

# MINUTES OF COUNCIL

27 SEPTEMBER 2018

At a Meeting of the Rugby Borough Council held on 27 September 2018.

## PRESENT:

The Mayor (Councillor T Mahoney), Councillors Mrs A'Barrow, Mrs Avis, Bearne, Brader, Mrs Bragg, Brown, Butlin, Cade, Mrs Crane, Cranham, Douglas, Miss Dumbleton, Ms Edwards, Mrs Garcia, Gillias, Keeling, Miss Lawrence, Lewis, Lowe, McQueen, Mistry, Mrs O'Rourke, Pacey-Day, Picker, Poole, Ms Robbins, Roberts, Mrs Roberts, Sandison, Shera, Mrs Simpson-Vince, Srivastava, Stokes, Mrs Timms and Ms Watson-Merret.

## 21. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from Councillors Leigh Hunt, Mrs Nash, Mrs Parker, Roodhouse and Mrs Roodhouse.

## 22. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 July 2018 were approved and signed by the Mayor.

## 23. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Item 6(a)(2) of Part 1 – Brownsover Community Room – Management Arrangements – Councillors Brown, Ms Edwards, Ms Robbins, Mrs Simpson-Vince and Srivastava (non-pecuniary interests as defined by the Council's Code of Conduct for Councillors by virtue of being members of the Brownsover Community Association).

Item 10(i) of Part 1 – Notice of Motion regarding Rugby Parkway – Councillors Cranham, Miss Lawrence and Picker (non-pecuniary interests as defined by the Council's Code of Conduct for Councillors by virtue of being Ward Councillors).

Item 10(i) of Part 1 – Notice of Motion regarding Rugby Parkway – Councillors Butlin, Mrs O'Rourke, Roberts and Mrs Timms (non-pecuniary interests as defined by the Council's Code of Conduct for Councillors by virtue of being Warwickshire County Councillors).

## 24. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor informed Council that on 20 September, the Deputy Mayor, along with officers, represented the Council at the annual "Heart of England Britain in Bloom" awards. Rugby competed in the "small city" category, and was once again awarded Gold.

Rugby was also the regional winner in its category and will, therefore, be entered into the national Britain in Bloom competition next year.

This award was testament to the hard work of volunteers, community groups, individuals and businesses from across the town, helping to make the most of our open spaces. The Mayor also thanked the parks and open spaces team at the Council for its outstanding work throughout the year to make our open spaces a credit to the borough.

The Mayor announced that the Council had been recently shortlisted for a national award in the Apprenticeship category by the Employers Network for Equality & Inclusion (ENEI) which promotes best practice in equality and inclusion in the workplace.

The Council competed with large organisations such as HMRC & HS2 as well as other much larger local authorities. The Mayor congratulated officers who worked hard work to achieve the award.

The Mayor informed Council that he had arranged two events over the coming months to raise money for his chosen charities, SSAFA and Coventry and Warwickshire MIND. Firstly, there would be a wine tasting evening on Friday 12 October at Gallachers in Regent Street. Tickets were available direct from the shop. There would also be a quiz night on Friday 16 November at the Workers Club in Oliver Street. Tickets would be on sale shortly from the Visitor Centre. He hoped all Members would join him at the events in supporting the two worthwhile causes.

## **25. QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 10**

There were no questions.

## **26. REPORT OF CABINET – 3 SEPTEMBER 2018**

**RESOLVED THAT** – the report be confirmed and adopted.

## **27. REPORTS OF OFFICERS**

### **(a) Biart Place and Rounds Gardens – Potential refurbishment and regeneration**

Council considered the report of the Executive Director (Part 1 – agenda item 7(a) concerning the potential refurbishment and regeneration of Biart Place and Rounds Gardens.

**RESOLVED THAT** - in respect of:

#### **Biart Place:**

1. a decision be made to regenerate the site for the provision of new homes;
2. proceed with Biart Place redevelopment design and procurement;
3. the Head of Communities and Homes be given delegated authority to administer a compensation package to eligible tenants of the low-level flats at Clifton Road, not exceeding £10,000 per eligible household; and
4. supplementary budgets be approved in respect of design fees to tender stage (50%) of £1,400,000 to be met from HRA capital resources

## **Rounds Gardens:**

1. proceed with surveying work to all three blocks to identify extent of works and priority order for the strengthening work;
2. supplementary budgets be approved in respect of further surveying work of £100,000 to be met from HRA capital resources;
3. supplementary budgets be approved in respect of £450,000 to be met from HRA capital resources to install additional fire alarms at Rounds Gardens based on recommendations by the fire risk assessor and WFRS. (based on the assumption tenants remain in the block for the duration of these works); and
4. report back to Council in December 2018 with an update report.

## **28. CHANGE TO MEMBERSHIP OF CABINET – GROWTH AND INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO HOLDER**

Council considered the report of the Leader of the Council (Part 1 – agenda item 8) concerning the change of Growth and Investment Portfolio Holder on Cabinet.

The Leader of the Council wished to place on record his thanks to Councillor Mrs Timms for her hard work during her term of office as Growth and Investment Portfolio Holder.

**RESOLVED THAT** – the report be noted.

## **29. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY REPORT 2016 – 2018**

Council considered the report of the Chairs of Brooke and Whittle Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Part 1 – agenda item 9) concerning the Overview and Scrutiny Report for 2016 – 2018.

**RESOLVED THAT** - the Overview and Scrutiny Report 2016 – 2018 be approved for publication.

## **30. NOTICES OF MOTION PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 11**

Council considered the following three Motions, notice of which had been given pursuant to Standing Order 11.

The Mayor considered it advisable and convenient to deal with all three Motions on the agenda at the meeting.

(i) Councillor Mrs O'Rourke moved and Councillor Ms Edwards seconded the following motion set out at item 8 of the agenda.

*“Following the recent announcement about the unsuccessful bid to secure funding for the Rugby parkway station and comments made by the national planning inspectorate in relation to the local plan in Rugby, I would ask the Leader of the Council to make urgent representations to DfT to secure national funding for the Rugby Parkway scheme. It is crucial that we secure this funding as quickly as possible to ensure the local plan is both viable and environmental sustainable.”*

Further to discussion, Councillor Lowe moved and Councillor Butlin seconded the following amendment:

“Following the recent announcement about the unsuccessful bid to secure funding for the Rugby parkway station and comments made by the national planning inspectorate in relation to the local plan in Rugby, the Council will continue to work with all parties, including Warwickshire County Council (as the Transport Authority), the DfT and developers, to secure any funding available that will improve and add to the transport links in Rugby whilst also ensuring that the existing Rugby Station is not adversely impacted and the surrounding infrastructure, continues to receive investment and upgrades where necessary. It is crucial that we secure this funding as quickly as possible to ensure the local plan is both viable and environmentally sustainable.”

Councillor Mrs O'Rourke indicated that she was prepared to accept the amendment. Following further discussion the Mayor put the amendment to the vote and declared it carried.

(ii) Councillor Mrs O'Rourke moved and Councillor Ms Edwards seconded the following motion set out at item 8 of the agenda.

*“The LGA has recently re-launched the national shared services map for 2018 which evidences how shared services have contributed to taxpayers saving more than £971m cumulative efficiency savings from over 559 shared service arrangements.*

*In light of this and to ensure that as a council we can demonstrate to the people of Rugby Borough that we have explored all opportunities to maximise savings through shared services initiatives for all of our back office services to avoid cutting vital front line services, I would like to recommend to Full Council:*

- That senior officers and a cross party working group lead a local review to scope out which current back office and corporate services could be potentially delivered more efficiently through a shared service approach.*
- For the results of that review to be brought back to a Full Council meeting within the current financial year outlining any opportunities to make savings.”*

Following discussion the Mayor put the Motion to the vote and declared it lost.

(iii) Councillor Mrs O'Rourke moved and Councillor Brader seconded the following motion set out item 8 of the agenda.

*“Next year is the Coventry and Warwickshire year of Health and Wellbeing and many public sector organisations are already working in partnership with their local communities to promote and encourage their communities to adopt healthy lifestyles. They are doing this by identifying and working with existing and new community networks and organisations, particularly those reaching vulnerable groups*

*Clearly Rugby Borough Council has a vested interest in supporting this wonderful initiative. Therefore I'm asking this Council to pledge its support for the year of health and wellbeing through:*

- Working in partnership with our communities and stakeholders to identify one or two initiatives that we could all get behind.*

- *That we fund this with the unspent Warwickshire Public Health fund allocated to us last year.*
- *That we ask Scrutiny to establish a member task and finish group to monitor the delivery of those priorities.”*

Further to discussion, Councillor Stokes moved and Councillor Ms Robbins seconded the following amendment:

“Next year is the Coventry and Warwickshire year of Health and Wellbeing and many public sector organisations are already working in partnership with their local communities to promote and encourage their communities to adopt healthy lifestyles. They are doing this by identifying and working with existing and new community networks and organisations, particularly those reaching vulnerable groups.

Clearly Rugby Borough Council has a vested interest in supporting this wonderful initiative. Therefore I’m asking this Council to pledge its support for the year of health and wellbeing through:

- Working in partnership with our communities and stakeholders to identify one or two initiatives that we could all get behind.
- That we ask Scrutiny to establish a member task and finish group to monitor the delivery of those priorities *and associated costs*
- That a report be brought to Cabinet outlining the costs and the possibility of using any unspent funding from Public Health England.”

Councillor Mrs O’Rourke indicated that she was prepared to accept the amendment. Following discussion, the Mayor put the amendment to the vote and declared it carried.

### **31. CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence.

### **COMMON SEAL**

It was moved by the Mayor, seconded by the Deputy Mayor and

**RESOLVED THAT** - the common seal be affixed to the various orders, deeds and documents to be made or entered into for carrying into effect the several decisions, matters and things approved by the council and more particularly set out in the committee reports adopted at this meeting.

### **10. 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 as defined in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

## 11. PRIVATE REPORT OF OFFICERS

Council considered the private report of the Executive Director (Part 2 – agenda item 1) concerning the proposed sale of the Market Quarter.

Councillor Mrs O'Rourke moved and Councillor Ms Edwards seconded an amendment which was circulated at the meeting.

Following discussion, the Mayor put the amendment to the vote and, by a show of hands of 11 for the motion and 24 against, declared it lost.

The Mayor then put the substantive motion to the vote and declared it carried.

**RESOLVED THAT** – delegated powers be given to the Executive Director to conclude a sale contract for the Market Quarter site as detailed in the report.

**MAYOR**