

COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCILCABINET1 JUNE 2020Present:

Councillor Joe Harris - Chair

Councillors -

Rachel Coxcoon	Jenny Forde
Tony Dale	Mark Harris
Andrew Doherty	Lisa Spivey
Mike Every	Clive Webster

Observers:

Councillors Stephen Andrews, Gina Blomefield, Nikki Ind, Patrick Coleman, Gary Selwyn

CAB.104 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest under the Code of Conduct for Members.

There were no declarations of interest under the Code of Conduct for Officers.

CAB.105 MINUTES

RESOLVED that, subject to the addition of the words 'need to' between the words 'not' and 'exist' in the second line of the second paragraph of the preamble to Minute CAB.99, the Minutes of the Meeting of Cabinet on 2 March 2020 be approved as a correct record.

Record of Voting - for 9, against 0, abstentions 0, absent 0.

CAB.106 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

No Public questions had been submitted.

CAB.107 MEMBER QUESTIONS

No Member questions had been received.

CAB.108 LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader did not have any specific announcements, but commented that these were extraordinary, historic times we were all living through, due to the Coronavirus Pandemic and he was proud of and pleased with the way that the Council had reinvented itself to respond to the crisis and tackle the virus. Staff and Councillors had adjusted rapidly to working from home, providing a service to residents of the District. He wanted thanks to be passed on to staff explaining that they were an inspiration in the way they had adapted to new and different ways of working.

CAB.109 PUBLICA BUSINESS PLAN 2020-22

The Managing Director of Publica introduced the Chairman of the Board, who had attended the meeting to update Members.

The Chairman of the Publica Board explained that the Business Plan had received feedback from Overview and Scrutiny Committee which had been included in the plan presented to Cabinet. The Plan would run for two years and was now moving into the delivery phase. It was written before the Pandemic was declared; some of the items which need to be delivered would change, although he confirmed that Publica would not be seeking funding for further transformation from partner Councils.

The Managing Director of Publica added the Plan would be supporting the Council in delivering an ambitious agenda over the next two years.

Members welcomed the Plan and the work which was taking place already which had to be delivered due to the Pandemic. They recognised that updated practices, such as working with new technology, would become an important part of delivering the Council's ambitions to give a service to the residents of the district. The Pandemic had meant that officers had to work in different ways to support the community and flexibility was a key factor in delivering the service during this time.

The Leader commented that liaison and lines of accountability with Publica was improving and he had met with the Leaders across the partnership councils to deliver the service to the residents of the districts.

RESOLVED that the Leader (as Shareholder) be recommended to approve the Publica Business Plan 2020-22.

Record of Voting - for 9, against 0, abstentions 0, absent 0.

CAB.110 A REVIEW OF THE ADOPTED COTSWOLD DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN (2011 to 2031)

The Cabinet Member for Planning Policy, Climate Change and Energy introduced this item, explaining that the plan needed to be kept up-to-date, reviewing the plan within five years of adoption to be fit for purpose and in line with guidance. The priorities of the Council had changed and the plan needed to be 'green to the core'.

Members commented that they did not want the review to be delayed, ensuring that the resource was available to deliver this on time. The Forward Planning Manager assured Cabinet that the review was being handled through a project management system, with an indicative timetable for work to be carried out and Officers would be working with the programme board to give regular updates, ensuring the review was more agile, in order to deliver the Council's priorities. Reports would be presented to Cabinet, with the next report being expected later in the year. Option B as outlined in the report, a partial review of the plan was being recommended.

The Council's budget would take account of the review and be reflected in the preparation of the budget presented to Cabinet and Council.

RESOLVED that revised Option B, as set out in the report (i.e. to undertake a partial update of the Local Plan) be recommended to the Council.

Record of Voting - for 9, against 0, abstentions 0, absent 0.

CAB.111 HOUSING FIRST MODEL

The Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness introduced the report explaining that this model was different to the usual process of placing homeless people in a home. The Pandemic had meant that temporary accommodation had been provided for homeless people, although this would not be available after 30 June 2020. Working with local housing associations the Council would identify individuals with the most complex needs and help them to secure a tenancy and maintain a home. This would be piloted during 2020/21.

The Cabinet Member for Finance recognised that if this were to be an ongoing project, funding would need to be allocated within the budget.

The Cabinet were supportive of this scheme which was important to ensure people who were in most need would be given the opportunity of a home, for different reasons, one of which included mental health issues.

RESOLVED that the funding to implement a Housing First Model, as set out in the report, be approved.

Record of Voting - for 9, against 0, abstentions 0, absent 0.

CAB.112 GARDEN WASTE DELIVERY TO PROCESSING FACILITY

The Cabinet Member for Waste, Flooding and Environmental Health introduced this report, which was for Cabinet to note, explaining that garden and food waste was currently taken to the north of the county, although GCC's contract with the processing facility had ended and a new contract had been agreed with Hills Waste at Purton. Cricklade Town Council had written to the Council with concerns, relating to lorries travelling through the Town Centre on the way to the recycling facility.

Three options were set out in the report and option A, the default position, was to direct Ubico lorries to deliver and use the shortest route via Cricklade Town Centre. This was considered to be the most cost effective and efficient way of currently handling the waste. The vehicles would be managed in order not to cause disruption. They are gradually being updated and replaced with newer more environmentally friendly vehicles.

The report was noted and Option A, as outlined in the report, acknowledged as the default position.

CAB.113 IMPACT OF COVID 19 ON BUDGET 2020/21

The Cabinet Member for Finance introduced this item, explaining that the impact of Covid-19, had included extra costs of £548,000. Lost income from Car Parking during April 2020 was £235,000. If no further government funding was made available there would be an overall, net financial impact, forecast of £2.5m to the Council in 2020/21.

Rates of collection of Council Tax were down in April 2020, compared with April 2019, equivalent in cash to £76,000.

Businesses were being helped by the Government in relation to their rates but an economic downturn would affect the Council's financial position in the longer term.

A revised budget will be presented to Cabinet and Council in September 2020. Preparations for the 2021/22 budget are beginning.

The Cabinet Member explained that the Chief Financial Officer was continuing to liaise with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and currently, did not need to issue a S.114 report, which prevented the Council from incurring additional expenditure.

Members concerns related to:

- (i) Services not being provided, such as Leisure, although the Council still had to pay the provider SLM. It was explained that this was a contractual obligation that the Council needed to pay. Members asked whether this could be reviewed for the future.
- (ii) There was a need to promote the economy of the district, with increased car parking income being part of the Commercialisation Strategy. Although taking into account the environmental impact of the cars and a modal shift to more people walking and cycling and finding other forms of transport to get into the town centres.
- (iii) District Councils bearing the brunt of the expenditure for the crisis. The Chief Financial Officer explained that she considered, on average, District Councils were facing the most significant financial challenges due to the loss of income.

The Leader expressed concern that the Council had gradually been given less government funding over the past 10 years. The Government had indicated to Councils that they would be reimbursed for expenditure during the crisis, Local Government had borne the brunt of government cuts and more government funding was required.

RESOLVED that:

- (a) the forecast on the financial impact of Covid-19 on the Council's budget for 2020/21, be noted;**
- (b) the Chief Finance Officer be authorised to prepare a revised budget together with revised revenue financing for 2020/21 for September Cabinet and Council.**

Record of Voting - for 9, against 0, abstentions 0, absent 0.

CAB.114 NEW OFF STREET PARKING ORDER – CIRENCESTER RUGBY CLUB

The Cabinet Member for Car Parks and Town and Parish Councils introduced this Report. The work on the Rugby Club Car Park had restarted and this item was to agree a new Cotswold District Council (Whiteway Car Park) (off-street parking places) Order 2020, to enable the regulation, charging and enforcement of the new car park in the grounds of the Cirencester Rugby Football Club.

- (a) a new off-street parking order be established to enable the regulation, charging and enforcement of the new car park in the grounds of Cirencester Rugby Football Club; and**
- (b) delegated authority be given to the Group Manager (Commissioning), in consultation with the Cabinet Member responsible for Car Parks, to review and make a final decision following consultation feedback on the new order.**

Record of Voting - for 9, against 0, abstentions 0, absent 0.

CAB.115 SCHEDULE OF DECISION(S) TAKEN BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND/OR INDIVIDUAL CABINET MEMBERS

Cabinet noted the schedule of decisions taken by the Leader of the Council and/or individual Cabinet Members since the last meeting of the Cabinet.

CAB.116 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED that under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and Press be excluded from the Meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph (3) of Part I of Schedule 12A to the said Act (Information relating to financial or business affairs) and that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information concerned.

Record of Voting - for 9, against 0, abstentions 0, absent 0.

CAB.117 APPROVAL OF AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR REVENUES AND BENEFITS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The Cabinet Member for Finance introduced this report. Cotswold, Forest of Dean and West Oxfordshire District Council would be party to this contract to provide an efficient and up-to-date system, which would become effective throughout all three Councils, to provide the service to residents of the districts.

RESOLVED that:

- (a) the contract for a Revenues and Benefits Management system, be awarded to the most economic tender.
- (b) option (d1), as set out in paragraph 3.7 of the circulated report, be confirmed for the split of costs and savings between partners.

Record of Voting - for 8, against 0, abstentions 1, absent 0.

CAB.118 OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business that was urgent.

The Meeting commenced at 6.00 p.m. and closed at 7.30 p.m.

Chair

(END)