

MINUTES OF THE CABINET HELD ON

22 March 2018

7.30 - 8.00 pm

PRESENT

Committee Members

Councillor Emma Toal, Leader of the Council
Councillor Mark Ingall, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Youth and Community
Councillor Mike Danvers, Portfolio Holder for Resources
Councillor Tony Durcan, Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Enterprise
Councillor Waida Forman, Portfolio Holder for Governance
Councillor Danny Purton, Portfolio Holder for Environment
Councillor Mark Wilkinson, Portfolio Holder for Housing

Additional Attendees

Councillor Lanie Shears
Councillor John Strachan

Other Councillors

Councillor David Carter
Councillor Simon Carter
Councillor Joel Charles
Councillor Tony Edwards
Councillor Chris Vince

Officers

Brian Keane, Managing Director
Simon Freeman, Head of Finance
Graeme Bloomer, Head of Place
Jane Greer, Head of Community Wellbeing
Adam Rees, Governance Support Officer
Andrew Murray, Head of Housing

135. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

136. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

137. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 22 February 2018 are agreed as a correct record and signed by the Leader.

138. MATTERS ARISING

None.

139. WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

140. **WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS**

None.

141. **PETITIONS**

None.

142. **FORWARD PLAN**

RESOLVED that the Forward Plan is noted.

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

None.

144. **JOINT FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE REPORT, QUARTER 3 2017/18**

Cabinet received a report which set out both the Council's financial performance, along with its performance against its own performance indicators for the third quarter of 2017/18.

Proposed by Councillor Mike Danvers (seconded by Emma Toal) it was:

RESOLVED that Cabinet:

A Acknowledged the projected outturn position set out in sections three and four of Appendix A to this report for the period April – December 2017/18 as follows:

- i) A favourable variation on controllable budgets of £333,000 representing -0.55 per cent of the gross General Fund Budget.
- ii) A total projected underspend of £941,000 representing - 1.56 per cent of the gross General Fund Budget.
- iii) The Council performed on target or above target for 50 out of 51 (98 percent) of performance indicators.

B Approved:

- i) The transfer of £300,000 to the Planning LDF Reserve to support the ongoing delivery of the Local Plan.
- ii) The transfer of £160,000 to the Harlow and Gilston Garden Town Funding Reserve for a contribution towards the Harlow and Gilston Garden Town project and other developments in and around Harlow.

145. **HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT, QUARTER 3 FINANCE REPORT 2017/18**

Cabinet received a report which provided an update on the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) for the third quarter of 2017/18 and asked that Cabinet noted variances in the HRA budget, as well as the forecast budget of the HRA and the Major Repairs Reserve.

Proposed by Councillor Mike Danvers (seconded by Councillor Mark Wilkinson) it was:

RESOLVED that Cabinet:

A Noted:

- i) An unfavourable variation against the approved Housing Revenue Account (HRA) operational/controllable budget of £266,000 representing 0.5 percent of the gross HRA budget.
- ii) A favourable non-operational variance of £5,094,000 representing 9.62 percent of gross HRA budget which includes adjustments to capital programme financing as a result of an updated outturn position for 2017/18 and reflecting the reprioritised programme.

B Noted the forecast balances at 31 March 2018, of £15,022,000 in respect of the HRA and nil in respect of the Major Repairs Reserve (MRR).

146. **CAPITAL PROGRAMMES, QUARTER 3 FINANCE REPORT 2017/18**

Cabinet received a report which provided an update on the Council's Housing and Non-Housing Capital Programmes and sought approval for one business case.

Proposed by Councillor Mike Danvers (seconded by Councillor Mark Ingall) it was:

RESOLVED that Cabinet:

A Noted the progress in the delivery of the Council's Housing and Non-Housing Capital Programmes as at Period 9 (31 December 2017) as follows:

- i) Housing Capital Programme – forecast outturn of £14,098,000 (original estimate £18,530,000).
- ii) Non-Housing Capital Programme – a forecast outturn of £8,948,000 (original estimate £5,425,000).

B Approved the inclusion in the Non-Housing Capital Programme of a business case for:

- i) Works to alleviate flooding in the Sumners Area through infrastructure and drainage works (£58,000). This is fully grant funded by the County Council from the Community Flood Improvement Fund.

147. **HOUSING ALLOCATIONS POLICY**

Cabinet received a report which set out proposed minor revisions to the Council's Housing Allocations Policy.

Proposed by Councillor Mark Wilkinson (seconded by Councillor Mike Danvers) it was:

RESOLVED that:

- A** The proposed minor revisions to the Housing Allocations Policy are approved as set out in paragraphs 4 to 15 of the report.
- B** Authority is delegated to the Head of Housing, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing, to make minor revisions to the Housing Allocations Policy as considered necessary to give effect to the operation of the Scheme, including setting the annual move-on quotas.

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

- a) Referral from Scrutiny Committee - Review of Universal Credit in Harlow

Cabinet received a report on the review of Universal Credit in Harlow which had been referred to it by the Scrutiny Committee.

Proposed by Councillor Mark Ingall (seconded by Councillor Waida Forman) it was:

RESOLVED that:

- A** Cabinet noted the specific comments and concerns raised by the Committee as detailed in paragraphs 4 – 8 of the report.
- B** Cabinet noted the specific issues and concerns raised by external support organisations and contained within their written responses provided to the Scrutiny Committee and contained within the appendices to the original report.
- C** Cabinet noted that the Committee will be undertaking another review in six months.

b) Referral from Scrutiny Committee - Review of Sports in Harlow

Cabinet received a report on the review of sport in Harlow which had been referred to it by the Scrutiny Committee.

Proposed by Councillor Mark Ingall (seconded by Councillor Waida Forman) it was:

RESOLVED that:

A The Action Plan, attached as Appendix A to the report, be approved.

B The Council adopted a target of a 0.5 percent per year participation rate increase in sport and physical activity. Actives Lives data would be the tool by which this was measured.

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

RESOLVED that the minutes of the following meetings are noted.

a) Minutes of meeting Tuesday, 9 January 2018 of Housing Standards Board

b) Minutes of meeting Wednesday, 31 January 2018 of Safety Committee

c) Minutes of meeting Tuesday, 13 February 2018 of Shareholder Sub-Committee

151. **MATTERS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

None.

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL