

# MINUTES OF CABINET

23 OCTOBER 2023

## PRESENT:

Councillors Poole (Chair), Daly, Picker, Ms Robbins, Ms Watson-Merret and Willis.

Councillors Mrs A'Barrow, Mistry and Roodhouse were also in attendance.

## 40. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 September 2023 were approved and signed by the Chair.

## 41. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from Councillors Miss Dumbleton and Moran.

## 42. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Item 12 of Part 1 – Improvements to the Lawrence Sheriff Almshouses – Councillor Willis (non-pecuniary interest as defined by the Council's Code of Conduct for Councillors by virtue of being a trustee of the Almshouses).

Item 12 of Part 1 – Improvements to the Lawrence Sheriff Almshouses – Councillor Roodhouse (pecuniary interest as defined by the Council's Code of Conduct for Councillors by virtue of being a trustee of the Almshouses).

Councillors Roodhouse and Willis left the meeting during the item in which they had declared an interest and took no part in the voting and discussion thereon.

## 43. QUESTION TIME

There were no questions.

*Item considered not within a specific portfolio*

## 44. CORPORATE STRATEGY DELIVERY PLAN

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Executive (Part 1 – agenda item 5) concerning the Council's proposed Corporate Strategy delivery plan for 2023-2025.

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

- (1) the Corporate Strategy Delivery Plan 2023-25, as at Appendix 1 to the report, be approved and be appended to the Council's Corporate Strategy;

- (2) delegated authority be given to the Chief Executive to update the Corporate Strategy Delivery Plan during the year and to make any necessary amendments to the Corporate Strategy to make reference to the Corporate Strategy Delivery Plan; and
- (3) delegated authority be given to the Chief Executive, through discussion with Portfolio Holders, to apply a process of prioritisation to the projects within the Corporate Strategy Delivery Plan.

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

#### **45. RUGBY BOROUGH LOCAL PLAN ISSUES AND OPTIONS CONSULTATION**

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Officer – Growth and Investment (Part 1 – agenda item 6) concerning the proposed consultation on issues and options relating to the Local Plan.

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

- (1) the Issues and Options consultation document, attached as Appendix 2a (with a short form, questionnaire version at Appendix 2b), be approved for an eight-week public consultation;
- (2) the amended Local Development Scheme (LDS), attached as Appendix 1, be adopted;
- (3) the preparation of the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations DPD be discontinued and be instead combined into the new Local Plan; and
- (4) delegated authority be given to the Chief Officer for Growth and Investment to make minor amendments as necessary to the Local Development Scheme and/or the Issues and Options document.

#### **46. CREATION OF AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICER POST**

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Officer – Growth and Investment (Part 1 – agenda item 7) concerning the creation of an Economic Development officer post to ensure the Council delivers the aims of its Corporate Strategy along with the Town Centre Regeneration Strategy and the emerging Economic Strategy.

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

- (1) a 2023/24 supplementary budget of £10,880 is established for the creation of a new permanent Economic Development Officer post to be funded from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund management and administration 4% be approved; and
- (2) a permanent budget of £43,530 for 2024/25 be created for the permanent Economic Development Officer post to be funded by the planning fee increases from 2024/25 onwards.

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

#### **47. UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND 2023/24 – YEAR 2 SPEND**

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Officer – Growth and Investment (Part 1 – agenda item 8) concerning recommendations for the further allocation of Year 2 UKSPF spend as well as amending the remit of the Local Partnership Group in relation to grant applications as previously agreed at Council on 12 July 2023.

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

- (1) the allocation of UKSPF for 2023/2024 (year 2) as set out in the report be approved;
- (2) the continuation of funding for the year 2 projects, community support to reduce cost of living, local sports facilities, tournaments, teams and leagues and small business support projects for year 3 be approved;
- (3) delegated authority be given to the Chief Officer for Finance and Performance in consultation with the Chief Officer for Growth and Investment to make any other minor changes to spend to ensure all money is spend by the end of the financial year 2023/2024;
- (4) delegated authority be given to the UKSPF Local Partnership Group to review and make recommendations to the Chief Officer for Growth and Investment to approve grant applications for the community support to reduce the cost of living, local sports facilities, tournaments, teams and leagues and business support and start up grant funds;
- (5) a supplementary capital budget of £172,800 as detailed in the report to be added to the capital programme be approved;
- (6) a supplementary revenue budget of £293,200 as detailed in the report be approved; and
- (7) a supplementary income budget of (£293,200) to offset revenue expenditure as detailed in the report be approved.

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

#### **48. TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION PROGRESS UPDATE AND RESOURCING**

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Officer – Growth and Investment (Part 1 – agenda item 9) concerning progress on the delivery of the Council’s Town Centre Regeneration Strategy together with a proposal for the creation of a permanent Principal Planning Officer Post for Town Centre Regeneration to take forward the Town Centre Regeneration and its workstreams identified in the report.

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

- (1) the Town Centre Regeneration progress report and workstreams be noted as at Appendix 1;

- (2) the creation of a permanent post of Principal Planning Officer for Town Centre Regeneration on the establishment be approved; and
- (3) permanent budget of £62,080 for the Principal Planning Officer for Town Centre Regeneration to be funded from the Town Centre Strategy Reserve from 2024/25 onwards.

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

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

#### **49. FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE MONITORING 2023/24 – QUARTER 1**

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Officer – Finance and Performance (Part 1 – agenda item 10) concerning the anticipated 2023/24 financial and performance position for the Council based on data at 30 June 2023 (Quarter 1) together with proposed 2023/24 budget adjustments for approval as required by Financial Standing Orders.

#### **RESOLVED THAT –**

- (1) the Council's anticipated financial position for 2023/24 be noted;
- (2) 2023/24 Budget Virements as detailed in section 5 of the report be approved; and
- (3) performance information in section 6 of the report be noted.

#### **50. INITIAL REVIEW OF GENERAL FUND BUDGET 2024/25**

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Officer – Finance and Performance (Part 1 – agenda item 11) concerning an initial overview of the Council's financial outlook for 2024/25 and the following three years.

**RESOLVED THAT** - the information on the budget setting process for 2024/25 be noted.

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

### ***Communities, Homes, Digital and Communications Portfolio***

#### **51. IMPROVEMENTS TO THE LAWRENCE SHERIFF ALMSHOUSES**

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Officer – Communities and Homes (Part 1 – agenda item 12) concerning proposed grant funding towards the refurbishment of the current Lawrence Sheriff Almshouses and four proposed new properties on the same site.

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

- (1) a grant of £0.100m be awarded to Lawrence Sheriff Almshouses to support the delivery of this project;
- (2) the scheme is added to the capital programme and a supplementary budget of £0.100m be established;

- (3) delegated authority be given to the Chief Officer of Communities and Homes and the Chief Officer of Legal and Governance to determine the final grant terms; and
- (4) the Communities and Projects Team to monitor that the resulting expenditure has been undertaken in line with the agreed grant conditions. Compliance with this will also form part of the grant conditions.

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

#### **52. SAFER STREETS FUND ROUND FIVE**

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Officer – Communities and Homes (Part 1 – agenda item 13) concerning a proposed scheme to improve street safety within the town centre, Benn Ward and Millennium Green, subject to approval of funding by the Home Office as part of the Safer Streets Fund round five bid.

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

- (1) subject to Home Office approval, permission to enter a Safer Streets Funding agreement between Rugby Borough Council and the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner, be approved;
- (2) the scheme be added to the capital programme and a supplementary budget of £0.193m be established; and
- (3) delegated authority be granted to the Chief Officer Legal & Governance to enter into the Safer Streets Funding Agreement, as set out within the report, to ensure the Council's interest is protected.

#### **53. 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 involve the likely disclosure of information defined in paragraphs 2 and 3 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

#### **54. ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR HOUSING SERVICES**

Cabinet considered the private report of the Chief Officer – Communities and Homes (Part 2 – agenda item 1) concerning proposed additional resources for the Housing Services team.

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

- (1) the proposed additional resources for the Housing Services Team, as summarised in Appendix 4 be agreed;
- (2) delegated authority be given to the Chief Officer for Communities and Homes to implement the proposal as detailed within this recommendation;

- (3) a supplementary revenue budget be approved in 2023/24 for the net increase in salaries for Housing Services Team of £66,510 to be financed from HRA balances. The permanent funding will be provided through the 2024/25 budget setting process, taking into account any reduction in agency costs to offset the increase;
- (4) a supplementary revenue budget of additional £84,480 be approved to fund Housing Officers for a twelve-month period to be financed from HRA balances, as per section 12.0 of the report;
- (5) a supplementary revenue budget of £880 be approved financed from HRA balances in 2023/24 to increase the hours of a Communities and Projects Officer. The permanent funding will be provided through the 2024/25 budget setting process; and
- (6) the proposed changes of job titles, as outlined in Section 11 of the report be approved.

## **55. WRITE OFFS**

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

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

**CHAIR**