



Minutes of a meeting of Cabinet held on Thursday, 3 April 2025

Members present:

Joe Harris

Mike Evemy

Claire Bloomer

Paul Hodgkinson

Juliet Layton

Officers present:

Nickie Mackenzie-Daste, Senior Democratic
Services Officer

Robert Weaver, Chief Executive

Julia Gibson, Democratic Services Officer

David Stanley, Deputy Chief Executive and
Chief Finance Officer

81 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor Tristan Wilkinson and Councillor Mike McKeown.

82 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest from Members.

83 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of Cabinet on 10 March 2025 were considered. There were no amendments to the minutes.

The approval of the minutes was proposed by Councillor Mike Evemy, Deputy Leader and Member for Finance and Transformation, and seconded by Councillor Juliet Layton, Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning.

This proposal was put to the vote and agreed by Cabinet.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 10 March 2025 be approved as a correct record.

Cabinet
03/April2025
Voting Record:
2 For, 0 Against, 3 Abstentions.

To Approve the minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 10 March 2025 as a correct record. (Resolution)		
For	Mike Evey and Juliet Layton	2
Against	None	0
Conflict Of Interests	None	0
Abstain	Claire Bloomer, Joe Harris and Paul Hodgkinson	3
Carried		

84 Leader's Announcements

The Leader congratulated the Chief Executive, Rob Weaver, on his nomination for Chief Executive of the Year in the Municipal Journal Awards. The Leader also thanked the Chief Executive for his hard work over the past four years.
There were no further announcements from the Leader.

85 Public Questions

There were no public questions.

86 Member Questions

There were no member questions.

87 Schedule of Decisions taken by the Leader of the Council and/or Individual Cabinet Members

There were two Cabinet Member decisions to report to the Cabinet since Cabinet last met on 10 March 2025.

Cabinet Member Delegated - Decision1.

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Transformation participated in a decision meeting on 3 March 2025 regarding the funding of:

1. the replacement of the George Moore Bridge railings, and
2. the first responder kit,

as well as the delegation of authority for further expenditure to the Deputy Chief Executive in consultation with himself.

The Cabinet member for Finance and Transformation considered the recommendations and RESOLVED to APPROVE the funding and the delegation.

The decision was effective on 13 March 2025.

Cabinet Member Delegated – Decision 2.

The Cabinet Member for Health, Culture and Visitor Experience Decision participated in a decision meeting on 14 March 2025 regarding approval of a variation to the Council's Off-Street Parking Order for the Chippings car park situated in Tetbury.

The Cabinet member for Health, Culture and Visitor Experience considered the recommendations and RESOLVED to APPROVE the variation to the Parking Order for the Chippings Car Park.

The decision was effective on 27 March 2025.

RESOLVED that Cabinet NOTED the two decisions.

88 Issue(s) Arising from Overview and Scrutiny and/or Audit and Governance

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

89 Financial Performance Report 2024-25 Quarter Three

The purpose of the report was to update Cabinet on the third quarterly budget monitoring position for the 2024/25 financial year and to seek approval for the principle of the transfer of the improved surplus (£0.435m) to the Financial Resilience Reserves, as set out in Paragraph 4.7 of the report to help address ongoing budgetary pressures.

Approval was also sought for the revised Capital Programme of £7.550m including additional expenditure of £0.238m on Disabled Facilities Grants following the allocation of additional Disabled Facilities Grant funding provided by Gloucestershire County Council.

Councillor Mike Evemy, Deputy Leader of the Council and Member for Finance and Transformation, introduced the item.

The Quarter Three report covered the period from October to December 2024, and highlighted a positive improvement in the financial outturn forecast. The Executive Summary in Section 2 drew attention to a projected year-end surplus of £435,000, which was an increase from previous forecasts.

The second part of the report addressed the capital outturn. The forecasted outturn was shown to be closely aligned with the latest approved figures, indicating strong budgetary control.

A notable positive variance was the increase of £238,000 for Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs). This increase followed an additional allocation from Gloucestershire County Council.

David Stanley, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, was invited to speak and noted that Section 3 of the report was slightly outdated due to recent inflation figures showing a 0.2% improvement over projections. However, this would not affect the 2024/25 financial year. Potential external risks, such as new US tariffs, were also referenced.

It was noted that the report had already been reviewed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, where a number of questions had been raised and discussed.

The recent tariffs announced by President Trump were considered as was the possibility that they would lead to higher-than-expected inflation and interest rates.

The Deputy Chief Executive Officer responded with the following key points:

- The Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) rates had been reviewed as part of the preparation for Overview and Scrutiny, noting that borrowing costs remained high:
 - A 50-year annuity loan stood at 5.96%.
 - A 10-year loan was just over 5%, both higher than the Bank of England base rate of 4.75%.
- The Council's Treasury advisors, Arlingclose, forecast further 0.25% reductions in the base rate, with an expected low of 3.75% by the end of 2025.
- Regarding inflation:
 - CPI had risen to 3%, then slightly decreased to 2.8%.
 - With April's utility and energy cost increases, inflation was expected to rise again, possibly peaking just under 4%.
 - The US tariffs were too recent to be included in forecasts but presented additional inflationary risk for the new financial year.
- The Council had budgeted prudently, assuming 3% pay inflation, with extra funds in contingency to manage inflation risk.
- Due to interest rates remaining "sticky" (slow to fall), the Council had seen an improved position in Q3 Treasury Management.
- The pay award was lower than expected, resulting in an underspend, which was adjusted in the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS).

The recommendations were proposed by Councillor Mike Every and seconded by Councillor Joe Harris, Leader of the Council.

Voting record:

For 5, Against 0, Abstain 0.

To note the financial position set out in the Q3 Financial performance report 2024/25 and approve points 2 and 3 below. (Resolution)		
RESOLVED that Cabinet: 1. Noted the financial position set out in the Q3 Financial performance report 2024/25. 2. Approved the principle to transfer the improved surplus (£0.435m) to the Financial Resilience Reserves, as set out in Paragraph 4.7 of the report. 3. Approved the revised Capital Programme of £7.550m including additional expenditure of £0.238m on Disabled Facilities Grants following the allocation of additional Disabled Facilities Grant funding provided by Gloucestershire County Council.		
For	Claire Bloomer, Mike Evemy, Joe Harris, Paul Hodgkinson and Juliet Layton	5
Against	None	0
Conflict Of Interests	None	0
Abstain	None	0
Carried		

The meeting commenced at 6.00 pm and closed at 6.13 pm