

## CABINET

THURSDAY, 26 SEPTEMBER 2019

**PRESENT:** Councillors David Cannon, Andrew Johnson, David Coppinger (Vice-Chairman), Samantha Rayner, Stuart Carroll, David Hilton, Gerry Clark and Ross McWilliams

Also in attendance: Councillors Davey, Price, Werner, Bateson and Sharpe.

Officers: Duncan Sharkey, Russell O'Keefe, Kevin McDaniel, Louisa Dean, Ruth Watkins, Andy Jeffs, Nikki Craig, Hilary Hall and David Cook.

### APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies were received.

### DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received.

### MINUTES

**RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That the Part I minutes of the meeting held on 29 August 2019 were approved.

### APPOINTMENTS

The Chairman mentioned that as he had announced at Council he intended to have a different approach in terms of style and vision. The new look Cabinet was announced as:

<b>Member</b>	<b>Portfolio</b>
<b>Councillor Johnson</b>	<b>Leader of the Council and Chairman of Cabinet, Business, Economic Development and Property</b>
<b>Councillor Rayner</b>	<b>Deputy Leader of Council, HR, IT, Legal Services (Including Performance Management) and Windsor</b>
<b>Councillor Carroll</b>	<b>Deputy Chairman of Cabinet, Adult Social Care, Children's Services, Health and Mental Health</b>
<b>Councillor Cannon</b>	<b>Public Protection and Parking</b>
<b>Councillor Clark</b>	<b>Transport and Infrastructure</b>
<b>Councillor Coppinger</b>	<b>Planning and Maidenhead</b>
<b>Councillor Hilton</b>	<b>Finance and Ascot</b>
<b>Councillor McWilliams</b>	<b>Housing, Communications and Youth Engagement</b>
<b>Councillor Stimson</b>	<b>Environmental Services, Climate Change, Sustainability and Culture</b>

## FORWARD PLAN

Cabinet considered the contents of the Forward Plan for the next four months and noted the changes made since it was published. It was noted that the School Places in the Royal Borough was moved from October 2019 to November 2019 Cabinet.

In addition Cabinet later decided to defer the Windsor Town Centre Vision report from September 2019 to October 2019.

## CABINET MEMBERS' REPORTS

### A) REQUEST TO USE THE ALLOWABLE CONTRACT EXTENSION PERIOD OF TWO YEARS FOR DRUG AND ALCOHOL SERVICES

The Lead Member for Adult, Children and Health introduced the report requesting the contract extension for Drug and Alcohol services.

The Lead Member informed that in 2015 there had been a comprehensive and systematic review that resulted in a successful procurement process awarding contracts to Cranstoun and Clarendon & Holyport starting in 2017. The services had been run extremely well and the Care Quality Commission had awarded them a rating of Good, this would have been outstanding if it were not for issues with their building.

The Lead Member wished to thank officers for their excellent work, with the leadership of Hillary Hall, that resulted in this outstanding service. As the two contracts were working well he was recommending taking up the two year extension. This was a critical part of public health as well as supporting the homeliness strategy.

The Lead Member for Finance and Ascot informed that he was on the original task and finish group that had been comprehensive and included a number of external agencies. The report showed that performance was improving year on year and he informed that they also had an outreach service going into prisons.

**Resolved unanimously that: Cabinet notes the report and:**

- i) Approves the award of a two-year contract extension for drug and alcohol services, comprising psychosocial intervention and support to Cranstoun, and to Clarendon and Holyport surgeries, for substitute prescribing commencing on 1 April 2020.**

### B) WINDSOR TOWN CENTRE VISION

The Deputy Leader of Council, HR, IT, Legal Services (Including Performance Management) and Windsor informed Cabinet that the report would be deferred for one cycle of Cabinet.

### C) PROCESSING OF DRY MIXED RECYCLING

The Lead Member for Transport and Infrastructure (previously Sustainability, Waste Services and Economic Development) introduced the report regarding the processing of dry mixed recycling.

The Lead Member informed that there was statutory duty to collect and recycle and a procurement exercise had been undertaken as no tenders were received and a direct award for one year was made to the current provider, Pure Recycling.

As there was such volatility in the market place with price fluctuation a long term contract had not been viable and thus the terms had been adjusted and a new procurement exercise was recommended.

**Resolved unanimously that: Cabinet notes the report and**

**i) Approves the commencement of procurement of a contract for the processing of dry mixed recycling in December 2019.**

**ii) Delegates authority to award a contract for the processing of dry mixed recycling to the Interim Director of Adult Services and Deputy Director Strategy and Commissioning, in consultation with the Lead Member for Sustainability, Waste Services and Economic Development, following a competitive procurement.**

D) FINANCIAL UPDATE

Prior to the Lead Member for Finance and Ascot introducing the latest financial update report. The Chairman addressed Cabinet.

The Chairman told Cabinet that the administration were committed to delivering value for money for the residents and committed to protecting the most vulnerable in our society. The council found itself in a challenging financial position but the administration were resolute and determined to address the immediate financial challenge as well as getting the Royal Borough back on a long term sound financial footing. Cabinet were informed that there would be difficult decisions ahead of them but they would united in meeting their objectives.

The Lead Member informed that the Council had a history of clean financial audits but he had become aware of financial risks and because of these risks the administration and Managing Director felt it was prudent to call in Cipfa to review the financial position. Their findings have been circulated and work was underway in addressing identified issues.

Cabinet were informed that as there was a projected overspend of £4,179,000 measures were to be undertaken to reduce this such as there would be no more Member capital bid process. Focus would be on the current position with Members being able to report issues with officers.

The Lead Member informed that the council had not been immune to the national pressures facing adult social care and was facing a projected pressure of £1,421,000 in this area. There are currently just over 2,000 people receiving services in the borough some with physical disabilities, learning disabilities and or mental health challenges. The cost of placements and the associated complexity of need because people are living longer was creating pressure on the budget.

One of the main areas of pressure was domiciliary care and placements which had already been recognised with associated recovery plans in place. There was evidence that actions taken was having an impact with costs levelling off. Work would continue with officers and Optalis.

The Deputy Chairman of Cabinet, Adult Social Care, Children's Services, Health and Mental Health informed Cabinet that the financial pressures needed to be out in the national context of people living longer, which was good, but also living longer with complex conditions and a rising cost of provision. The Government was bringing forward a prevention paper. Within the Royal Borough we had an ageing population that came with a cost to the borough, care provision was improving and the Royal Borough had a high percentage of excellent care homes when compared nationally. This was a positive challenge with people living longer but tis came at a cost. The administration would continue to push the Government for a fair funding stream. Moving to Optalis had been successful and future proofed services. There

was a five year transformation programme for social services looking at prevention; there was a need to invest to save in the long term.

The Chairman reported that we had excellent children's and social services teams that were good at identifying vulnerable young people, which was excellent but we had to accept that this would come at a cost. The main priority had to be the protection of our vulnerable residents.

The Chairman also mentioned that he felt that the recent changes to the parking strategy had not been handled to the best of our ability but the Lead Member would be looking at the strategic and enforcement framework to resolve the issues. The administration would remain committed to delivering the additional car parking spaces in Maidenhead that would include electric charging points.

Cllr Price addressed Cabinet and said that the pressures identified within the report were nothing new and should have been known and included within the budget. She questioned the forecasting when the budget was set. She welcomed looking after the vulnerable in society and the excellent work done by officers.

Deputy Chairman of Cabinet, Adult Social Care, Children's Services, Health and Mental Health said that the forecast within the report was the worst case scenario. Forecasting was done when setting the budget but it only took a few high cost placements to impact on the budget, these could not be predicted. Investment in adult social care had been undertaken and the benefits were now coming through the system and he was confident the overspend would come down.

Cllr Davey questioned if the figures within the report were correct as they did not seem to add up and he suggested that the report could be presented better so the public could have a better understanding of the current financial system. He also asked if there were plans to introduce a congestion charge. The Chairman replied that there were no plans to introduce a congestion charge and the Lead Member for Finance said that the figures were correct but agreed they could have been presented better.

Cllr Werner addressed Cabinet and said it was important to learn from the past so we did not make the same mistakes in the future. A number of Cllrs had raised concerns about the level of budget being set and areas, such as parking revenue, being under or overestimated. The budget pressures should have been predicted but they were not included within the budget build. He asked for reassurance that lessons would be learnt and how much of the £4 million overspend would be rolled over year on year. He made comparisons to Northamptonshire County Council cash crises.

The Chairman replied that there would be no Northamptonshire County Council situation with the Royal Borough. He also mentioned that it was well known that with a small population under 25 years old it was difficult to forecast pressures and protect against their impact. Special cases had a proportional bigger impact than on councils with a larger population.

The Lead Member for Finance highlighted that the proposed virements with corporate services were not virements but budget movements and should not appear.

**Resolved unanimously that: Cabinet notes the report and endorses the actions proposed:**

- i) The council's projected outturn position for 2019-20 and the mitigations proposed**
- ii) The virements between corporate and service directorate budgets.**
- iii) The projected spend on the capital programme**
- iv) The projected cash-balances for the remainder of the financial year**

E) MAIDENHEAD STATION ENHANCEMENTS: QUEEN STREET JUNCTION ARRANGEMENTS

The Leader of the Council and Chairman of Cabinet, Business, Economic Development and Property introduced the report regarding the Queen Street junction arrangements.

The Chairman informed Cabinet that approval for the project had already been through Cabinet and this was next phase of the Maidenhead Station Improvement Scheme project. Consultation on this phase had been undertaken including discussion at the Maidenhead Town Forum.

The overall project was valued at £4.5 million and was mainly funded by Thames Valley Berkshire Local Enterprise Partnership who had approved the business case for the overall scheme.

This phase would see the Queen Street / A308 junction being redesigned with the right-turn for motorists from Queen Street removed to create improved facilities for pedestrians and cyclists. A pilot had been run throughout the summer and all three statutory services had said there would be no impact upon their operations.

The consultation summary was attached to the report and the Chairman provided the following highlights, pedestrians and cyclists were overwhelmingly in support of the scheme, 70% of people believe it would improve connectivity between the town centre and the station, 67% felt it would improve public space, 66% felt it would result in better safety for pedestrians and 64% felt it would be better for cyclists. 60% of people believed it would improve the junction, however only 40% believed it would improve traffic flow. The chairman reported that he felt that this was due to the temporary traffic lights not being able to sync with the permanent lights.

The Deputy Leader of Council, HR, IT, Legal Services (Including Performance Management) and Windsor mentioned that with the Braywick leisure centre, the York Road development and this project improving the infrastructure of Maidenhead. This was part of making Maidenhead the best it could be.

The Lead Member for Finance and Ascot said he had attended a recent LGA course where all of the five leaders of councils across the country presenting said how important 'Place' was, having a place where people wanted to live and work. The Lead Member for Planning and Maidenhead reiterated these sentiments and also mentioned that building a place to live was about people as well as building.

The Lead Member for Environmental Services, Climate Change, Sustainability and Culture said she approved of the scheme but would have liked to have seen more biodiversity such as green walls.

**Resolved unanimously that: Cabinet notes the report and:**

- ii) **Endorses that the junction improvements at Queen Street / A308 as previously approved as part of the business case and set out in Appendix A be delivered**

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 - EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

**RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting whilst discussion takes place on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1-7 of part I of Schedule 12A of the Act.**

**RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: That the Part II minutes of the meeting held on 29 August 2019 were approved.**

The meeting, which began at 8.15 pm, finished at 9.20 pm

CHAIRMAN.....

DATE.....