

**MINUTES OF THE CABINET
HELD ON**

28 February 2019

7.40 - 8.30 pm

PRESENT

Committee Members

Councillor Mark Ingall, Leader of the Council
Councillor Mark Wilkinson, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Housing
Councillor Mike Danvers, Portfolio Holder for Resources
Councillor Eugenie Harvey, Portfolio Holder for Community and Wellbeing
Councillor Danny Purton, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Member
Champion for Highways and Infrastructure
Councillor Lanie Shears, Portfolio Holder for Governance, Equality and Diversity
Councillor John Strachan, Portfolio Holder for Regeneration
Councillor Emma Toal, Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth

Other Councillors

Councillor Simon Carter
Councillor Tony Edwards
Councillor Andrew Johnson

Officers

Brian Keane, Managing Director
Andrew Bramidge, Project Director -
Enterprise Zone and Interim Head of
Planning
Simon Freeman, Head of Finance and
Deputy to the Managing Director
Jane Greer, Head of Community
Wellbeing
Simon Hill, Head of Governance
Adam Rees, Governance Support
Officer

115. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None.

116. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

117. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 24 January
2019 are agreed as a correct record and signed by the Leader.

118. **MATTERS ARISING**

None.

119. **WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

The questions, together with the answers, are appended to the minutes.

120. **WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS**

None.

121. **PETITIONS**

None.

122. **FORWARD PLAN**

RESOLVED that the Forward Plan is noted.

123. **RECENT DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE LEADER, DEPUTY OR PORTFOLIO HOLDER(S)**

RESOLVED that the following decisions are noted.

a) Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Housing - 11 February 2019

b) Leader of the Council - 18 February 2019

124. **HARLOW AND GILSTON GARDEN TOWN TRANSPORT STRATEGY**

Cabinet received a report to approve a consultation for the draft Harlow and Gilston Town Transport Strategy. This included an integrated transport network.

Proposed by Councillor Danny Purton (seconded by Councillor Mark Wilkinson) it was:

RESOLVED that:

A The draft Harlow and Gilston Garden Town Transport Strategy, attached as Appendix A to this report, be published for a six week period of public consultation following the May elections.

B It is noted, that following consultation and any subsequent revisions to the document, it is intended that the final Transport Strategy will be agreed as a material planning consideration for the preparation of masterplans, the preparation of the Gilston Area Charter, pre-application advice, assessing planning applications and any other development management purposes.

125. **COMMUNICATIONS FROM COMMITTEES/WORKING GROUPS/PARTIES AND PANELS**

None.

126. **MINUTES OF PANELS/WORKING GROUPS**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the following meetings are noted.

- a) Minutes of meeting Tuesday, 11 December 2018 of Shareholder Sub Committee
- b) Minutes of meeting Tuesday, 15 January 2019 of Shareholder Sub Committee
- c) Minutes of meeting Thursday, 17 January 2019 of Cabinet Overview Working Group
- d) Minutes of meeting Monday, 21 January 2019 of Highways Panel
- e) Minutes of meeting Tuesday, 29 January 2019 of Safety Committee

127. **MATTERS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

The Leader said that following Full Council's motion on libraries he and the Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Andrew Johnson, had written to the County Council asking them to reconsider closure of Harlow's libraries.

Following this, a substantial petition, estimated to contain around 55,000 signatures, had been submitted to the County Council who had agreed to hold a Special Council meeting on 12 March 2019 to consider the matter.

The Leader invited the Leader of the Opposition to co-write a further letter to the County Council re-iterating that all of Harlow's libraries should remain open.

RESOLVED that the Leader and the Leader of the Opposition would co-write a letter to the County Council re-iterating that all of Harlow's libraries should remain open.

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

**CABINET – 28 FEBRUARY 2019
QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Agenda item 5 refers

1. **Mr Gary Roberts to Councillor Mark Wilkinson, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Housing**

Why is the Council so reluctant to call a Tenants' meeting to discuss the increase, over many years, of the number of repairs made the responsibility of the Council tenant?

Reply from Councillor Mark Wilkinson, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Housing

Tenants and leaseholders have the opportunity to attend regular housing forums to discuss housing matters. There have been no changes to the Council's repairs policy since 2007 and there has not been an increase in the number of repairs made the responsibility of the Council tenant. This repairs policy is also reviewed regularly by elected tenant representatives who are satisfied that the policy does not need changing. In addition, the Council has a Vulnerable Persons Policy to assist those who need additional help with repairs.

Over the years the Council has advised tenants what it expects them to undertake or indeed to bring back the property to the original state where tenants have made changes to their property without permission and consideration given to health and safety regulations. When and if any there are any changes to the repairs policy, widespread consultation will be undertaken with all tenants and leaseholders.

2. **Mr Gary Roberts to Councillor Mark Ingall, Leader of the Council**

Has the Council considered putting residents, leaseholders and tenants on the HTS Board? If not, why not?

Reply from Councillor Mark Ingall, Leader of the Council

Yes, it has. However, following the transition from Kier Harlow Ltd to HTS (Property and Environment) Ltd in 2017, the Council ensures that it continued to operate its management in the same commercial way. As such, it would be inappropriate to consider the representation suggested.

The representation and involvement of tenants, leaseholders and residents is important which is why the long established Standards Board/Panels and the Environmental Service Improvement Team will continue to consider the performance and delivery of services provided by HTS (Property and Environment) Ltd.