

Cabinet

MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETING HELD ON 9 JUNE 2020 AT ONLINE MEETING AVAILABLE AT THE LINK BELOW.

Present:

Cllr Philip Whitehead (Chairman), Cllr Richard Clewer (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Allison Bucknell, Cllr Ian Blair-Pilling, Cllr Pauline Church, Cllr Simon Jacobs, Cllr Laura Mayes, Cllr Toby Sturgis and Cllr Bridget Wayman

Also Present:

Cllr Chuck Berry, Cllr Richard Britton, Cllr Clare Cape, Cllr Gavin Grant, Cllr Alan Hill, Cllr Gordon King, Cllr Horace Prickett, Cllr Ian Thorn, Cllr Christopher Williams and Cllr Graham Wright

59 **Apologies**

There are no apologies.

60 **Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 May 2020 were presented.

Resolved:

To approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 19 May 2020.

61 **Declarations of Interest**

Cllrs Richard Clewer, Bridget Wayman and Ian Thorn declared interests in agenda item 6 – Covid 19 Update and Financial Position as they were directors of Stone Circle. Cllrs Clewer and Cllr Wayman did not speak or vote on this matter.

62 **Leader's announcements**

The Leader indicated that if there were any technical issues, the meeting would have to be adjourned or rescheduled.

63 **Public participation and Questions from Councillors**

The Chairman advised that due to a large volume of questions received for this meeting that he would indicate who had asked a question. Every question had received a response, and these were published on the Council's website on Monday 8 June 2020.

Questions of a general nature have been received from:

- Bill Jarvis – Cyclists and Pedestrian Network in the County – Statement and 3 questions
- Darren Hopkins – Future Chippenham Project – 1 question
- Ian James (Bremhill Parish Council) – Future Chippenham Project – Statement and 2 questions
- Ian James (Bremhill Parish Council) – Future Chippenham Project – Statement and 8 questions
- Isabel McCord – Future Chippenham Project – Statement and 3 questions
- Steve Perry – Future Chippenham Project – Statement and 2 questions
- Kim Stuckey – Future Chippenham Project – Statement and 1 question
- Chris Caswill – Future Chippenham Project – 2 questions
- Cllr Murry – Future Chippenham Project – 2 questions

A Late question had been received from Steve Perry – Future Chippenham Project. This question would receive a written response and published alongside the other questions received.

Cllr Allison Bucknell asked for clarification as to questions from Mr Ian James, and as to whether they were raised on behalf of Bremhill Parish Council or himself.

64 **Covid-19 Update and Financial Position**

The Chairman advised that questions had been received and that responses had been published in the supplementary agenda 1.

If anyone had a supplementary question then these questions would be responded to in writing after the meeting.

Questions had been received from the following for this item:

- Chris Caswill – Schools Re-opening – Statement and 3 questions
- Chris Caswill – Public Health – 5 Questions
- Chris Lange – Covid 19 Recovery Plan and Climate Change Issues - Statement and 1 question
- Ian James (Bremhill Parish Council) – Social Care – 6 questions
- Jessica Thimbleby – Covid 19 and Climate Change – statement and 2 questions
- Mike d'Apice – Covid 19 and Climate Change – statement and questions
- Cllr Murry – Covid 19 and Proposed recovery plan

The Chairman introduced the report.

Cllr Simon Jacobs – Cabinet Member for Finance and Procurement then outlined the report along with Chief Executive Officers Alistair Cunningham and Terence Herbert.

Points made included:

- That Wiltshire Council continued its work with partners to ensure the most vulnerable in the community were supported, local businesses received support and funding allocated to the county and critical council services could continue to deliver essential services during what was an unprecedented and rapidly changing incident.
- Following the report provided to cabinet in May, the paper included the latest public health data and further information on the Council's response as at the end of May. Alongside this, emerging plans for the recovery were provided with further detail on the Council's financial position for the year ahead and the provisional capital and revenue outturn.
- The report provided full details on the modelling, assumptions and current estimated financial impact to the Council of responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and the anticipated impact for the remainder of the 2020/21 financial year. It gave detail on the Council's submission to the Government in May that set out the forecast impact on the Council's finances and sets out the conditions and timing for the necessary action to be taken to mitigate against the current forecast financial position.
- That excellent work continued to be carried out by the senior finance team on the issues raised over the last few months.
- That staff efforts during this period has been extemporary, a whole organisational response, with 24/7 working.
- The continued support of Wiltshire's Care homes during this difficult time
- That a Local Outbreak management Plan was being drafted, a significant piece of work.
- The Ongoing support of Wiltshire schools.
- Safer public spaces – supporting the reopening of our high streets, working with Wiltshire's town councils.
- Working with small businesses, administering the 5m small businesses fund.
- That the Wellbeing Hub continued to support our vulnerable residents whilst returning back to the new normal.

- The setting up of a Shadow Recovery Group, a Wiltshire Council director led group to set up for the recovery process.
- That Wiltshire Council continued to work with both Central Government and local groups and organisations.
- That a detailed report would come to the next cabinet meeting.

Andy Brown - Director of Finance and Procurement advised that Wiltshire Council continued to lobby Central Government. That the size of the impact created by the pandemic across Wiltshire was a significant one.

That these were unprecedented times for all councils, and that both elected members and officers were working together, committed to resolve the financial position.

Graham Wright, Chair of OS Management Committee advised that Scrutiny and the Covid-19 Task Group had viewed the report.

Cllr Ian Thorn, Leader of the Liberal Democrat group and other Cllrs were given the opportunity to discuss the report.

Resolved that Cabinet:

- **Notes the 2019/20 revenue outturn position and the use of emergency Government funding in the last weeks of March to offset the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.**
- **Approves the transfers to and from the Councils earmarked reserves as detailed in Appendix B.**
- **Approves the transfer of the £0.468m provisional outturn underspend to the General Fund Reserve.**
- **Recommends to Full Council to include slippage from the 2019/20 Capital Programme of £35.535m is added to the 2020/21 Capital Programme.**
- **Approves the review of the Capital Programme 2020/21 and the deferral of schemes shown in Appendix D to the total of £101.683m into the 2021/22 financial year.**
- **Notes that a further report will be presented in July, which will include a further update on the Councils finances and further details on actions to mitigate the forecast financial position.**

- **Notes the Section 151 officer's summary of the impact of COVID -19 on the Council's 2020 / 2021 budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy.**

Reason for the decision

That the report provided Cabinet with a further update on the work undertaken and ongoing by Wiltshire Council in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. The response to the pandemic had and would have immediate and long-lasting implications for Wiltshire's economy, communities and residents as well as the Council itself. It was therefore necessary to regularly update cabinet on the short and long-term actions that are being taken to address the impact of this pandemic.

Note: Cllr Richard Clewer and Cllr Bridget Wayman did not vote on this matter

65 **Disposal Programme**

Cllr Sturgis - Cabinet Member for Spatial Planning, Development Management and Investment presented the report.

Points made included:

- That the council had a programme of sites that were surplus to operational requirements and disposal or reuse for alternate purposes generates capital to support Councils overall Capital Programme.
- The report set out the forecast receipts from disposals for the next three financial years.
- The report further sought approval to declare specific sites surplus and capable of review to determine the best financial return for the council; the 2 assets to be declared surplus.
- The report sought authority to approve the terms of sale for Martingate Centre, Corsham.

Cabinet members were asked if they wished to make any comments.

Cllr Allison Bucknell requested that the two properties referred to in the report were also referred to in Appendix 2 for clarity.

Cllr Ian Thorn, Leader of the Liberal Democrat group and other Cllrs were given the opportunity to discuss the report.

The Chairman asked the Members if they were likely to have any questions on the content of Supplementary agenda 1 and the Martingate Centre. It was therefore agreed that these questions and the decision on the agenda item would be made in part II of the meeting.

66 **Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items.

67 **Exclusion of the Press and Public**

Disposal Programme 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 business specified in Item Numbers 18 and 19 because it is likely that if members of the public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 and 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Act and the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information to the public.

68 **Disposal Programme**

Resolved:

- **Note the position in respect of disposals for financial years 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22.**
- **Confirm that freehold interest of the 2 assets can be sold by the Council.**
- **Confirm the terms of sale for Martingate Centre, Corsham.**
- **Authorise the Director for Housing and Commercial to dispose of the freehold interest in the assets or in his absence the Chief Executive**
 - **Officer Place.**

Reason for Proposal(s)

To note the current position in respect of capital receipts and confirm the freehold interest in the assets can be sold to either generate capital receipts in support of the Council's capital programme or reuse to generate income for the Council.

69 **Organisation Structure for Recovery**

The Chairman presented report seeking Cabinet's approval to take steps to make changes to the senior management structure of the council at tier 1 to support the COVID-19 recovery plan and deliver ongoing financial savings, following discussion with the current Chief Executive Officers.

Resolved:

- **Approve the proposed changes to the structure of the council at the top tier (Chief Executive Officers), and as outlined paragraphs 4 – 15.**
- **Recommend that Council approves the proposed changes to the designation of the statutory roles as outlined in paragraphs 11 & 12, if this proposed new structure is approved.**

If approved, the Leader of the Council proposes that cabinet note that:

- **Initial consultation on proposals to implement a new structure will start immediately.**
- **Once a new structure is confirmed following consultation, that steps to seek approval of the appointment of a Chief Executive by the Officer Appointments Committee will take place, and if appropriate steps to approval the redundancy of a Chief Executive Officer by the Senior Officers Employment Sub-Committee will also take place.**

Reason for Decision:

To take steps to make changes to the senior management structure of the council at tier 1 to support the COVID-19 recovery plan and deliver ongoing financial savings, following discussion with the current Chief Executive Officers.

(Duration of meeting: 10.00am – 11.55am)

The Officer who has produced these minutes is Kevin Fielding of Democratic Services, direct line 01225 718221, e-mail stuart.figini@wiltshire.gov.uk

Press enquiries to Communications, direct line (01225) 713114/713115

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