

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held on
Wednesday, 4 December 2019 at 9.30 a.m.

PRESENT: Councillor Bridget Smith (Leader of Council)
Councillor Dr. Aidan Van de Weyer (Deputy Leader of Council (Statutory))

Councillors:	Neil Gough	Deputy Leader
	Bill Handley	Lead Cabinet Member for Environmental Services and Licensing
	Dr. Tumi Hawkins	Lead Cabinet member for Planning
	Hazel Smith	Lead Cabinet member for Housing
	John Williams	Lead Cabinet member for Finance

Officers in attendance for all or part of the meeting:

Susan Gardner Craig	Interim Director of Corporate Services
Mike Hill	Director of Housing and Environmental Services
Stephen Kelly	Joint Director of Planning and Economic Development
Peter Maddock	Head of Finance
Jonathan Malton	Cabinet Support Officer
Rory McKenna	Deputy Head of Legal Practice
Ian Senior	Democratic Services Officer
Liz Watts	Chief Executive

Councillors Anna Bradnam, Dr. Claire Daunton and Brian Milnes were in attendance, by invitation.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no Apologies for Absence from members of the Cabinet. However, Councillor Dr. Douglas de Lacey did send Apologies.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Cabinet authorised the Leader to sign, as a correct record, the Minutes of the meeting held on 6 November 2019.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Cabinet noted that, following a conversation with South Cambridgeshire District Council's Monitoring Officer, Daniel Fulton had formally withdrawn the question he had intended asking.

6. ISSUES ARISING FROM THE SCRUTINY AND OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

Cabinet received and noted a report on the discussions held, and recommendations agreed, in public session by the Scrutiny and Overview Committee at its meeting on 14 November 2019.

The report covered

- Streetlighting Policy and LED upgrade program
- 2019-20 Quarter 2 Performance Report
- General Fund Medium Term Financial Strategy
- Service Transformation: Savings Proposals

7. SERVICE TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME: SAVINGS PROPOSALS

Cabinet **received** a report covering the key objectives and intentions in relation to the transformation of Council services within the context of a continually challenging financial environment, and

- (a) Noted** the considerable challenges facing the Council given the financial outlook, including Government announcements in respect of local government funding, and the expectation that future cost pressures will exceed the resources available;
- (b) Noted** the revenue budget guiding principles, outlined at paragraph 21 of the Chief Executive's report, providing the context for the planning of the 2020 / 2021 revenue budget and the formulation of proposals to achieve service efficiency savings;
- (c) Noted** the growth bids, detailed at Appendix A to the Chief Executive's report, for inclusion in the Budget Setting Report in February 2020;
- (d) Noted** the proposed range of service efficiency savings / policy options detailed in Appendix B of the report and that these would undergo further refinement and consultation with employees and other stakeholders prior to forming part of the Budget Setting Report in February 2020; and
- (e) Noted** that some of the savings proposals would require a detailed equality analysis.

8. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY

Cabinet considered a report setting out the medium term budget strategy for the Council.

The Leader welcomed the report's clarity.

Cabinet

- (a) Acknowledged** the projected changes in service spending and the overall resources available to the Council over the medium term; and
- (b) Recommended to Full Council** the Medium Term Financial Strategy attached as Appendix A and the updated financial forecast attached as Appendix B to the report from the Interim Director of Finance.

9. 2019-20 QUARTER 2 PERFORMANCE REPORT

Cabinet **received, noted and debated** the Operational Key Performance Indicator (OKPI) results as detailed in the report from the Director of Corporate Services.

The Leader said that the frequency of Cabinet meetings was currently under consideration. Among other things, a revised programme of meetings could achieve a more effective alignment between meeting dates and reporting Quarters.

At the request of Councillor Brian Milnes, Councillor Neil Gough said that efforts would be made to incorporate standard deviations into future reports.

10. STREET LIGHTING POLICY AND LED UPGRADE PROGRAM

Cabinet considered a report proposing a policy for South Cambridgeshire District Council's Streetlighting Service, set out at Appendix A to the report from the Assistant Director for Waste and Projects.

Councillor Brian Milnes (Vice-Chairman of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee) said that the Committee had welcomed this project as a means of both saving money and demonstrating a commitment to the aim of being 'Green to our core'. Councillor Milnes added that the project provided an opportunity to address the issue of the inconsistent spacing of streetlights in many South Cambridgeshire villages.

The ensuing debate covered the following points:

- payment for extra lighting
- the appropriateness of dimming streetlights
- public engagement, including with Parish Councils
- the need to establish why Cambridgeshire County Council had removed streetlights
- solar lighting
- electricity contracts
- communication matters

Cabinet **approved** the South Cambridgeshire District Council Streetlighting Policy document to be included on the Council's website and inform the communications plan.

11. SHARED PAYROLL SERVICE

Cabinet considered a report on the Payroll shared service operated by Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council. This service had gone live in April 2014.

Cabinet

1. **noted** that the Payroll Shared Service Agreement had been extended and would be reviewed in line with other Greater Cambridge shared services arrangements; and
2. **asked** officers to explore the feasibility of appointing a payroll apprentice to support the team and invest in the future of the service.

12. APPLICATIONS FOR COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION UNDER SECTION 13A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE ACT 1992 - DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY FOR

DECISION MAKING

Cabinet considered a report on the current decision-making process set out in the Protocol and Guidance for the Granting of Local Discounts for Council Tax (published in April 2013) seeking delegated authority for the Lead Cabinet Member for Finance to determine applications for discretionary Council Tax reductions.

Cabinet **agreed to delegate** Council Tax reduction decision-making to the Lead Cabinet Member for Finance, as outlined in Option 1 pending a review of the policy

13. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Cabinet **agreed** by affirmation that the Press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items in accordance with the provisions of Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) (exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act). Paragraph 3 refers to information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

14. ISSUES ARISING FROM THE SCRUTINY AND OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

Cabinet **received and noted** a report on the discussion held, and recommendation agreed, in confidential session by the Scrutiny and Overview Committee at its meeting on 14 November 2019.

The report covered property acquisition.

15. POTENTIAL PROPERTY ACQUISITION DECISION

Cabinet considered a confidential report seeking its approval for a commercial property investment that would enable the Council to pursue its Business Plan objective of supporting businesses, and deliver positive financial returns.

Cabinet **approved**:

- (a) The investment outlined in the report from the Interim Director of Finance as a multi-let office investment in accordance with the approved Investment Strategy; and
- (b) The delegation of the final terms of the acquisition of the property to the Lead Member for Finance and Interim Director of Finance.

16. COMMUNAL ROOM REVIEW PROJECT - DECISION REQUIRED REGARDING THE FUTURE USE OF THE LIMES/LIMES CLOSE SHELTERED COMMUNAL ROOM IN BASSINGBOURN

Cabinet considered a confidential report about Sheltered Communal Buildings in South Cambridgeshire

After detailed debate, Cabinet **deferred** determining this matter until it had been briefed about options and implications.

**The Meeting ended at 10.55
a.m.**

