

COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET

1 JULY 2019

Present:

Councillor Joe Harris - Chair

Councillors -

Rachel Coxcoon
Tony Dale
Andrew Doherty
Mike Every

Jenny Forde
Mark Harris
Lisa Spivey
Clive Webster

Observers:

Councillors

Stephen Andrews
Tony Berry

Juliet Layton
Richard Norris

CAB.1 OPENING WELCOME

The Leader welcomed Councillors, Officers and members of the public to the first meeting of the Cabinet under the new Administration.

CAB.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

CAB.3 MINUTES

Given the change in Cabinet membership following the May elections, it was

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Cabinet held on 21 March 2019 be noted.

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

CAB.4 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The Head of Paid Service explained that two public questions had been submitted for the Meeting but that, due to their content and with the agreement of the questioner, they would be presented to the Council Meeting on 3 July 2019

CAB.5 MEMBER QUESTIONS

No Member questions had been received.

CAB.6 LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader thanked the Members of Cabinet for having 'hit the ground running' to start the work of the new administration. He also thanked Officers for ensuring a smooth transition from a Conservative to a Liberal Democrat administration.

The Leader explained that the new Cabinet would be looking to deliver on new and/or refreshed key priorities relating to affordable social rented housing; tackling social isolation; and climate change. In this connection, work would be discontinued on the existing Corporate Plan, and a new version would be presented to the Council at the earliest opportunity.

CAB.7 THE PREPARATION OF A STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND FOR GLOUCESTERSHIRE

In introducing the report, the Cabinet Member for Development Management, Landscape and Heritage drew attention to progress made by the Gloucestershire Strategic Planning Leaders' Board in respect of the creation of a strategic planning framework for the County to 2050 and beyond; and the recommended preparation of a Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) - a non-statutory document - for subsequent adoption by each of the constituent authorities and relevant partner organisations.

It was explained that working in the context of a SoCG would help ensure effective, co-ordinated spatial planning for the long-term future of Gloucestershire through collective working to prepare a strategic framework for the County to 2050 and beyond, which would avoid duplication of effort, potential conflicts and deliver cost efficiencies through joint commissioning.

The Cabinet Member thanked the Forward Planning Manager for having produced the report at short notice, and expressed his support for the Council to 'sign up' to the process, given its importance in terms of the spatial strategy.

The Forward Planning Manager highlighted the risks of not joining other councils in Gloucestershire in this approach, and reminded Members that the Council had a duty to co-operate and work with other partners such as the LEP and County Council.

In summary, the Cabinet Member confirmed that the statement was a live document and allowed Councils and the County to ensure that opportunities and challenges up to 2050 were acknowledged and agreed. He also emphasised the importance of the document having regard to the period of its next Local Plan, namely 2030-41.

RESOLVED that the Council works in partnership with the five other Local Planning Authorities in Gloucestershire, Gloucestershire County Council and the GFirst Local Enterprise Partnership to develop a Strategic Planning Framework for Gloucestershire, to 2050 and beyond, via the preparation of a 'Statement of Common Ground'.

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

CAB.8 SUMMARY FINANCE/SERVICE PERFORMANCE REPORT, INCLUDING FINANCIAL OUTTURN - 2018/19 END OF YEAR

The Cabinet received a report summarising overall performance for the Council, with particular focus on progress towards achieving the Council's top tasks, and efficiency measures and an update in regards to the Council's financial position including revenue outturn and budget variances; and capital expenditure, capital receipts and use of reserves.

It was noted that this would be the last report which incorporated the targets within, and performance against, the previous Corporate Plan. A new Plan would be prepared, and performance indicators would also be reviewed.

The Chief Finance Officer introduced the item and identified key aspects - Publica had delivered well for the Council and an underspend had been reimbursed; waste vehicles needed to be replaced; the green waste service had been well received and subscribed; planning fees had under-achieved, although this was not totally unexpected given the relatively recent Local Plan adoption; pooled funds and income was above target; pay and display machines had been replaced and could now accept contactless payments; and, although delayed, work on electric vehicle charging points was progressing.

In response to various questions, the following points were highlighted:-

- The delay with installing electric charging points was out of the Council's control and was due to the need to establish a robust and compliant procurement framework.
- Whilst the overall roll-out of Broadband had been largely a success, there remained coverage problems in parts of the District. Officers were seeking clarification as to how the remaining issues with Broadband coverage could be addressed.
- Affordable, social rented and shared ownership houses had been provided throughout the District.
- A report on scanning documents within the Planning service would be presented to a future Cabinet meeting.

The Deputy Leader thanked the Chief Finance Officer and her officers for the work on the Council's finances and supported the use of the 2018/19 underspend as recommended.

RESOLVED that service and financial performance for Quarter 4 of 2018/19 be noted.

RECOMMENDED, to Council, that the 2018/19 underspend be allocated as set out in paragraphs 2.32 and 2.33 of the circulated report, i.e. £490,000 to the Council Priorities Fund, and £1,362 into the Council General Fund.

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

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

The Leader explained that neither Committee had yet met, but when issues arose these would be fed back to Cabinet. He would seek to work with the Chairs of those Committees to ensure the smooth running of the challenge process.

CAB.10 OTHER BUSINESS

The Chair determined that the following matter should be considered as an urgent item as the tender sums were not known at the time of agenda despatch; and a decision could not await the next scheduled meeting due to the time required for the provision of equipment in the new recycling vehicles and in order not to delay vehicle delivery.

CAB.11 CONTRACT WAIVER - RECYCLING VEHICLE TECHNOLOGY

Cabinet approval was sought to waive Contract Rules to enable the award the contract for fitting the new recycling vehicles with tracking systems, 360 degree cameras, load weight indicators and vision sensors. Funding had already been approved for these items and the costs were within budgetary provision.

The Cabinet Member for Waste, Flooding and Environmental Health explained that as such technologies could only be provided by the company who were building the vehicles, the process had not been subject to an open tender process and, as a result, a contract waiver was required. While such waivers were usually dealt with by the Council's S.151 Chief Finance Officer and the Monitoring Officer, as the contract value was more than £100,000, Cabinet agreement was required.

The circulated report set out the rationale behind the contract waiver request, the detailed technology specification, and the breakdown of costs involved (the latter information falling within an exempt classification due to its commercially sensitive nature).

RESOLVED that Cabinet agrees the Contract Waiver attached as Appendix 'A' to the circulated report and the allocation of £136,923 from the existing capital already set aside within the Medium Term Financial Strategy for vehicle procurement.

The Meeting commenced at 6.00 p.m. and closed at 6.38 p.m.

Chair

(END)