

COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET

17<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2018

Present:

Councillor Mark F Annett - Chairman  
Councillor NJW Parsons - Vice-Chairman

Councillors -

Sue Coakley SG Hirst  
C Hancock

Observers:

SI Andrews RC Hughes

Apologies:

AR Brassington (as Proposer of Motion dealt with in Minute CAB.6) MGE MacKenzie-Charrington

CAB.1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor C Hancock declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in relation to exempt agenda item (13) - Request to Extend Loan Assistance to Voluntary Body - as he was a Trustee of the organisation concerned. He would withdraw from the Meeting during the consideration of the item.

Councillor NJW Parsons declared an Other Interest in relation to exempt agenda item (13) - Request to Extend Loan Assistance to Voluntary Body - as he had recently attended a dinner of the Cirencester Society in London where he had sat next to the Applicant, who was a Trustee of the organisation concerned. However, he had not mentioned or spoke about the matter during the course of the dinner.

There were no declarations of interest from Officers.

CAB.2 MINUTES

**RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Cabinet held on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2018 be approved as a correct record.**

**Record of Voting - for 4, against 0, abstentions 1, absent 1.**

CAB.3 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

It was noted that the public questions included on the Cabinet agenda had been dealt with at the Council Meeting held earlier that week.

CAB.4 MEMBER QUESTIONS

No questions had been submitted by Members

CAB.5 LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements from the Leader

CAB.6 NOTICE OF MOTION - PLASTICS

The Cabinet was requested to consider the following Motion, referred by the Council from its Meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2018:-

*'This Council notes with concern:-*

- That 300 million tons of new plastic is made each year, half of which is for single use plastic such as packaging and convenience foods. In many cases, such as plastic straws, takeaway food containers and coffee cups, there are practical alternatives available that are either reusable or sustainable.*
- That in 2016, the Ellen MacArthur Foundation estimated that by weight, there could be more plastic in our oceans than fish, as soon as 2050. As plastics are durable and strong they will stay in our environment for up to an estimated 600 years. (Columbia University)*
- That marine plastic leads to coastal/offshore dead zones, entanglement, death through ingestion, toxic transfer and, once degraded into micro plastics, contamination of the food chain - including our own. We are quite literally eating the plastic that has ended up in our seas.*

*The Council welcomes:-*

- The significant increase in recycling achieved in the District in the last decade, through improvements to doorstep recycling.*
- The success of the 'Plastic Bag Levy', put forward by the Liberal Democrats during the Coalition Government, which has led to an 85% reduction in disposable plastic bag usage.*

*This Council therefore commits that Cotswold District Council will play its full role in helping to reduce plastic waste, specifically:*

- That the Council will undertake an audit, within existing resources, of single use plastics used by the Authority seeking to replace with sustainable or reusable alternatives where practicable.*
- That the Council will play its role in helping to educate members of the public about plastic waste, specifically by including information for members of the public of reducing plastic waste in both online and written materials.*
- That the Council will use its membership of the Gloucestershire Waste Authority to work towards increasing the amount of plastic product that can be recycled through doorstep and other recycling.*

- *To write to our Member of Parliament and Members of the European Parliament, and to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, urging them to consider legislation and regulations which will reduce the amount of single use plastic used by society.*
- *To use the links we have with businesses in the Cotswolds to encourage them to reduce the amount of plastic waste produced and specifically to write to each of our major supermarkets asking them to consider introducing a 'plastic free aisle' in their Cotswold store(s) on a trial basis.'*

In accordance with the Council's procedures and custom and practice, Councillors AR Brassington and NP Robbins had been invited to attend the Meeting to present and speak to their Motion. Unfortunately, and unavoidably, neither had been able to be present. As this matter had previously been held over, it was considered that the issue should be debated.

The circulated report set out key background information, including recycling generally; the single use plastics audit already under-way across the partner councils; existing and potential communication/educational channels and activity; current and potential increased recycling options in terms of kerbside and bring banks; lobbying options; initiatives which encouraged businesses to reduce plastic waste, including the successful engagement with supermarkets; and related developments/decisions at Gloucestershire County and Cirencester Town Councils, and within Government.

The Cabinet Member for Environment expressed support for the principles set out within the Motion, and reiterated the work and initiatives already being undertaken, and others planned, in terms of recycling generally and plastics specifically - many of which were directly associated with the suggestions within the Motion. That said, the Cabinet Member was content to pursue the elimination of all single use plastics within District Council managed buildings and facilities by 2020, and seek to encourage the elimination of single use plastics within its supply chain by 2025. In terms of promotion and lobbying, she felt that this would be better addressed by way of a co-ordinated County-wide approach, through the Gloucestershire Joint Waste Partnership.

All Members supported the way forward suggested by the Cabinet Member.

**RESOLVED that:**

- (a) this Council commits to eliminate all Single Use Plastics within District Council managed buildings and facilities by 2020, and seeks to encourage the elimination of Single Use Plastics within its supply chain by 2025;**
- (b) this Council asks the Gloucestershire Joint Waste Partnership to consider how they could promote the reduction of Single Use Plastics across the county and to highlight areas of further lobbying to central government by both collection and waste disposal authorities.**

**Record of Voting - for 5, against 0, abstentions 0, absent 1.**

**CAB.7 DISTRIBUTION OF YOUTH ACTIVITIES FUNDING**

The Cabinet was requested to consider approval of a process modification which would allow the distribution of Youth Activities Funding received from Gloucestershire County Council to strategic projects, in addition to Ward-specific or joint Ward proposals.

It was explained that the proposed change sought to enable the Council to distribute external funds given for specific purposes effectively and with greatest impact to the recipients; but did not affect the way Members could utilise individual allocations for 2017/18 and 2018/19.

Members were fully supportive of the revised process, as it was felt that the changes would help to maximise the use of available resource.

**RESOLVED that:**

**(a) the process described in the circulated report to enable funds to be allocated to strategic projects be approved;**

**(b) the future determination of such strategic applications be delegated to the Leader of the Council;**

**(c) an update report be presented to the Cabinet at its November 2018 Meeting.**

**Record of Voting - for 5, against 0, abstentions 0, absent 1.**

**CAB.8 SCHEDULE OF DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND /OR INDIVIDUAL CABINET MEMBERS**

The Cabinet noted a Schedule detailing decisions taken by the Deputy Leader of the Council (on behalf of the Leader) and the Cabinet Member for Planning and Licensing Services.

**CAB.9 ISSUE(S) ARISING FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY AND/ OR AUDIT (IF ANY)**

There were no formal recommendations, or other matters, arising from Overview and Scrutiny and/or Audit.

**CAB.10 OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business that was urgent.

**CAB.11 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 the 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 5, against 0, abstentions 0, absent 1.**

CAB.12 REQUEST TO EXTEND LOAN ASSISTANCE TO VOLUNTARY BODY

The Cabinet was requested to consider extending an existing loan arrangement to a voluntary body.

The circulated report set out the rationale behind the request, and the suggested key terms of any extended loan arrangement.

**RESOLVED that:**

**(a) the requested loan increase be approved as per the terms set out in paragraph 4 of the circulated report;**

**(b) the Council's Chief Finance Officer be given delegated authority to update the Council's Capital Programme, Capital Strategy and Prudential Indicators accordingly.**

**Record of Voting - for 4, against 0, abstentions 0, interest declared 1, absent 1.**

The Meeting commenced at 4.00 p.m. and closed at 4.21 p.m.

Chairman

(END)