

THE CABINET

Minutes of a Meeting of the Cabinet held in the Luttrell Room, County Hall, Taunton, on Monday 10th July 2017 at 10am.

PRESENT

Cllr D Fothergill (in the Chair)

Cllr A Groskop
Cllr D Hall
Cllr D Huxtable
Cllr C Lawrence
Cllr F Nicholson
Cllr J Woodman

Junior Cabinet members:
Cllr C Aparicio Paul
Cllr Fraschini
Cllr G Verdon

Other Members present: Cllr S Coles, Cllr J Hunt, Cllr L Leyshon, Cllr T Lock, Cllr T Munt, Cllr G Noel, Cllr J Thorne, Cllr A Wedderkopp, Cllr R Williams

Apologies for absence: Cllr F Purbrick

12 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – agenda item 2

There were no declarations of interest.

13 **MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF THE CABINET HELD ON 14 JUNE 2017** - agenda item 3

The Cabinet agreed the minutes and the Chairman signed these as a correct record of the proceedings.

14 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (PQT)** – agenda item 4

There were no public questions.

15 **SOMERSET ENERGY INNOVATION CENTRE – APPOINTING A CONSTRUCTION COMPANY** - agenda item 5

The Cabinet Member for Resources and Economic Development, Cllr David Hall, introduced the report highlighting that: phase 1 of the Somerset Energy Innovation Centre opened in February 2016; and that the Council was now in a position to proceed with phase 2 and to develop the design of phase 3, subject to securing funding. Cllr Hall further drew member's attention to the impact assessment appended to the report.

The Commissioning Manager – Economy, Lynda Madge, informed members that Phase 2 consisted of light industrial units and was expected to create 112 jobs, with a GVA of £6m per annum. Members were further informed that Phase 1 had met all expected outputs within its first year of operation.

Further points raised in the debate included: the timescales for completion; the potential use of a Clerk of Works; and the use of wind power.

Cllr David Huxtable requested further details of the Somerset Energy Innovation Centre phases 2 and 3 funding arrangements. Paula Hewitt, Lead Commissioner for Economic and Community Infrastructure services offered to provide a briefing to Cllr Huxtable and Cllr Coles.

The Commercial and Business Services Director informed members that the Council uses external providers to meet its property needs, and that the Somerset Energy and Innovation Centre contract had been awarded through the Scape framework, which included appropriate checks and balances.

The Chairman asked if there was support for the proposal and both junior and cabinet members were in consensus.

Following consideration of the officer report, impact assessment and discussion, the Cabinet RESOLVED to:

- Approve the appointment of the construction works contractor Wilmott Dixon via the SCAPE Major Works Construction Framework for the construction of SEIC2; and
- Authorise the development of the design for SEIC 3 to progress to RIBA Stage 3.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report

REASON FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report

16 **TREASURY MANAGEMENT END OF YEAR REPORT 2016/17** – agenda item 6

Cllr David Hall introduced the report which covered the treasury management activity for 2016/17, and included details of capital financing, borrowing, and investment activity and reported on the risk implications of treasury decisions and transactions.

The Director of Finance and Performance informed Members that due to the declining number of participants, and the difficulty of straight forward comparison it had been decided that the Council would no longer participate in the Benchmarking Club.

Further points raised in the debate included: the potential to reduce the 4.66% weighted average paid on total borrowings; that no borrowing had been required during the year; the need for the full detail of the 2017/18 MTFP savings proposals; and the cost of out of county placements.

The Chairman asked if there was support for the proposal and both junior and cabinet members were in consensus.

Following consideration of the officer report and appendices the Cabinet RESOLVED to approve the report and submit it to Full Council on 19th July 2017.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report

REASON FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report

17 **REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORTS END OF MAY 2017/18 – agenda item 7**

Cllr David Hall introduced the report which provided the first indication of the potential Revenue Budget outturn position for the 2017/18 financial year. Cllr Hall emphasised that the report was being considered early in the financial year; that the pressures on Local Authority budgets are sector wide; and that the report included a number of positive points.

The Director of Finance and Performance noted that: the potential overspend was less than at the same point last year; and the Children and Families Operations projected overspend included out of county placements, where work to control spend was on-going.

Cllr David Huxtable, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care highlighted the Adult Social Care service redesign work and invited the Shadow Cabinet Member to meet with him regarding this.

Cllr Frances Nicholson, Cabinet Member for Children and Families informed Members that out of county placements included independent providers within Somerset, and that other Local Authorities also use the provision within the County.

Further points raised in the debate included: the importance of ensuring all children are safe whilst controlling costs; and the need for the full detail of the 2017/18 MTFP savings proposals to be made available to all Members. The Director of Finance and Performance undertook to provide the information regarding the 2017/18 MTFP savings.

The Chairman asked if there was support for the proposal and both junior and cabinet members were in consensus.

Following consideration of the officer report, appendix and discussion, the Cabinet RESOLVED to note the contents of the report and the potential outturn position for the year.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report

REASON FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report

18 **COUNCIL PERFORMANCE REPORT END OF MAY 2017/18 - agenda item 8**

The Strategic Manager for Performance, Emma Plummer, presented the report which offered an overview of the Council's performance across the organisation. The performance summary was depicted in the table at 2.2, there were three red segments which were for consideration and further explanation was shown in appendix A. The Strategic Manager highlighted that this was an extra report, which had been brought forward to be in line

with the end of year Budget Monitoring report.

Members were further informed that work was on-going to increase the number of performance measures which populate C3 Working with our Partners.

Further points raised in the debate included: on-going work to reduce the number of cases of delayed transfer of care; reducing future demand on services through prevention; the Children and Young Peoples Plan, the increased demand for services; and OFSTED inspection timescales.

The Chairman of Scrutiny Committee for Policies and Place, Cllr Tony Lock, highlighted the importance of ensuring Children's and Adults' Services reduce costs sufficiently quickly to prevent the potential end of year overspend.

Cllr David Hall, Cabinet Member for Resources highlighted on-going work regarding business rates and major construction projects within the County. Cllr Hall further thanked Cllr Lock and the Scrutiny for Policies and Place Committee for their work.

The Chairman asked if there was support for the proposal and both junior and cabinet members confirmed they were in consensus.

Following consideration of the officer report, appendix and discussion, the Cabinet:

1. Considered the information contained within the report specifically those areas identified as a potential concern under Section 3.0 of this report and the "issues for consideration" section of Appendix A.
2. Agreed the report and Appendix A as the latest position for Somerset County Council against its County Plan.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report

REASON FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report

(Cllr David Fothergill left the meeting, and Cllr David Hall took the Chair)

19 **DEVELOPMENT OF THE MEDIUM TERM FINANCAL PLAN 2018/19 –**
agenda item 9

Cllr David Hall, Cabinet Member for Resources introduced the report, highlighting the reshaping of services and continuation of the themed MTFP approach.

The Director of Finance and Performance informed members that: the themed budget setting methodology allowed a long term approach; that longer term approaches were encouraged by CIPFA; and that Capital grant funding should be used to maximum benefit.

Further points raised in the debate included: attracting investment to Somerset; borrowing to invest; ensuring that any additional responsibilities transferred to Local Authorities carry adequate funding; ensuring the MTFP and the County Plan work is undertaken simultaneously; timescales for refreshing the County Plan; and potential options for placing wind turbines on the Somerset Levels.

The Director of Finance and Performance noted that the Council would need further expertise to advise on an investment strategy if it were to invest outside of its core functions.

Following consideration of the officer report and discussion, the Cabinet RESOLVED to note the forecast MTFP position for the years 2018/19 to 2021/22 as set out in this report and supported the proposed approach to the development of the MTFP.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report

REASON FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report

20 **ANY OTHER URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS** – agenda item 10

Cllr John Woodman, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport informed members that the Taunton Northern Inner Distributor Road would open on 11 July and that the dispute with Carillion, the contractor, was on-going.

(The meeting ended at 11.16 am)

CHAIRMAN