Executive Director, Monitoring Officer and the Leader of the Council, Delegated Authority be given to the Chief Finance Officer to amend the Council Tax Base, subject to the details of funding allocations for 2021/22 having an impact on the calculation used in this report.

72. 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 and 3 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

Corporate Resources Portfolio

73. ELECTION OF MAYOR AND APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR 2021/22

Cabinet considered the private report of the Executive Director (Part 2 – agenda item 1) concerning the election of Mayor and appointment of Deputy Mayor for the 2021/22 municipal year.

RESOLVED THAT - IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT subject to the councillors concerned continuing to be Members of the Borough Council in that year,

(a) Councillor Mrs D Roberts be nominated for election as Mayor for 2021/22;

and

(b) Councillor Cade be appointed as Deputy Mayor for 2021/22.

Item considered en bloc

74. WRITE OFFS

Cabinet considered the private report of the Interim Chief Financial Officer (Part 2 – agenda item 2) concerning write offs.

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

CHAIRMAN