

COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET

15<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2018

Present:

Councillor NJW Parsons - Vice-Chairman/Acting Leader (in the Chair)

Councillors -

AW Berry  
Sue Coakley  
C Hancock

SG Hirst  
MGE MacKenzie-Charrington

Observers:

SI Andrews  
David Fowles

NP Robbins (until 4.45 p.m.)

CAB.53 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor AW Berry declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in respect of Agenda Item (8), as he was a Trustee of the Friends of the Museum, and stated that he would leave the room while the item was being discussed.

There were no other declarations of interest under the Code of Conduct for Members or Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

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

CAB.54 MINUTES

**RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Cabinet held on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2018 be approved as a correct record.**

**Record of Voting - for 4, against 0, abstentions 2, absent 0.**

CAB.55 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

No public questions had been submitted.

CAB.56 MEMBER QUESTIONS

No questions had been submitted by Members.

**CAB.57**      LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Forward Planning wished to extend his thanks, on behalf of the Cabinet, to former Leader of the Council, Councillor Mark F Annett, for his work as Leader and the fact that he had conducted his work in a good humoured, committed and well-organised manner.

The Head of Paid Service echoed those sentiments, and highlighted the co-operative, inclusive and constructive manner in which Councillor Annett had conducted his work with Officers.

The Deputy Leader of the Council also explained that Councillor AW Berry had been appointed to the Cabinet as Cabinet Member for Resources, and welcomed him to the Meeting.

**CAB.58**      DRAFT MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2019/20 TO 2028/29

The Cabinet was requested to consider an update of the Medium Term Financial Strategy for the period 2019/20 to 2028/29.

The Chief Finance Officer introduced the item and amplified various aspects of the circulated report.

In response to various Member questions, the Chief Finance Officer explained that she had not received any information from the County Council with regard to construction of the waste facility at Javelin Park, Stonehouse; and there were commitments against capital resources which had led to the reduction in the level capital receipts to £2m by 2020/21, largely resulting from investment in the Waterloo Car Park development.

The Deputy Leader commented that the Council did retain sufficient reserves and ran efficiently. He also drew attention to the fact that this was the first time that borrowing had been included within the programme, but explained that this was to deal with the parking problems in Cirencester, which in turn would bring in more revenue for the Council.

Other Members also expressed their support for the Strategy, commenting that a sensible budget had been presented. It was also noted that savings of £800,000 were predicted by 2021 following the establishment of Publica in November 2017.

**RESOLVED that the updated Medium Term Financial Strategy be noted and the proposed budget consultation process be approved.**

**Record of Voting - for 6, against 0, abstentions 0, absent 0.**

**CAB.59**      CORINIUM MUSEUM - STONE AGE TO CORINIUM PROJECT - APPOINTMENT OF CONTRACTORS

The Cabinet was requested to approve the appointment of contractors for building and gallery improvement works at the Corinium Museum and to increase the Council's capital contribution towards the project.

The Cabinet Member for Housing, Health and Leisure introduced this item and explained various aspects of the circulated report. He concluded by expressing

the view that the project represented an excellent investment for the Council, and would form a key part of Cirencester's tourist attractions.

Members expressed their support for the project, the various appointments, and the fact the Council had agreed to underwrite any shortfall owing to the Council's ownership of the Museum building.

**RESOLVED that:**

**(a) the appointment of contractors be approved as follows, in accordance with the details set out in Exempt Appendix 'A' to the circulated report:-**

- **Main (Building) Contract - E.W. Beard Ltd;**
- **Exhibition Set Works Contract - The Hub;**
- **Showcase Manufacture & Installation - Click Netherfield Ltd;**

**(b) an allocation of £100,000 from the Council Priorities Fund be agreed for the Museum project;**

**(c) the Council underwrites any remaining shortfall in funding, by way of an allocation of up to £153,000 from the Council Priorities Fund revenue reserve.**

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

CAB.60

**OLD MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, CIRENCESTER**

The Cabinet received a report detailing various options relating to the Old Memorial Site, Sheep Street, Cirencester (OMH).

The Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Forward Planning explained that the Cabinet was being asked to recommend to the Council to agree the full demolition of the former hospital building, along with associated recommendations. He reminded Members that this followed a decision by the Cabinet in April 2016 that a planning application should be submitted for the demolition of the building, thereby enabling a 'clean' site to be presented for additional temporary car parking provision at the site.

The Cabinet Member for Planning and Licensing Services commented that another key reason for promoting the demolition of the building was to remove any liability of the building from the Council, in addition to providing financial savings.

In response to a Member's question, Officers expressed the hope that, subject to Council approval, a planning application for demolition works would be submitted in December 2018, with work to start as soon as possible after the grant of permission.

**RESOLVED that Council be recommended to:-**

**(a) agree to full demolition of the Old Memorial Hospital Building, Sheep Street, Cirencester, as outlined within the circulated report;**

- (b) agree a revised design and construction of additional parking on the site;**
- (c) agree the allocation of capital funding of up to £695,000, to be funded from the Council Priorities Fund;**
- (d) give delegated authority to the Chief Finance Officer to update the MTFs, Capital Strategy, Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators to include the capital expenditure;**
- (e) give delegated authority to the Head of Paid Service, in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer, Group Manager Legal and Property Services and the Car Parking Demand Project Board, to accept the most economical advantageous tender for the works outlined within the report.**

**Record of Voting - for 6, against 0, abstentions 0, absent 0.**

CAB.61

**SUMMARY FINANCE/SERVICE PERFORMANCE REPORT - 2018/19  
QUARTER 2**

The Cabinet received a report detailing overall performance for the Council, with particular focus on progress towards achieving the Council's top tasks, and efficiency measures. The Cabinet was also requested to consider information on the Council's financial position including revenue outturn and budget variances; and capital expenditure, capital receipts and use of reserves.

Various Members commented that the report highlighted that the Council was performing well. Performance regarding Universal Credit and Council Tax was welcomed, and it was noted that no serious Health and Safety incidents had been reported.

The Cabinet Member for Housing, Health and Leisure explained that, with regards to performance in relation to new Housing Benefit claims, requirements were more complicated than previously, but Officers were working to ensure that processing of claims was carried out efficiently and effectively.

The Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Forward Planning explained that the Cirencester Town Centre Master Plan represented a complex challenge.

**RESOLVED that service and financial performance for Quarter 2 of the financial year 2018/19 be noted.**

**Record of Voting - for 6, against 0, abstentions 0, absent 0.**

CAB.62

**SCHEDULE OF DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL  
AND/OR INDIVIDUAL CABINET MEMBER**

The Cabinet noted a Schedule detailing decisions taken by the former Leader of the Council, the Acting Leader of the Council, and the Cabinet Member for Environment.

Various Members expressed their support for recent decisions and funding awards in relation to the commemoration of the First World War. Members agreed that a suitable Press Release should be issued detailing the various

approved applications and the fact that the scheme remained open. The Cabinet Member for Environment also highlighted that community commemoration events were still due to take place.

CAB.63 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.64 OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business that was urgent.

The Meeting commenced at 4.00 p.m. and closed at 4.52 p.m.

Chairman

(END)