



Minutes of a meeting held remotely of Cabinet held on 7 December 2020

Councillors present:

Joe Harris - Chair

Rachel Coxcoon
Tony Dale
Andrew Doherty

Jenny Forde
Mike Evemy
Lisa Spivey

Clive Webster

Officers present:

Interim Chief Executive
Chief Executive Delegate
Chief Finance Officer
Interim Monitoring Officer
Democratic Services

Economic Development Lead
Electoral Services Manager
Business Manager Localities, Leadership
and Management Team
Housing Manager, Planning and Housing
Business Manager Operational Services,
Revenues and Housing Support
Asset Manager Land, Legal and Property

Observers: Councillors Stephen Andrews, Patrick Coleman, Nikki Ind, and Gary Selwyn.

CAB.63 There were no apologies

CAB.64 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest by Members.

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

CAB.65 **Minutes**

RESOLVED that, subject to the deletion of reference to the 'Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing' and its substitution by the 'Cabinet Member for Environment, Waste and Recycling' in Minute CAB.51; and the recording that Councillor Andrews observed the meeting until CAB.59, the Minutes of the Meeting of Cabinet of 2 November 2020 be approved as a correct record:

Record of Voting - for 8, against 0, abstention 0, absent 0.

CAB.66 Leader's Announcements

The Leader extended his thanks to the Interim Chief Executive Dr Christine Gore for her support over the last six months in her role. He also welcomed Robert Weaver, as the Council's newly appointed Chief Executive to the meeting and added that he looked forward to working with him.

The Leader also expressed his shared disappointment that the District had been placed in the current Government Tier 2 Coronavirus restrictions, despite the low infection rates and advised that both Officers and Members were continuing to provide support to residents and businesses where possible

CAB.67 Public Questions

No requests for public questions had been received.

CAB.68 Member Questions

No questions had been received from Members.

CAB.69 Green Economic Growth Strategy

The Cabinet were requested to consider adopting the Green Economic Growth Strategy, to guide the District Council's activities to support economic growth in the District in line with Council Plan priorities over the next four years.

The Cabinet Member for Economy and Skills introduced the report and responded jointly with the Economic Development Lead to various questions from Members and highlighted the high quality of responses that had been received to the consultation.

RESOLVED that:

- a) the Green Economic Growth Strategy be adopted;**
- b) Cabinet note the responses to the consultation and the amendments to the Strategy document made as a result;**
- c) authority be delegated to the Interim Chief Executive, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for the Economy and Skills, to make any further minor amendments to the document prior to its publication, including finalising performance measures;**
- d) the creation of a Cotswold Economic Advisory Group to oversee the implementation of the strategy be endorsed.**

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

CAB.70 Financial, Council Priority and Service Performance Report 2020-21 Quarter 2

The Cabinet received an update on progress against the Council's priorities and service performance and information on the Council's financial position.

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance introduced the report and responded to various questions from Members.

RESOLVED that the overall progress on the Council priorities, service delivery and financial performance for 2020-21 Q2 be noted by the Cabinet.

CAB.71 Election Count Review

The Cabinet received a report detailing a peer review of the election count processes and arising recommendations by the Association of Electoral Administrators. These recommendations had been converted into an action plan for implementation by the Returning Officer

The Elections Manager introduced the report and responses to various questions from Members. The Cabinet noted that further details regarding 'Covid-19 safe elections' due to take place in May 2021, would be available in the new year following the appointment of an external Health and Safety Advisor.

The Leader also wished to place on record his thanks to the Elections Team and the Council's Returning Officer for their continued efforts.

RESOLVED that the action plan and timeline for review be noted.

CAB.72 Safeguarding Policy and Procedures

The Cabinet received a report detailing the introduction of the new Safeguarding Policy and Procedures.

The Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing introduced the report and explained that she wished to add a further recommendation to the report, that safeguarding training for all elected Members be implemented, in line with the arrangements that already existed for Council Officers.

The Cabinet Member also wished to place on record her thanks to the Business Manager Operational Services, Revenues and Housing Support for her recent work on the report.

The Deputy Leader sought clarity on the expectation for staff to personally pay for DBS checks to be undertaken. He also considered with reference to section 8, that training regarding unacceptable behaviour could also be implemented for Members in addition to Officers.

RESOLVED that:

a) the safeguarding policy and procedures be adopted by the Cabinet;

b) safeguarding training to be made mandatory for all elected Members.

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

CAB.73 Update on Proposed Joint Tourism Service Review

The Cabinet received a report setting out the scope of a review and options appraisal for the Shared Tourism Service.

The Cabinet Member for Economy and Skills and Business Manager for Localities, Leadership and Management Team introduced the report and jointly responded to questions from Members.

The Cabinet expressed their support for the proposals and highlighted that sustainable tourism would help to increase sustainable economic growth within the District.

The Cabinet Member for the Planning Department, Town and Parish Councils drew attention to work currently being undertaken by the Cotswolds Conservation Board and highlighted that further engagement with the Board would be beneficial, in addition to what had already been undertaken.

RESOLVED that:

a) the report be noted;

b) the review be undertaken and following completion, the outcome of the review and options appraisal be reported back to Cabinet.

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

CAB.74 Review of Parking Charges in Rissington Road Car Park, Bourton-on-the-Water

A report had been presented to enable Cabinet to review parking tariffs in Bourton-on-the-Water and provide funding to improve the management of visitors to the village.

The Deputy Leader introduced the report and responses to various questions from Members.

The Ward Member was invited to address the Cabinet and explained that he was delighted the item was being considered by the Cabinet. He added that there was currently a local level disconnect between business and residents within the village and that the proposals he considered would enable the bridging of this gap. The Ward Member concluded that the plans would also encourage sustainable tourism and confirmed that the car park was used wholly by tourists and would therefore generate additional income for the Council.

The Cabinet expressed their support for the proposals and thanked the Ward Member for his presentation to the meeting.

RESOLVED that:

- a) the proposed charges for parking in Bourton-on-the-Water be approved;
- b) the removal of 'free after three' in Bourton-on-the-Water be approved;
- c) the removal of the half hour and one hour parking bands in Bourton-on-the-Water be approved;
- d) the extension of Sunday charges to 6.00pm be approved;
- e) the Group Manager for Resident Services be authorised, in consultation with the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, to review and make a final decision on the Off-Street Parking Order following consultation on the proposed changes to the Order;
- f) consultation to take place with Bourton-on-the-Water Parish Council, the District Councillor and local residents and businesses on how the proceeds of the proposed 'tourism charge' could be spent.

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

CAB.75 Gloucestershire Countywide P3 Leasing Agreement

The Cabinet was requested to grant approval for the Council to contribute funds to the countywide p3 leasing scheme.

The Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness introduced the report and responded to various questions from Members.

The Cabinet Member for Environment, Waste and Recycling requested if some of the superfluous wording within the Agreement could be removed.

RESOLVED that:

- a) the partnership agreement is approved and the interim Chief Executive be delegated authority to sign it on behalf of the authority;
- b) the allocations process is approved;
- c) the contract cost of £17,000 is funded from the latest £100,000 Covid-19 grant allocation from Government.

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

CAB. 76 Request to Write Off Unpaid Business Rates and Council Tax

A report had been produced to seek Cabinet's approval for the writing off of debts in excess of £5,000.

The Deputy Leader introduced the report and highlighted various aspects.

In response to a specific question, the Chief Finance Officer confirmed that the write off represented good financial practice.

RESOLVED that:

- a) **the offer of full and final settlement detailed in 2.4 be accepted;**
- b) **the write off of the outstanding balance of £24,727.44 be approved.**

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

CAB.77 Covid-19 Rent Deferral Policy for Council Commercial Tenants

A report had been produced to seek Cabinet's agreement to the proposed criteria for further Covid-19 commercial tenant support.

The Deputy Leader introduced the report and highlighted various aspects.

RESOLVED that the criteria for further support for commercial tenants as a result of Covid-19 be approved.

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

CAB.78 Decisions taken by the Interim Chief Executive

Cabinet noted the decisions taken by the Interim Chief Executive, as set out in full in the agenda. These were in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 38 and following relevant consultation.

CAB.79 Schedule of Decisions taken by the Leader of the Council and/or individual Cabinet Members

Cabinet noted the decisions taken by Cabinet Members since the previous Meeting of the Cabinet, which were set out in full in the agenda.

CAB.80 Issues arising from Overview and Scrutiny and/or Audit Committee (If any)

The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee advised that following the Committee's meeting on 1 December 2020, the Committee recognised there was a need for a more joined approach to be taken by the Publica Councils to the area of audit and scrutiny of Publica. Therefore, the Chairs of the separate Council Audit and Scrutiny Committees would be meeting informally to gain a better understanding of any common areas that could then be explored more formally as part of an improved common approach to the audit, overview and scrutiny of Publica in the New Year.

The Meeting commenced at 6.00pm and closed at 8.06pm.

Chair

(END)

Unconfirmed