

MINUTES OF CABINET

16 SEPTEMBER 2024

PRESENT:

Councillors Moran (Chair), Brown, C Edwards, Livesey, Mistry, O'Rourke and Robinson.

Councillors McKenzie, Poole and Simpson-Vince (substituting for Councillor Picker) were also in attendance.

14. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 July 2024 were approved and signed by the Chair.

15. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from Councillors Picker and Roodhouse.

16. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Agenda item 18 of Part 1 – The impact of the Voluntary and Community Sector organisations funded by the Council in 2023/24 – Councillor C Edwards (non-pecuniary interest as defined by the Council's Code of Conduct for Councillors by virtue of being a former member of Brownsover Community Association and Newbold-on-Avon Community Partnership).

Agenda item 18 of Part 1 – The impact of the Voluntary and Community Sector organisations funded by the Council in 2023/24 – Councillor Livesey (non-pecuniary interest as defined by the Council's Code of Conduct for Councillors by virtue of being a member of Newbold-on-Avon Community Partnership).

17. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The following question was received in accordance with the Council's Constitution. Becca Stevenson did not attend the meeting.

(a) Becca Stevenson asked the Leader of the Council, Councillor Moran:

"I am glad that the Council has a climate change strategy, even if looks like the document hasn't been updated since April 2023. Could you please tell me when the next climate emergency working group meeting will be? As the last one was in October 2023 and no minutes are provided to know what was discussed."

Councillor Moran, Leader of the Council, provided the following response:

“Thank you for your ongoing interest in this matter. I am pleased to confirm that the Climate Emergency Working Group has met 6 times since October 2023 and the minutes of these meetings are now on the Council website.

Following the May elections and subsequent allocation of Councillors to Working Groups, the Climate Emergency Working Group met on 22nd August 2024 and agreed to meet monthly for the remainder of the municipal year.

On the broader issue of the Climate Change Strategy, it is intended that the Council will, at its meeting on 11th December 2024, consider an Adaptation Plan for the Borough which sets out the actions necessary to enable communities and businesses to thrive in a changing environment.

We will be holding a World Café Event at the Benn Hall on 9 November to ask residents for their views on this adaptation plan. This is an exciting new departure for Rugby Borough Council as this is the first time the Council will directly engage residents in its approach to climate change. Details are being finalised, but we hope to have a good turnout of residents and stakeholders. Alongside the event we will also be holding a “market place” for stakeholder groups to showcase the work they do around Rugby to increase biodiversity and mitigate climate change.

At its next meeting the Climate Emergency Working Group will consider a forward plan of work which will include implementing the Adaptation Plan, reviewing our actions to mitigate Climate Change, reviewing the climate change targets (and progress towards them) as it is five years since these were agreed, and revitalising the Net Zero website to make it more dynamic, useful and informative for residents. We will also update the Climate Change Strategy taking into account the outputs from the World Café Event. We are in the process of recruiting a Climate Change Officer who will be the lead for this work.”

Growth and Investment, Digital and Communications Portfolio

18. UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND (UKSPF) YEAR 3 SPEND

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Officer – Growth and Investment (Part 1 – agenda item 5) concerning the proposed allocation of remaining UKSPF funds for year 3 to March 2025.

RESOLVED THAT –

- (1) a supplementary capital budget of £0.055m for the Business and Community Hub be approved and added to the general fund capital programme for 2024/25, to be fully funded from UKSPF grant;

(2) a General Fund revenue virement of £0.058m from town centre public realm improvements to cover additional management and administration costs for 2024/25, to be fully funded from UKSPF grant; and

(3) IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT-

(a) delegated authority be given to the Chief Officer for Finance and Performance in consultation with the Chief Officer for Growth and Investment to make any other minor changes to spend to ensure all money is spent by the end of the financial year 2024/2025;

(b) a supplementary capital budget of £0.750m for the Rugby College Electric Vehicle Centre be approved and added to the general fund capital programme for 2024/25, to be fully funded from UKSPF grant; and

(c) delegated authority for the Chief Officer for Growth and Investment to enter into any necessary legal or funding agreements in relation to the Rugby College Electric Vehicle Centre.

Note: this decision is not subject to call in.

19. TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION PROGRESS UPDATE

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Officer – Growth and Investment (Part 1 – agenda item 6) concerning progress on town centre regeneration.

RESOLVED THAT – IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT the Town Centre Regeneration progress report be noted.

Note: this decision is not subject to call in.

20. CONFIRMATION OF ARTICLE 4 DIRECTION – HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Officer – Growth and Investment (Part 1 – agenda item 7) concerning the proposed confirmation of the Article 4 Direction made on 21 February 2024, to come into effect on 23 February 2025.

RESOLVED THAT – IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT –

(1) the Article 4 Direction be confirmed to come into effect on 23 February 2025; and

(2) the notice of confirmation of the Article 4 Direction be given in accordance with the legal requirements and a copy of the direction as confirmed be sent to the Secretary of State.

21. DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT SERVICE REVIEW UPDATE

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Officer – Growth and Investment (Part 1 – agenda item 8) concerning an update on the findings of the review of the Development Management service at the Council.

RESOLVED THAT – IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT the report be noted.

Note: this decision is not subject to call in.

Partnerships and Wellbeing Portfolio

22. RUGBY ART GALLERY AND MUSEUM FORWARD PLAN AND OPERATIONAL POLICIES 2024-2028

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Officer – Leisure and Wellbeing (Part 1 – agenda item 9) concerning the proposed adoption of the Rugby Art Gallery and Museum's Forward Plan for 2024-2028 and operational policies.

RESOLVED THAT - the Rugby Art Gallery and Museum Forward Plan and associated policies for 2024-2028 be approved.

23. RUGBY BOROUGH'S OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC ATHLETES

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Officer – Leisure and Wellbeing (Part 1 – agenda item 10) concerning proposals to celebrate the success of known athletes who have represented their country at either the Olympic or Paralympic Games.

RESOLVED THAT –

- (1) the proposals for the acknowledgement and celebration of Rugby Olympians and Paralympians as detailed within the report be approved; and
- (2) future local Olympians and Paralympians who achieve a medal be automatically awarded civic honours.

Note: this decision is not subject to call in.

Finance and Performance, Legal and Governance Portfolio

24. FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE MONITORING QUARTER 1 2024/25

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Officer – Finance and Performance (Part 1 – agenda item 11) concerning the Council's current financial and performance position as at the end of the first quarter of the 2024/25 financial year.

RESOLVED THAT –

- (1) the Council's forecast financial position for 2024/25 be noted;
- (2) performance information in section 5 be noted; and
- (3) **IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT** the 2024/25 budget virements as detailed in section 4 to be approved.

25. INITIAL REVIEW OF GENERAL FUND BUDGET 2025/26

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Officer – Finance and Performance (Part 1 – agenda item 12) concerning the Council’s initial review of its General Fund budget for the 2025/26 financial year.

RESOLVED THAT – the information on the budget setting process for 2025/26 be noted.

Note: this decision is not subject to call in.

26. TREASURY MANAGEMENT 2023/24 – ANNUAL REPORT

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Officer – Finance and Performance (Part 1 – agenda item 13) concerning the Council’s treasury management activities for 2023/24.

RESOLVED THAT – the Treasury Management report for 2023/24 be noted.

27. APPOINTMENTS TO WORKING GROUPS 2024/25

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Officer – Legal and Governance (Part 1 – agenda item 14) concerning appointments to working groups for 2024/25.

RESOLVED THAT –

- (1) the Working Groups for the 2024/25 municipal year, as detailed in paragraph 3.1 of the report, be approved;
- (2) delegated authority be given to the Chief Officer – Legal and Governance, in consultation with the Chair and political Group Leaders, to determine the composition of, and appoint to, the working groups;
- (3) members of all working groups note that they represent the views of their Group at meetings and provide regular feedback to them on workstreams;
- (4) each working group review its terms of reference at its first meeting of the municipal year; and
- (5) the Grants Working Group and the Gypsies and Travellers Working Group be disestablished.

28. REGULATORY OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS 2000 (RIPA) POLICY

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Officer – Legal and Governance (Part 1 – agenda item 15) concerning updates to the Regulatory of Investigatory Powers 2000 (RIPA) Policy.

RESOLVED THAT –

- (1) the RIPA Policy attached at Appendix 1 be approved; and

- (2) delegated authority be granted to the Chief Officer for Legal and Governance to make any non-material amendments to the approved RIPA Policy and this shall include any necessary updates to the officers/roles as listed.

Communities and Homes, Regulation and Safety Portfolio

29. THE REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR SOCIAL HOUSING

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Officer – Communities and Homes (Part 1 – agenda item 16) concerning details of the new regulatory framework for providers of social housing.

RESOLVED THAT - the new regulatory framework introduced by the Social Housing (Regulation) Act 2023 and the resulting requirements of the Regulator of Social Housing and the Housing Ombudsman Service be noted.

30. SUPPORT FOR COUNCIL TENANTS IN PAYING THEIR RENT

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Officer – Communities and Homes (Part 1 – agenda item 17) concerning support provided to tenants who are potentially having difficulties in maintaining their rent payments.

RESOLVED THAT - the report be noted.

31. THE IMPACT OF THE VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR ORGANISATIONS FUNDED BY THE COUNCIL IN 2023/24

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Officer – Communities and Homes (Part 1 – agenda item 18) concerning the positive impact and achievements of the voluntary and community sector organisations funded by the Council during 2023/24.

RESOLVED THAT –

- (1) the content of the report be noted; and
- (2) the achievements of the organisations supported through Council grant funding during 2023/24 be commended.

CHAIR