

COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCILCABINET6 JANUARY 2020Present:

Councillor Joe Harris	-	Chair
Councillors -		
Rachel Coxcoon		Jenny Forde
Tony Dale		Mark Harris
Andrew Doherty		Lisa Spivey
Mike Evey		Clive Webster

Observers:

Stephen Andrews (until 7.00 p.m.)	Patrick Coleman (until 6.55 p.m.)
Gary Selwyn	Richard Norris (until 7.15 p.m.)

CAB.67 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mark Harris declared an interest in respect of Agenda Item (10), as he had been part of the team that had secured funding for the Cirencester Growth Hub.

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

CAB.68 MINUTES

RESOLVED that, subject to deletion of the line 'A reduction in planning application fees' and its substitution by the line 'Comprehensive pre-application advice service' in the second paragraph of the preamble in relation to Minute CAB.58, the Minutes of the Meeting of the Meeting of Cabinet of 2 December 2019 be approved as a correct record.

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

CAB.69 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

No Public questions had been submitted.

CAB.70 MEMBER QUESTIONS

No Member questions had been received.

CAB.71 LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader informed the Cabinet that the Council would shortly be receiving the findings of the LGA Peer Review and that the slight delay had been caused by the General Election held on 12 December 2019.

CAB.72 HOUSEHOLD WASTE DUTY OF CARE - FIXED PENALTY NOTICES

The Cabinet Member for Waste, Flooding and Environmental Health introduced the report and explained that the recommendations proposed by Officers would ensure that the statutory framework and penalties were made clear.

The Cabinet expressed their support for the recommendations and highlighted that the Council wished to stop fly-tipping within the District and did not wish to be seen to be earning revenue through issuing fines as a result of any illegal actions. They also commented that whilst there was no seasonal trends to fly-tipping, the campaign should be run annually following its implementation.

RESOLVED that:

- (a) the report be noted;**
- (b) the recommended FPN level of £400 and early payment reduction of £200 provided payment be made within 10 days of the date the FPN issued be approved;**
- (c) delegated authority be given to the Service Business Manager for Environment and Regulatory Services to authorise the Council's Officers for Resident Services to issue FPNs under Section 34(2A) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to persons whom the Officer has reason to believe have committed a breach of the household waste duty of care.**

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

CAB.73 CCTV POLICY

The Cabinet was requested to approve a CCTV policy which would govern the operation of CCTV operated by the Council as a data controller.

The Cabinet Member for Health, Wellbeing and Public Safety introduced the report and explained that the Policy would replace the existing outdated policy and recently been adopted had by the other partner councils.

In response to a Members' question, the Head of Paid Service confirmed he would contact SLM regarding their policy of operating CCTV within its buildings on behalf of the Council.

RESOLVED that:

- (a) the CCTV Policy be approved;**
- (b) it be noted by the Cabinet that the Policy be effective immediately.**

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

CAB.74 CONSULTATION ON REVISED HOMESEAKER PLUS POLICY

The Cabinet received a report detailing the proposed consultation of the revised Homeseaker Plus Policy.

The Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness confirmed that the Policy would be used in conjunction with existing policies at neighbouring authorities and she recommended the report to Cabinet for approval.

RESOLVED that the revised Homeseeker Plus Policy be approved for consultation purposes.

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

CAB.75 APPLICATIONS FOR DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF

The Cabinet was requested to determine one new application for Discretionary Rate Relief submitted under Section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 for the financial year 2018/19 and 2019/20; and one request to reconsider the percentage of Discretionary Rate Relief already awarded for the 2019/20 financial year.

The Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance informed the Cabinet of the applications submitted and reminded the Cabinet that each application should be considered on its own merits. He added that the application from Huddle Rocks Ltd was for a backdated claim for the two previous financial years and that he considered insufficient information had been presented with the application to warrant approval. In turn, he explained the second application from New Brewery Arts related to the organisation's difficulty in returning surplus funds from their activities.

The Business Manager for Operation Support and Enabling confirmed that if Huddle Rocks Ltd became a community interest company, the company would qualify for business rates relief from the first day of operation, but she understood the company had not applied as yet owing to lack of necessary funding.

The Cabinet confirmed their agreement with the Deputy Leader in relation to the application from Huddle Rocks and that the application from New Brewery Arts did, in turn, warrant the requested relief.

The Deputy Leader then Proposed that (i) the discretionary rate relief in respect of The Huddle Rocks Ltd be refused on the basis of insufficient information presented in relation to the application and (ii) the additional discretionary rate relief in respect of New Brewery Arts be approved. This Proposal was duly Seconded by the Leader.

RESOLVED that:

(a) the discretionary rate relief in respect of The Huddle Rocks Ltd be refused on the basis of insufficient information presented in relation to the application;

(b) the additional discretionary rate relief in respect of New Brewery Arts be approved.

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

CAB.76 COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME 2020/21 AND LOCAL COUNCIL TAX RELIEFS

The Cabinet received a report detailing the results of the public consultation on proposals for revising the current Council Tax Support scheme; and to seek approval for the proposed amendments (which would become effective from 1 April 2020).

The Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance introduced the report and explained that he and the Leader met with Officers and representatives from the Citizens' Advice Bureau following the scheme being presented for consultation (the results of which had been produced within the circulated report). He added that the Council did not wish to disadvantage those with more than two children or 'blended' families (children from separate marriages) and that whilst the recommendation would be to review the Scheme annually, this would not in turn necessitate a consultation annually, if the Scheme was considered appropriate. The Deputy Leader then Proposed the recommendations to Cabinet with the amended reference to Annex D within recommendation 1 and reference to 'larger' as opposed to 'blended' families within recommendation 3. This Proposal was then Seconded by the Leader.

The Cabinet expressed its support for the recommendations and highlighted that it was therefore the duty of Members to bring to the attention of residents within their respective Wards. The Leader also wished to extend his thanks to the staff of the Citizens Advice Bureau for their assistance in producing the Scheme.

RESOLVED that Council be recommended to approve amendments to the current Council Tax Support scheme, in relation to Working Age claimants for 2020/21, including any uprating, as follows:-

- 1) Amending the banded scheme as set out in Annexes A and D;**
- 2) Introduce an 'extended period' of up to 8 weeks;**
- 3) Remove the two child limit to help larger families have more disposable income;**
- 4) Increase the capital limit from £6,000 to £10,000.**

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

CAB.77 COMMISSIONING FRAMEWORK

The Head of Paid Service introduced the report and explained that the high-level commissioning framework document had been reviewed by senior Council and Publica Officers and sought to reinforce and clarify the roles of Publica and the Council. He added that the Framework had also been reviewed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its Meeting in December 2019 and confirmed that the document would need to be underpinned by more detailed documents, but was one that, he hoped, Members would consider was a 'step in the right direction'. The Managing Director, Publica explained that he fully supported the document and the recommendations and explained that diplomacy of Council commissioning was as important to Publica as it was to the Council. He added that Publica also had a duty to ensure transparency to the Council in all matters relating to commissioning.

The Head of Paid Service confirmed to the Cabinet that the underlying aim of Publica was that the Council retained its independent right to provide what services it considered best for the District's resident and not to be forced into sharing the options other partner councils had chosen.

RESOLVED that the Commissioning Framework document be approved.

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

CAB.78 MEMBERS' ICT ALLOWANCE

The Leader of the Council introduced the item and explained that the current allowance was a historic system which dated back to 2003. He explained that the system was no longer flexible and the recommendations presented represented a good compromise. The Leader added that further discussions on the topic would be taken by the IT Members' Working Group in due course and that the Council would be appointing the independent remuneration panel to present recommendations to the Council on the allowance scheme as a whole.

The Cabinet expressed its support for what it considered a sensible approach and it recognised the requirements to either repay or return any equipment should a Member cease to serve on the Council.

RESOLVED that:

(a) Members be offered the choice of either (i) continuing to receive their ICT allowance on a monthly basis or (ii) drawing down the remainder of the allowance due to the end of the current Council term (May 2023), either in part or in whole, at any stage during the remainder of such term;

(b) if a Member chooses the draw-down option, then they be required to repay any overpayment made in the event of them ceasing to be a Member for whatever reason before the end of the term (on a proportionate basis).

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

CAB.79 SCHEDULE OF DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND/OR INDIVIDUAL CABINET MEMBERS

The Cabinet the Cabinet Member for Planning Policy, Climate Change and Energy and Cabinet Member for Health, Wellbeing and Public Safety.

With relation to the decision taken by the Cabinet Member for Health, Wellbeing and Public Safety on 25 November 2019, the Leader and Deputy Leader expressed their support for the potential adoption of BT telephone boxes by the Council, should no local parish/town council adoption be possible.

CAB.80 ISSUE(S) ARISING FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY AND/OR AUDIT

There were no issues arising from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or the Audit Committee.

CAB.81 OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business that was urgent.

The Meeting commenced at 6.05 p.m. and closed at 7.20 p.m.

Chair

(END)