



Minutes of a meeting of Cabinet held on Monday, 9 May 2022.

Councillors present:

Rachel Coxcoon
Tony Dale
Andrew Doherty

Mike Every
Jenny Forde
Joe Harris - Chair

Juliet Layton
Lisa Spivey

Officers present:

Rob Weaver – Chief Executive
Jenny Poole – Deputy Chief Executive
Angela Claridge – Director of Governance and Development
Sophia Price – Heritage and Design Manager
Mandy Fathers – Business Manager for Operations and Enabling
Scott Williams – Business Manager
Andrew Turner – Business Manager for Assets and Council Priorities
Caroline Clissold – Housing Manager
Amy Bridgewater-Carnall – Democratic Services Manager
Caleb Harris – Democratic Services
Wayne Smith – Democratic Services

Observers:

Councillor Stephen Andrews

126 Apologies

There were no apologies for absence

127 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest from Members.

There were no declarations of interest from Officers.

128 Minutes

Cllr Every asked that 2 amendments were made to:

Minute 121 "...choose note to approve..." should read "...choose not to approve...", and
"...that 90% of school people left..." should read "...90% of school leavers left..."

Minute 122 "...The report seconded by Councillor Every who congratulated officers on the upgrades completed at Bourton and Chipping Campden..." should be deleted.

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RESOLVED: The Cabinet agreed that, subject to the amendments being made, the minutes of the meeting of the 4th April 2022 were a correct record.

Voting Record - For: 8, Against: 0, Abstentions: 0, Absent: 0,

I29 Chair's Announcements (if any)

The Leader addressed the meeting on:

The Energy Council Tax Rebate, thanking staff for their hard work paying out £150 to over 18,000 direct debit paying households with non-direct debit payers being paid next.

The Ukraine crisis stating that the Council and residents of the District continue to welcome and support refugees from Ukraine that included local resident Stephen Bane's wife and children who had arrived safely in the District.

The recent West Oxfordshire District Council local elections where a Liberal Democratic coalition administration had been formed. Councillor Harris thanked the outgoing Leader and congratulated and looked forward to working with the new Leader Andy Graham.

I30 Endorsement of nature recovery plans for the Cotswold Water Park and Cotswold National Landscapes (AONB)

The purpose of this report was to obtain Council endorsement of the two Nature Recovery Plans.

The Cabinet Member for Development Management and Licensing introduced the report by welcoming the early completion of the nature recovery plans, and asked that they were endorsed by the Council. This would ensure that nature recovery would be an important consideration in both the future decisions made by the Council including, for example, neighbourhood plans, and where the Council takes a leadership role on the ecological emergency and nature recovery in the Cotswolds. The Council also has a wider role influencing and inspiring partners and stakeholders including landowners, Government bodies and Parish Councils, across the District, County and region to help deliver nature recovery.

RESOLVED: Cabinet endorsed the Nature Recovery Plans for the Cotswold Water Park and the Cotswold National Landscape (AONB) for use as

- Part of the evidence base for the review of the Cotswold District Local Plan;
- Part of the evidence base for the preparation of Neighborhood Development Plans;
- Part of the evidence base for the preparation and implementation of relevant Council strategies, policies and projects;
- As a material consideration in the determination of planning applications; and
- To inform the development and implementation of the Council's emerging Cotswold Water Park Project.

Voting Record – For 8, Against 0, Abstention 0, Absent 0

I31 Update of the Council's Corporate Plan (2020-2024)

The purpose of this report was to introduce an update of the Council's Corporate Plan that was adopted by the Council on 23rd September 2020.

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The Chief Executive introduced a summary of the updated Corporate Plan and highlighted some of the year's achievements.

The Cabinet welcomed the improved clear format of the plan that enabled priorities to be easily identified and clearly described and noted that it had been agreed that the Design Guide would have joint leads

Cabinet commented that a number of temporary officers had played a key part in developing the plan and the loss of their considerable skills, knowledge and experience would be severely felt if they were to leave the Council.

Cabinet also commented on the success of the Council's networking with businesses and how the successful partnerships that had grown in the last few years were now delivering improved economic growth across the area.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet noted the update of The Corporate Plan and that no further amendments were required, agreed its presentation to Council for adoption, and delegated authority to the Chief Executive, in conjunction with the Leader, to make any amendments and address any typographical errors prior to submission to Council.

Voting Record – For: 8, Against: 0, Abstention: 0, Absent: 0

I32 Discretionary Funding Policy - Energy Council Tax Rebate 2022

The purpose of this report was to ask Members to formally agree the criteria for the discretionary scheme and approve the Policy. This followed a Government announcement relating to a package of support known as the Energy Bills rebate that had two elements of support, one being a mandatory scheme, that is already being administered and this second being a discretionary scheme.

The Deputy Leader, Councilor Evemy introduced the report and addressed the Cabinet stating the criteria would ensure payments would be directed to vulnerable groups to help them with the increased cost of energy bills. Cabinet noted the total fund available was £153,000, the recommended criteria for recipients that the report had been considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and that their Committee's feedback was included at Annex B to the report.

The Committee had commented that in the unlikely event that there are more applicants than anticipated, where the additional funding would be found. The Deputy Leader stated that the funding was a defined amount and therefore more successful applicants would result in smaller payments to each applicant.

The Committee commented that the most financially vulnerable groups e.g. those with prepayment meters can find themselves in immediate crisis when energy price caps are removed and this may have a knock on effect with other commitments such as payment of Council Tax. The Deputy Chief Executive and the Business Manager for Operations and Enabling stated that other forms of support were available such as the Council Tax Support scheme and Discretionary Housing Payment, Client Support Officers are in place to provide advice and to signpost to the Citizens Advice Bureau who can provide further advice.

The Chair of Overview and Scrutiny addressed the Cabinet and advised that he was content to waive the right to Call-In of this decision because the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had reviewed the policy in advance of the Cabinet meeting.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet agreed the eligibility criteria, as set out in Annex A, and delegated the distribution of surplus funds to the Deputy Chief Executive, in consultation with the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, as detailed in paragraph 2.9 of the report.

Voting Record – For: 8, Against: 0, Abstention: 0, Absent: 0

133 Discretionary Rate Relief in excess of £10,000

The purpose of this report was to ask Members to consider three renewal applications in respect of Discretionary Rate Relief, each in excess of £10,000, for the 2021/22 Business Rates Liability.

The Deputy Leader, Councilor Every introduced the report and addressed the Cabinet confirming that it had previously been agreed that the Council had the option to provide discretionary rate relief to the SLM Charitable Trust that was set up to manage the Council's leisure assets.

The establishment of the Charitable Trust enabled costs to be shared between the Government (50%), the council (40%) and the County Council (10%) and it was now prudent to award the Discretionary Rate Relief.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet agreed that The Discretionary Rate Relief Policy is updated so that applications with a value in excess of £10,000 are determined by the Cabinet, rather than the Cabinet Member and The Discretionary Rate Relief applications in respect of the Corinium Museum, Bourton Leisure Centre and Cirencester Leisure Centre, are approved.

Voting Record – For 8, Against 0, Abstention 0, Absent 0

134 Cabinet/Scrutiny Protocol - draft for consideration by the Cabinet

The purpose of this report was to modernise the Constitution and, following a request from the Chair of Overview & Scrutiny, the Working Group who had been asked to endorse the introduction of a 'protocol'. The Constitution Working Group at its meeting on 10 February 2022 endorsed the draft protocol for further consideration by the Cabinet and Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

Members commented that within the policy, 'policy development' and 'decision making' needed to be clearly defined as the protocol currently stated that "all" policy development will be carried out in an informal setting going through Overview and Scrutiny.

Members also commented that the short timescale of 10 working days for responses for to Overview & Scrutiny proposals may not be workable in reality although it was accepted that this timescale had been defined in a statutory instrument.

Councilor Harris proposed that the report be deferred following a number of queries raised by the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet Members.

RESOLVED: That the Cabinet/Scrutiny Protocol, be **deferred** to the Cabinet meeting on 6th June 2022.

135 Options Appraisal of Leisure and Culture Management Arrangements

The purpose of this revised report was to inform Cabinet of the Leisure and Culture Management Options Appraisal outcomes and to seek authority to commence procurement/implementation of the selected management options for the Leisure and Cultural Services.

The Cabinet made recommendations that will be presented to Council to inform the decision for the future operating models to be used for the Leisure and Cultural Services and proposed a revised recommendation to Council because the soft market testing referred to in the report had now been completed.

Cabinet agree that the revised recommendations should be:

“Cabinet recommends to Council that the commencement of a procurement process for the appointment of a leisure management contractor and a cultural management contractor is supported.”

RESOLVED: That Cabinet considered the outcomes of the Leisure and Culture Management Option Appraisal and agreed a budget of up to £50,000 be set-aside to support the procurement process;

The Cabinet also agreed to recommend to Council that the commencement of a procurement process for the appointment of a leisure management contractor and a cultural management contractor is supported.

Voting Record – For 8, Against 0, Abstentions 0, Absent 0

136 Exclusion of Public and Press

To consider and if so agree to resolve that under section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in schedule 12A of the said Act

RESOLVED: The Cabinet agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting on the grounds that consideration of the following two items would disclose information that is exempt as defined in schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972

Voting Record - For 8, Against 0, Abstentions 0, Absent 0,

137 Options appraisal of leisure and culture management arrangements

The exempt Appendices A and D relating to Agenda Item 10 were noted.

RESOLVED: The Cabinet considered the outcomes of the Leisure and Culture Management Option Appraisal and agreed to provided recommendations to be proposed to Council as part of the decision making process.

The Cabinet supported the commencement of a procurement process for the appointment of a leisure management contractor and, following the soft market testing for the cultural management, the commencement a procurement process to either transfer the service to Publica, depending or an alternative, dependent on the outcome

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The Cabinet approved a budget of up to £50,000 to be set-aside to support the procurement process.

Voting Record – For 8, Against 0, Abstentions 0, Absent 0,

I38 Housing Property Acquisition - Tetbury

The purpose of the report was to request approval for funding and the acquisition of a property in Tetbury for temporary accommodation use.

The Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness introduced the report and proposed the recommendations. The Business Manager for Assets and Council Priorities, the Housing Manager and the Deputy Chief Executive all responded to queries and clarified points raised by Members.

RESOLVED: The Cabinet agreed that the property in Tetbury is acquired for the reasons set out in the report and funding is allocated from the Recovery Investment Strategy budget in the Capital Programme for the purchase and capital works required

The Cabinet also agreed to grant delegated authority to the Deputy Chief Executive, in consultation with the Interim Head of Legal Services, the Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness and the Cabinet Member for Finance, to approve the final terms of the acquisition.

Voting Record – For 8, Against 0, Abstention 0, Absent 0

The meeting commenced at 6.00pm and closed at 7.15pm

Chair

(END)