

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held on
Wednesday, 4 March 2020 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
	Hazel Smith	Lead Cabinet member for Housing
	John Williams	Lead Cabinet member for Finance

Officers in attendance for all or part of the meeting:

Kirstin Donaldson	Head of New Build
Susan Gardner Craig	Interim Director of Corporate Services
Clare Gibbons	Northstowe Healthy New Town Programme Lead
Peter Maddock	Head of Finance
Jonathan Malton	Cabinet Support Officer
Rory McKenna	Deputy Head of Legal Practice
David Ousby	Head of Commercial Development & Investment
Ian Senior	Democratic Services Officer
Kate Swan	Leasehold Services Co-ordinator
Liz Watts	Chief Executive

Councillors Anna Bradnam, Nigel Cathcart, Grenville Chamberlain and Heather Williams were in attendance, by invitation.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors Dr. Claire Daunton, Dr. Tumi Hawkins, and Dr. Douglas de Lacey sent apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Cabinet **authorised** the Leader to sign, as a correct record, the public version of the Minutes of the meeting held on 5 February 2020, subject to the following:

Attendance List

The addition of Councillor Anna Bradnam as having been in attendance.

Minute 16 – HRA Revenue and Capital Budget

Clarification that the Decent Homes Standard is set by the Government, rather than by South Cambridgeshire District Council.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader announced she and the Chief Executive would be meeting the Mayor of the

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority on Thursday, 5 March 2020

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions.

6. ISSUES ARISING FROM THE SCRUTINY AND OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

Cabinet **received and noted** a report from Councillor Grenville Chamberlain, Chairman, Scrutiny and Overview Committee, and Councillor Brian Milnes, Vice-Chairman, Scrutiny and Overview Committee, informing it about the discussions at, and recommendations from the Committee's meeting held on 13 February 2020.

The report related to:

- Proposed Allocation Policy for the distribution of faith/community land at Northstowe
- 2019-20 Quarter Three Performance Report
- 2019-20 Revenue and Budget Proposal for 2020/21
- Investment Partnerships: Legal Agreements
- Town Centre Development – Northstowe Phases 1 and 2

7. PROPOSED ALLOCATION POLICY FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF FAITH/COMMUNITY LAND IN THE NEW COMMUNITY OF NORTHSTOWE

Cabinet considered a report setting out the proposed policy for Faith Land Allocation for Northstowe and inviting Members to consider whether the allocation policy should be applied to all growth sites subsequently. Councillor Neil Gough, Deputy Leader, presented the report and addressed the concerns highlighted from Scrutiny and Overview regarding small faith groups within the district.

The Northstowe Healthy New Town Programme Lead officer responded that Councillor Shrobona Bhattacharya's concerns about the extent to which the Policy addressed the interests of smaller Faith groups had been taken into account at a Faith Strategy meeting held in Northstowe. Councillor Grenville Chamberlain acknowledged Councillor Neil Gough's statement, and supported the changes to the report.

After Members commented on the clarity of the report, Cabinet,

- (a) **Endorsed** the proposed policy which has been developed in conjunction with the faith groups to which it will be applied;
- (b) **Agreed** the application of this Policy to growth sites across the District, subject to a change in the assessment matrix to reflect the benefit of the applicant faith group to the wider community.

8. 2019-20 QUARTER 3 PERFORMANCE REPORT

Cabinet received, reviewed and noted a report on the latest performance data across the Council, Councillor Neil Gough (Deputy Leader) commented on the improvement of the Contact Centre's data, and that for waste collection but also highlighted the figures for Bed and Breakfast usage, staff sickness and the percentage of formal complaints being resolved.

After a short discussion, Cabinet:

Noted the Operational Key Performance Indicator (OKPI) results and comments at Appendix A to the report.

9. **2019-2020 REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING**

Cabinet considered a report which had been prepared to provide the latest monitoring information in respect of the 2019-2020 revenue and capital budgets.

Councillor Heather Williams noted the significant underspend across the Council, but Councillor Bridget Smith, the Leader of the Council, requested it to be considered in the context of each department's budget.

Following further comments, Cabinet:

- a) **Acknowledged** the 2019/2020 revenue budget position against the approved revenue budget shown in Appendices A, B(1) and B(2) to the report, the major variances with reasons for these variances and the action being taken to address the underlying issues;
- b) **Acknowledged** the latest position in respect of the Capital Programme 2019-2020 to 2023-2024 and the variances as shown in Appendix C.

10. **COMMUNAL ROOM REVIEW PROJECT - DECISION REQUIRED REGARDING THE FUTURE USE OF THE LIMES/LIMES CLOSE SHELTERED COMMUNAL ROOM**

Cabinet considered a report on the future use of the Limes/Limes Close sheltered communal room in Bassingbourn. The Leasehold Service Team Leader noted a further meeting had taken place with Bassingbourn Parish Council, which had expressed satisfaction with the final outcome.

Councillor Nigel Cathcart, the local Member for Bassingbourn, described the transfer as a long-term benefit for the community, and was pleased with the proposed decision, Councillor Heather Williams endorsed the local Member's these comments.

Councillor Bridget Smith, the Leader of the Council, concluded by thanking officers for their work on this project, and Cabinet:

Approved the decision to transfer the building to Bassingbourn Parish Council on a 99-yr full repairing lease at a peppercorn rent for use as a village community hall, with the costs of transfer being split 50:50 between the district and parish councils, up to a maximum value in total of £18,000.

11. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Cabinet noted that its next scheduled meeting would be on Wednesday, 1 April 2020 starting at 9.30am.

12. **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Cabinet **agreed** by affirmation that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of item numbers 13, 14 and 15 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).

13. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Cabinet **authorised** the Leader to sign, as a correct record, the exempt version of Minute 20 (Ermine Street Business Plan) and Minute 21 (Third Party Loan) of the minutes of the meeting held on 5 February 2020.

14. INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS: LEGAL AGREEMENTS

Cabinet considered an exempt report regarding a Members' Agreement in respect of two proposed investment partnerships.

The Chief Executive responded to comments made by Councillor de Lacey, who had been unable to attend the meeting.

After further debate, the Leader of the Council, thanked the Officers for their work on this report, and Cabinet **recommended** to Full Council:

- a) The approval of the execution of the Members' Agreements as detailed in the exempt report;
- b) The appointment of Councillor Peter McDonald as the Council-nominated Member, and the designated Chief Operating Officer as the Council-nominated Officer, to each Investment Partnership Board; and
- c) The appointment of the Head of Commercial Development & Investment as the Officer to represent the Council on each Investment Team.

Cabinet **agreed** to delegate authority to the Chief Executive, after consultation with the Leader of the Council, to make any minor amendments to the Members' Agreements prior to submission to Full Council.

15. TOWN CENTRE DEVELOPMENT - NORTHSTOWE PHASES I AND 2

Cabinet received the exempt report relating to the proposal to construct community buildings in Northstowe and the Council role in the process. The Head of New Build introduced the item.

Following questions and comments by Members, the Leader of the Council, and the Chief Executive spoke of the importance of these assets to the local communities.

Councillor Bridget Smith concluded the discussion and thanked Officers for their continuing work at Northstowe.

Cabinet:

- a) **Approved** the appointment of the Council as the project manager of the community-based projects listed in the exempt report.
- b) **Agreed** that the financial position should be kept under strict review to minimise the exposure to the Council and that a further report on the matter be submitted to a future meeting; and
- c) **Recommended** to Full Council that a Provision be established as set out in the exempt report.

**The Meeting ended at 10.20
a.m.**
