

## Cabinet

Monday, 20 March 2023

### Decisions

Set out below is a summary of the decisions taken at the meeting of the Cabinet held on Monday, 20 March 2023. Decisions made by the Cabinet will be subject to call-in. Recommendations made to the Council are not subject to call-in. The wording used does not necessarily reflect the actual wording that will appear in the minutes.

If you have any queries about any matters referred to in this decision sheet please contact Jonathan Malton.

#### 1. Quarter 3 Performance Report

Cabinet:

**Noted** the KPI results and comments at Appendix A.

**Options Considered:** Cabinet could have:

Recommended any actions required to address issues identified.

**Reason for Decision:** These recommendations are required to enable management and members to understand the organisation's performance. The information included within performance reports contributes to the evidence base for the ongoing review of priorities and enables, where appropriate, redirection of resources to reflect emerging priorities and address areas of concern.

#### 2. Cost of Living - Options to Continue Support

Cabinet:

**Approved** the priorities set out in paragraphs 29 – 36, and £206,000 funding set out in paragraph 38 to continue to support South Cambridgeshire communities during the ongoing cost-of-living crisis.

**Options Considered:** Cabinet could have:

- a) Not agreed to progress with any of the recommended options set out in the report and either do nothing or ask officers to carry out further work.
- b) Deferred the decision until a later date, pending further information.
- c) Approved some of the recommended options set out in the report and provide officers with feedback on those to be prioritised.

**Reason for Decision:** Following the cost-of-living crisis declaration at a meeting of Council, a report was agreed by Cabinet on 14 November 2022 to provide a range of support targeted at more vulnerable residents to help with the current cost-of-living crisis. The funding for many of the schemes proposed in that report comes to an end on 31 March 2023.

### 3. **Compliance Policy**

Cabinet:

**Adopted** the unified Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Compliance Policy.

**Options Considered:** Cabinet could have:

Remained with the status quo of different enforcement/compliance policies for each Council.

**Reason for Decision:** To provide an updated policy for planning compliance matters within the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service.

### 4. **Confirming Arrangements for the Four-Day Week Trial and Next Steps**

Cabinet:

**Confirmed** the arrangements for the next steps of the Four-Day Week Trial.

**Options Considered:** Cabinet could have:

Not continued the Four Day Week Trial, although Cabinet had already agreed to consider the outcome of the trial in May 2023 and this report therefore set out the arrangements for both Councils.

**Reason for Decision:** In order to ensure clarity around the process of reviewing the first trial and considering the next steps for both the desk-based trial and the Shared Waste Service and Facilities Management trials.

### 5. **2022/2023 Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring (Quarter 3)**

Cabinet:

- a) **Noted** the 2022/23 revenue position against the revised revenue budget to date shown in Appendix B, the projected major variances with reasons for these variances at Appendices C1 to C7 and the action being taken to address the underlying issues.
- b) **Noted** the latest Capital Programme 2022/23 position as shown in Appendix D.

**Options Considered:** Cabinet could have:

Not noted the 2022/2023 Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring report for Quarter Three, but this report provides monitoring information to ensure awareness of budget trends and emerging budget issues.

**Reason for Decision:** To advise the Cabinet of the latest monitoring information in respect of the 2022/23 revenue and capital budgets and emerging budget issues, for the third quarter period to 31 December 2022. The comparison in the various appendices is against the revised estimate.

### 6. **Investment Strategy**

Cabinet:

- a) **Recommended** to Council the updated Investment Strategy attached at

## Appendix A.

This is a recommendation to Council, and not subject to call-in.

**Options Considered:** Cabinet could have:

- a) Not reviewed and recommended the Investment Strategy to Council, but this was not considered to be appropriate. Local authorities are required to have regard to guidance issued in relation to investments and are accountable to their communities for the performance of them. Local politicians and officers operate within local governance frameworks of checks and balances to ensure that decision-making is lawful, informed by objective advice, transparent and consultative. Good governance means that proper arrangements are in place to ensure that intended objectives are achieved, and the security, liquidity and yield of investments are paramount commitments. The Council is required to obtain approval for the Investment Strategy each financial year and, where the Council proposed to make a material change to its Strategy during the year, a revised Strategy must be presented to Council for approval before the change is implemented.

**Reason for Decision:** To establish and approve an updated Investment Strategy that complies with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA)'s revised Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (2017 edition) and Prudential Code Guidance Notes for Practitioners (2018 edition), CIPFA's Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice and Cross-Sectoral Guidance Notes (2017 edition), revised Statutory Guidance on Local Government Investments (3rd Edition) issued in February 2018 and new rules on borrowing from the Public Works Loans Board effective from 26 November 2020.

### 7. **South Cambs Limited t/a Ermine Street Housing Business Plan Update 2022/23 - 2031/32**

Cabinet:

**Noted**, in their capacity as shareholder, the Ermine Street Business Plan for the period 2022/2023 to 2031/2032.

**Options Considered:** Cabinet could have:

Requested amendments to the Ermine Street Housing Business Plan.

**Reason for Decision:** The Council, as owner of the Company and sole shareholder, has an interest in reviewing the Business Plan to ensure that (i) the Company is on target to achieve its objectives, (ii) to consider the past year's performance, and (ii) acknowledge the changes in the financial assumptions and the financial return to the Council resulting from the business activity.

The original objective of the Company was to deliver 500 homes over the 5-year period 2016/2017 to 2020/2021 and this was achieved in 2021/2022.

Following a report by an independent consultant to consider the future direction of the Company, Cabinet decided in September 2020 to continue with the expansion programme until the 500-property target has been accomplished which occurred in March 2022.

