

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the CABINET held in the Civic Suite 0.1B, Pathfinder House, St Mary's Street, Huntingdon, PE29 3TN on Thursday, 20 September 2018.

PRESENT: Councillor G J Bull – Chairman.

Councillors J M Palmer, J A Gray, D M Tysoe and Mrs M L Beuttell.

APOLOGY(IES): Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors R Fuller.

24. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 19th July 2018 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

25. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary or other interests received at the meeting.

26. CORPORATE PLAN 2018 - 2022

The Cabinet received a report (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) on the development of the Corporate Plan 2018/2022 for any final comment prior to submission to Council for approval.

The Council required a clear vision with strategic priorities that established its objectives and how these would be achieved. The Council's previous Corporate Plan was for the period 2016 – 2018 and it had been agreed that a new Plan would be prepared for a four year period to coincide with the new electoral cycle.

In considering the comments of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Performance and Growth) it was explained that the key actions and performance indicators were realistic given the current financial pressures and were able to be amended if necessary in the future. Regarding staff sickness this was within the remit of the Employment Committee who were fully aware of the situation. Whereupon the Cabinet,

RESOLVED

- i. that the Cabinet provides final comment on the Corporate Plan 2018 – 2022; and

RECOMMENDS TO COUNCIL

- ii. that the Corporate Plan 2018 - 2022 be adopted.

27. INTEGRATED PERFORMANCE REPORT 2018/19 QUARTER 1

The Cabinet considered a report (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) on progress against the draft Key Activities and Corporate Indicators listed in the Council's Corporate Plan for 2018/2022 for the period 1 April to 30 June 2018. The report also incorporated progress on the current projects being undertaken at the Council and financial performance information as at the end of June.

It was noted that the report being presented was the Quarter 1 report and therefore early in the reporting period.

One particular 'red' indicator referred to 'grounds maintenance works inspected'. It was explained that the target of 82% was the inspection standard set by the Council and the trends indicated that this standard was higher than customer expectation.

The Cabinet concurred that the Appendices relating to the Financial Performance Monitoring were excellent for providing service specific details and in considering the comments of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Performance and Growth) it was suggested that the Panel should contact the Executive Councillors for Regulation and Operations and for Partnerships and Well-Being to discuss the concerns within these specific service areas.

In referring to the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Performance and Growth) comments made within the context of the Commercial Investment Strategy, it was noted that there were virtually no vacant High Street units and in relation to recycling the Executive Councillor for Resources had suggested that further education of the public was required as to the materials that were able to be recycled.

Whereupon the Cabinet,

RESOLVED

- i. To note the progress made against draft Key Actions and Corporate Indicators in the Corporate Plan and current projects, as summarised in Appendix A and detailed in Appendices B and C of the submitted report; and
- ii. To note the Council's financial performance at the end of June, as detailed in the Financial Performance Monitoring Suite in Appendix D and the register of reviews of Commercial Investment Strategy propositions as detailed in Appendix E of the submitted report.

28. CHANGE TO CONSTITUTION - HDC VENTURES LIMITED - SHAREHOLDER REPRESENTATIVE AND REFERENCE GROUP

The Council had established a Local Authority Trading Company, HDC Ventures Limited. Its purpose was to enable the Council to participate in commercial trading activities.

The Cabinet and Council had previously endorsed the appointment of a Shareholder Representative and Reference Group, and the

Corporate Governance Committee at its meeting on 26 July 2018 (Minute No. 21 refers) had considered the necessary amendments to the Constitution.

The Corporate Governance Committee had proposed a small number of amendments to the Shareholder Representative Arrangements and Terms of Reference which were presented to the Cabinet in a report (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) specifically:

- The reporting arrangements for the Shareholder Representative and the Shareholder Reference Group - to report and be accountable to the Council; and
- Rather than a named individual, Point 6 of the section on the Operation of the Shareholder Reference Group should read: 'The Secretary appointed to HDC Ventures Ltd will also act as Secretary to the Shareholder Reference Group'.

Whereupon the Cabinet resolved to,

RECOMMEND COUNCIL

approve the insertion of the Arrangements for the Shareholder Representative and Shareholder Reference Group into Part 3 Responsibility for Functions of the Constitution, as detailed in the Appendix to the submitted report.

29. APPOINTMENT TO THE A141 HUNTINGDON AND ST IVES AREA TRANSPORT STUDY STEERING GROUP

Cambridgeshire County Council, at its Economy and Environment Committee meeting on 13 September 2018, had resolved to establish the A141 Huntingdon and St Ives Area Transport Study Steering Group. The Steering Group had been established to assist in the review and development of schemes identified by the A141 Huntingdon Transport Study and the St Ives Area Transport Study.

As a result the District Council had been requested to appoint four District Councillors (two from Huntingdon and two from St Ives) to the Steering Group.

The report and Terms of Reference presented to the Cambridgeshire County Council Economy and Environment Committee had been attached via a link to the agenda.

The Cabinet,

RESOLVED

that Councillors Ms A Dickinson, J Neish, M Humphrey and S Wakeford be appointed to the Cambridgeshire County Council A141 Huntingdon and St Ives Area Transport Study Steering Group for the remainder of the Municipal Year.

30. ITEM OF SPECIAL URGENCY - BUSINESS RATE PILOT

Prior to consideration of the matter it was announced that in accordance with Section 100B (4)(b) of the Local Government Act

1972, the report was being considered as an urgent item of business, on the basis the Cabinet was required to take an urgent decision on the matter as all constituent authorities of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) had been consulted on a proposed bid to the Government relating to a pilot scheme for the retention of Business Rates, which was to be considered by the CPCA on 26 September 2018. As a result the matter would not be subject to call-in.

Following which the Cabinet gave consideration to a report by the Head of Resources (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) which had been circulated separate to the agenda.

It was explained that the Council, together with the other constituent authorities of the CPCA were considering the submission of a joint bid to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to participate in a one year business rates retention pilot for 2019/20. The bid had to be submitted on the 25 September 2018. The lead authority would be Cambridgeshire County Council who would also be responsible for administering the scheme.

In response to questions it was explained that:

- the CPCA proposed to underwrite the bid and that any Council who participated in the pilot would not suffer detriment as a result of participating.
- the Council would receive a per capita share of any Non Domestic Rate (NDR) growth, the current modelling indicated this would be in the region of £1.6m.
- Pilot Councils would not receive Revenue Support Grant (RSG). The current estimate for RSG in 2019/20 for the Council was nil. However, the Council had not budgeted for any RSG. After adjustments to NDR tariffs and top-ups as a consequence of the pilot the £1.6m would reduce. The amount of reduction was not known but it was expected that any reduction would not be significant enough to not support the bid.
- Any additional funds would be apportioned as follows: 80% split between the constituent authorities based on population; 10% to Cambridgeshire County Council; and 10% to the CPCA to create a Business Growth Fund.
- There was no stipulation of how the Council had to use these funds.

One of the conditions when submitting the bid was that all authorities had to agree to the Pilot. However, there was no guarantee that the bid would be successful.

As other authorities were also in the process of considering whether to participate in the Pilot, the Leader proposed the following additional recommendation, which was agreed, to allow the Council to react if necessary:

'Subject to other considerations or changes, that the Head of Resources be delegated authority to amend the District Council's response as necessary, in consultation with the Executive Leader'.

Whereupon the Cabinet,

RESOLVED

- i. To agree the Council's participation in the 2019/20 Business Rate Pilot for the Peterborough and Cambridgeshire area on the proviso that the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority confirms that it will underwrite 'no detriment' for the Council: and that
- ii. Subject to other considerations or changes, that the Head of Resources be delegated authority to amend the District Council's response as necessary, in consultation with the Executive Leader.

Chairman