

CABINET

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETING HELD ON 17 JANUARY 2017 AT THE KENNET ROOM - COUNTY HALL, TROWBRIDGE BA14 8JN.

Present:

Cllr Baroness Scott of Bybrook OBE, Cllr John Thomson, Cllr Fleur de Rhé-Philippe, Cllr Laura Mayes, Cllr Jonathon Seed, Cllr Toby Sturgis, Cllr Dick Tonge, Cllr Jerry Wickham, Cllr Stuart Wheeler and Cllr Philip Whitehead

Also Present:

Cllr Alan MacRae, Cllr Richard Gamble, Cllr Richard Clewer, Cllr David Jenkins, Cllr Glenis Ansell, Cllr Chuck Berry, Cllr Chris Caswill, Cllr Bob Jones MBE, Cllr Simon Killane and Cllr Gordon King

156 Apologies

There were no apologies as all members of the Cabinet were in attendance.

157 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 December 2016 were presented.

Resolved

To approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 13 December 2016.

158 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

159 Leader's announcements


The Leader welcomed everyone to the meeting, including David Godfrey visiting from the Department for Communities & Local Government.

The Leader also announced that the meeting would be webcast.

160 Public participation and Questions from Councillors

The Leader invited those wishing to make representations, to do so under the item to which they related. The Leader also explained that, as usual at meetings of Cabinet, she would be more than happy to hear from any member of the public present on any of the items on the agenda.

161 **Housing Repairs Contract Extension**

 Councillor Jonathon Seed presented the report which sought approval for an extension to the responsive repairs and voids contract with Emmdee (MD) Building Services Ltd to 31st March 2018.

Issues highlighted in the course of the presentation and discussion included: that extending the contract would give the Council more time to consider options for combining different contracts; the involvement of Scrutiny; the provision for funding made within the Housing Revenue Account; the viability of bringing some services in-house; and how further changes would be reported.

In response to questions from Councillor Glenis Ansell and Councillor Gordon King, it was stated that service improvements had been made, and that tenant complaints had fallen as a result

Resolved

To approve the extension of the current contract with MD Building Services Ltd to 31st March 2018.

Reason for Decision

To enable the Housing Service to have sufficient time to analyse and explore future service delivery options and procure a new service with limited impact to service performance and to bring the housing repairs and voids contract in line with the other contracts relating to maintenance of the housing stock.

162 **Army Basing LGA Peer Review**

The Leader presented the report which provided members with an update on the LGA Peer Review of Army Basing and recommended way forward.

Issues highlighted in the course of the presentation and discussion included: the contribution made by Scrutiny members to the programme and the review; the thanks offered by the Cabinet to officers for working hard to ensure the success of the programme, particularly Kevin Ladner from the Economy & Planning Team; the opportunities for the Council to share best practice with colleagues in other authorities; the impacts of the programme on health and school programmes, and how the Council works with partners to identify solutions.

Resolved

- 1. To note the Peer Review of the council's role in the Army Basing Programme and its recommendations**

2. To endorse that officers continue their work in supporting the Army Basing Programme, and that the Peer Review be publicised as an example of best practice nationally at an LGA seminar in May 2017
3. To send a letter of thanks to James Coote for his contribution to making the Army Basing Programme a success.

Reason for Decision

Supporting the Army Basing Plan is fundamental to key action 7 of the council's Business Plan. The council, MOD and Army have been working together to make sure that military growth is accommodated while continuing to maintain balanced communities with opportunities for veterans, military personnel, and their families, and the right services such as skills, education, and health. The LGA has recommended to the council that it publicise the findings of the review and use it as an exemplar programme which will help ensure that optimal solutions can be delivered across MOD sites both in Wiltshire and nationally.

163 **Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items.

164 **Exclusion of the Press and Public**

Resolved

To agree that in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the public from the meeting for the following items of business because it is likely that if members of the public were present there would disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Act and the public interest in withholding the information outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information to the public.

Reason for taking the item in private:

Paragraph 3 – information relating to the financial information or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)

No representations had been received as to why this item should not be held in private

165 **Housing Repairs Contract Extension**

The Cabinet considered the information contained in the exempt report.

Resolved

That the report be received and noted.

(Duration of meeting: 9.30 - 9.57 am)

These decisions were published, earlier, on the 19 January 2017 and will
come into force on 27 January 2017

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