

# MINUTES OF CABINET

25 JUNE 2018

## PRESENT:

Councillors Stokes (Chairman), Mrs Crane, Lowe, Mrs Parker and Ms Robbins.

Councillors Douglas (substituting for Councillor Roodhouse), Ms Edwards, Lewis, Mistry, Mrs O'Rourke and Sandison were also in attendance.

## 10. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 June 2018 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

## 11. APOLOGIES

An apology for absence from the meeting was received from Councillor Roodhouse.

## 12. QUESTION TIME

In accordance with the Council's public question time procedure, the following question was submitted by Mr Richard Allanach, who attended the meeting and presented his question in person.

"The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government's Planning Inspectorate has instructed councils not to consult on local plans before they have conducted a rigorous assessment of the soundness of their proposals and reminded councils that the *Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004* provides that they must not submit their plans unless they consider "the document is ready for examination".

On 21 June 2017 Rugby Borough Council rejected the advice of its leader and resolved to include a development in the Rainsbrook Valley at Lodge Farm in its proposed new local development plan.

The Council also rejected the advice of thirteen of its councillors and voted to submit that plan to the Secretary of State (subject to delegated authority being granted to the Head of Growth and Investment to make any minor presentational or correctional amendments).

On 18 May 2018 the Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State to hold an examination in public of the development plan found that it was currently unsound and could only be considered sound if major surgery was carried out including:

- Deleting the proposed Lodge Farm development;
- Deleting the proposed Coton House development;
- Deleting the proposed Brinklow development;
- Making provision for secondary education in the North of Rugby;
- Making specific arrangements to secure the future of the Brandon speedway site; and

- Scaling back the proposed warehousing development in Thurlaston.

The agenda for recent Cabinet meetings shows that the Growth and Investment portfolio wished to report nothing to the meeting of 4 June and whilst they have two things to report at the meeting of 25 June neither of them includes the Inspector's findings.

How does the Leader of the Council intend to secure a satisfactory response to the Inspector's letter of 18 May 2018 and persuade the Council to reverse their policy of developing in the Rainsbrook Valley at Lodge Farm?"

Councillor Stokes, Leader of the Council, responded as follows:

"The Council welcomes the initial feedback from the Local Plan Inspector and officers are currently working with the Inspector to agree the detailed modifications necessary.

It should be noted that the vast majority of Local Plans submitted to the Secretary of State experience a similar level of modification through the Examination process and that our plan is not unusual in this regard. The vast majority of the Plan and the Development Strategy for the Borough remain as agreed by the Council.

On this basis, Cabinet are minded to accept the modifications proposed by the Inspector as outlined in his letter, and to progress our corporate objective of adopting an up to date plan as soon as possible.

Because the Inspector's modifications and the other modifications proposed during the examination must be subject to public consultation, it is currently anticipated that Council could be recommended to adopt The Plan in its modified state by December 2018.

I believe all steps in this process should be in public and therefore, I have asked officers to arrange a Special Cabinet Meeting (currently anticipated at the beginning of August 2018), to deal with the democratic and constitutional process to allow the consultation to take place.

Furthermore, as it is likely that the consultation process will take place over the traditional summer holiday period, I will be recommending that the consultation runs for a period of eight weeks rather than the statutory minimum of six weeks."

Mr Allanach then sought further clarification from the Leader of the Council as to how he would persuade the Council to change its current policy with regard to developing in the Rainsbrook valley. The Leader of the Council reiterated that Cabinet was minded to accept the Inspector's recommendations but the approval of the Local Plan would be a matter for Full Council, when all Members would be able to vote as they wished.

### ***Growth and Investment Portfolio***

## **13. RUGBY DESTINATION MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Cabinet considered the report of the Head of Growth and Investment (Part 1 – agenda item 5) concerning a proposed Destination Management Plan for the borough.

**RESOLVED THAT** – a Destination Management Plan for the town and borough of Rugby be endorsed.

#### **14. VISIT ENGLAND DISCOVER ENGLAND FUND BID**

Cabinet considered the report of the Head of Growth and Investment (Part 1 – agenda item 6) concerning a proposed bid to Visit England Discover England bid and the associated activities should the bid be successful.

**RESOLVED THAT** – a Visit England Discover England bid be endorsed.

#### ***Corporate Resources Portfolio***

#### **15. FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE MONITORING 2017/18 – YEAR END**

Cabinet considered the report of the Head of Corporate Resources and Chief Financial Officer (Part 1 – agenda item 7) concerning the Council's year-end financial and performance position for 2017/18.

**RESOLVED THAT** –

(1) the Council's anticipated financial position for 2017/18 be noted; and

(2) IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT -

(a) the creation of a General Fund revenue carry forward earmarked reserve be approved;

(b) Supplementary General Fund revenue expenditure budgets totalling £354,140 be approved for 2018/19, as a result of budget carry forwards from 2017/18 (see section 2.2);

(c) a £354,140 transfer to the carry forward reserve be approved for 2017/18;

(d) an £846,160 transfer to the Business Rates Equalisation reserve be approved for 2017/18;

(e) a £463,970 transfer to the Budget Stability reserve be approved for 2017/18;

(f) a net £187,000 transfer of revenue grants and Section 106 contributions to earmarked reserves be approved for 2018/19;

(g) other 2017/18 net transfers to General Fund earmarked reserves, totalling £111,710 as detailed at Appendix 2, be approved;

(h) Supplementary capital budgets be approved for 2018/19 as a result of budget carry forwards from 2017/18 as follows:

a. General Fund capital £3,657,190

b. Housing Revenue Account capital £7,258,590;

(h) a 2017/18 HRA capital supplementary budget of £118,480 for the Housing Windows and Doors Replacement Scheme be approved, to be met from HRA balances;

(i) A 2017/18 General Fund capital supplementary budget of £57,090 for Disabled Facilities Grant be approved, to be wholly funded by additional grant funding;

(j) a 2017/18 General Fund capital supplementary budget of £37,900 for the Purchase of Art Work be approved, to be funded by external grant and the art reserve;

(k) a 2017/18 General Fund capital supplementary budget of £11,900 for the new Licensing System be approved to be funded by revenue contribution;

(l) a 2017/18 General Fund capital supplementary budget of £40,110 for Open Spaces Safety Improvements and capital expenditure by parish councils be approved, to be wholly funded by Section 106 contributions;

(m) a 2018/19 General Fund revenue salary budget virement of £72,000 to Customer Support Services from Work Services Unit be approved, following a successful trial 5 period;

(n) a 2018/19 General Fund capital supplementary budget of £75,000 for the procurement of a modern planning and LLPG system be approved, to be wholly funded from Planning Delivery Grant; and

(o) performance summary and performance data included in Appendix 5 be considered and noted.

### ***Environment and Public Realm Portfolio***

## **16. CHANGES TO HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION (HMO) LICENSING REGULATIONS**

Cabinet considered the report of the Head of Environment and Public Realm (Part 1 – agenda item 8) concerning changes to licensing regulations with regard to houses in multiple occupation (HMO).

### **RESOLVED THAT –**

- (1) the establishment be increased to allow the appointment of a permanent Environmental Health Officer or Environmental Protection Officer to undertake the Council's extended HMO licensing duties; and
- (2) IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT the Private Sector Housing Enforcement Policy, the Private Sector Housing Civil Penalties Policy and the Private Sector Housing Houses in Multiple Occupation Licensing Policy (as set out in Appendix 1, 2 and 3) be considered and approved.

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

## **17. TREASURY MANAGEMENT 2017/18 – ANNUAL REPORT**

Cabinet considered the report of the Head of Corporate Resources and Chief Financial Officer (Part 1 – agenda item 9) concerning the Council's treasury management report for 2017/18.

**RESOLVED THAT –**

- (1) the Treasury Management report for 2017/18 be noted; and
- (2) the actual treasury management indicators (Appendix A) be noted.

**18. MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES 2017/18**

Cabinet considered the report of the Head of Corporate Resources and the Chief Financial Officer (Part 1 – agenda item 10) concerning details of allowances claimed by councillors for 2017/18.

**RESOLVED THAT –** the allowances claimed by Members for 2017/18, as detailed at Appendix 1 to the report, be noted.

**19. 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.

***Corporate Resources Portfolio***

**20. CORPORATE ASSET MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

Cabinet considered the private report of the Head of Corporate Resources and Chief Financial Officer (Part 2 – agenda item 1) concerning the provision of a Corporate Asset Management system.

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

- (1) a supplementary capital budget of £70,000 be approved for the provision of a Corporate Asset Management System, to be met from HRA Balances (£35,000) and General Fund borrowing (£35,000); and
- (2) it be noted that the 2019/20 revenue budget for annual support and maintenance charges of the Corporate Asset Management System is anticipated to be £30,000, to be offset against savings realised as a result of the rationalisation of other systems currently in use for asset management and therefore will be built into the 2019/20 draft budgets.

***Communities and Homes Portfolio***

**21. HOUSING MANAGEMENT TEAM STRUCTURE REVIEW**

Cabinet considered the private report of the Head of Communities and Homes (Part 2 – agenda item 2) concerning a review of the Housing Management Team structure.

**RESOLVED THAT –**

- (1) the new proposed structure for the Housing Management Team, as detailed in the report, be approved; and
- (2) a supplementary HRA budget of £20,800 for 2018/19 (£27,745 full year) be approved to fund the new Housing Management Team structure, to be met from HRA balances.

**CHAIRMAN**