



# **Rutland County Council**

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Minutes of a **MEETING of the CABINET** held via Zoom on Tuesday, 8th March, 2022 at 10.00 am

<b>PRESENT:</b>	Councillor O Hemsley (Chair) Councillor S Harvey Councillor I Razzell	Councillor L Stephenson (Vice-Chair) Councillor K Payne Councillor D Wilby
<b>OFFICERS PRESENT:</b>	Mark Andrews Saverio Della Rocca Dawn Godfrey Penny Sharp Marie Rosenthal Tom Delaney	Chief Executive Strategic Director for Resources Strategic Director for Children's Services Strategic Director for Places Monitoring Officer Governance Manager
<b>IN ATTENDANCE:</b>	Councillor J Fox	Chair, Growth Infrastructure and Resources Scrutiny Committee

## **1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence.

## **2 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND/OR HEAD OF THE PAID SERVICE**

Mark Andrews, Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service, advised Cabinet that the Council had begun working with regional partners and Rutland's local network of voluntary organisations in preparation for provision of support for Ukrainian refugees.

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Councillor I Razzell joined the meeting at this point.

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## **3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **4 RECORD OF DECISIONS**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 15 February 2022.

**RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 15 February 2022 be **AGREED**.

## **5 ITEMS RAISED BY SCRUTINY**

A report was received from the Growth, Infrastructure and Resources Scrutiny Committee, Councillor J Fox, Chair of the Committee, presented the report which informed Cabinet of several key considerations by the Committee and made several recommendations to officers and Cabinet.

In response to the recommendations regarding the Minerals Authority Contract Councillor I Razzell, Portfolio Holder for Planning, Highways and Transport thanked Councillor Fox for the Committee's work on the topic, and undertook to work with the Committee on the future of the contract and ensure the requested information was provided to Cabinet and the Committee in due course.

In response to the recommendation regarding 4Oakham Councillor O Hemsley, Leader of the Council, confirmed he was still waiting to meet the Mayors of Oakham and Uppingham and would do so as soon as convenient, although the Leader set out that any decision regarding the future of 4Oakham should be determined by the town itself. Councillor Fox was thanked for her work on 4Oakham alongside the Chair of the organisation.

In response to the recommendations regarding the Grounds Maintenance and Forestry Procurement Councillor L Stephenson, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Communities, Environment and Climate Change, confirmed that the action to allow Councillors additional time to feed into the consultation had taken place, Councillor Stephenson undertook to progress the remaining actions through the Project Board.

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Councillor J Fox left the meeting at this point.

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## **6 FUTURE RUTLAND VISION**

Report No. 53/2022 was presented by Councillor O Hemsley, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Portfolio Holder for Policy, Strategy, Partnerships, Economy and Infrastructure. The report provided Cabinet with a final Future Rutland Vision following the latest consultation exercise and recommended the Vision to Council for approval. Councillor Hemsley thanked all the respondents to the various stages of consultation and to the staff involved in compiling the final Vision.

Members strongly welcomed the public involvement throughout the process, the principles of the Vision recognising the need for the Council to operate within its financial means was also welcomed. It was also suggested that following Council approval, Members should use the values of the Vision when representing the Council on external organisations.

### **RESOLVED**

In consultation with Cabinet Councillor O Hemsley, Leader of the Council:

1. **NOTED** the outputs of the final consultation exercise and the subsequent amendments made to the draft Future Rutland Vision.
2. **NOTED** the final Future Rutland Vision.
3. **RECOMMENDED** that Council endorses the Future Rutland Vision as a shared vision for the County as shaped by the community.
4. **RECOMMENDED** that Council adopt the Future Rutland Vision as a key document which underpins the Corporate Plan and future Council strategies and approaches.

## **7 INTERNAL AUDIT DELEGATION**

Report No. 50/2022 was presented by Councillor K Payne, Portfolio Holder for Finance, Governance and Performance, Change and Transformation. The report sought approval to transfer the existing Internal Audit delegation agreement from the current hosts (Milton Keynes Council, Northamptonshire County Council and Cambridgeshire County Council) to North Northamptonshire Council following local government reorganisation and to extend the agreement to March 2027. The report and its content were welcomed by Members.

### **RESOLVED**

In consultation with Cabinet Councillor K Payne, Portfolio Holder for Finance, Governance and Performance, Change and Transformation:

- 1) **TRANSFERED** the internal audit delegation agreement from the existing hosts (Milton Keynes Council, Northamptonshire County Council and Cambridgeshire County Council) to North Northamptonshire Council and extended it for a further five years
- 2) **DELEGATED** authority to the Strategic Director for Resources in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder to finalise the delegation agreement.

## **8 DOMESTIC WASTE AND RELATED CONTRACTS - OPTIONS**

Report No. 51/2022 was presented by Councillor L Stephenson, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Communities, Environment and Climate Change. The report outlined the available options for a new waste collection service and made recommendations on the best option for waste collection in Rutland, which would be taken for soft market testing before a formal decision came back to Cabinet on the procurement of the contract at a later date. Councillor Stephenson highlighted the need for the Council to operate within its means and welcomed the involvement of the Portfolio Holder for Finance and the Section 151 Officer on the Project Board for the procurement.

Members welcome the acknowledgement of the need for the Council to live within its means given the limited information on government financial support for implementing the required changes from the Resources and Waste Strategy and the Environment Act 2021.

Concerns were expressed regarding the single option recommended in the report and

there was a desire for other options to be left available at the current stage, in response it was confirmed that the intention was to go out for soft-market testing to scope out the terms of a future waste contract which could include consideration of other options. Penny Sharp, Strategic Director for Places set out that there was a need for a political steer from Cabinet but reiterated that the final award criteria would be coming back to Cabinet and Council for approval.

## **RESOLVED**

In consultation with Cabinet Councillor L Stephenson, Portfolio Holder for Communities, Environment and Climate Change:

- 1) **APPROVED** the preferred option 2bii for waste and recycling collections, as set out below:
  - a) Dry mixed recycling with paper and cardboard to be collected separately every fortnight
  - b) Separate weekly food waste collections
  - c) Reduced capacity residual waste bin to be collected fortnightly

## **9 HIGHWAYS CAPITAL PROGRAMME - FIRST ALLOCATION 2022/23**

Report No. 52/2022 was presented by Councillor I Razzell, Portfolio Holder for Planning, Highways and Transport. The report sought approval for the first allocation of the Highway Capital Programme, funded from the Capital Highway Maintenance Block needs based allocated, by the Department for Transport for 2022/23.

Members welcomed the report and noted the often difficult circumstances faced by officers in maintaining the highways. The FixMyStreet was also celebrated as an effective means for residents to report issues to the Council.

In consultation with Cabinet Councillor I Razzell, Portfolio Holder for Planning, Highways and Transport:

**APPROVED** the spend of the Department for Transport (DfT) Capital Highways Maintenance Block funding allocation received to the value of £1,000,000 is used for highway carriageway, footway and drainage work as per Appendix A.

## **10 FUEL CARD CONTRACT PROCUREMENT AND AWARD**

Report No. 25/2022 was presented by Councillor I Razzell, Portfolio Holder for Planning, Highways and Transport. The report set out the procurement process to be followed and proposed award criteria for the procurement of the Council's Fuel Card contract, along with a recommendations for approval of delegation of the final award.

In response to a query, it was confirmed by Penny Sharp, Strategic Director for Places, that the issuing of fuel cards was closely monitored and signed off by individual line managers.

In consultation with Cabinet Councillor I Razzell, Portfolio Holder for Planning, Highways and Transport:

- 1) **APPROVED** the procurement mode and criteria for the award of the Council's Fuel Card contract.

- 2) **DELEGATED** authority to the Strategic Director for Places in consultation with the Portfolio Holder with responsibility for Transport to award the contract resulting from this procurement.

## **11 CLEANING CONTRACT - EXTENSION REQUEST AND PROCUREMENT OF NEW CONTRACT**

Report No. 54/2022 was presented by Councillor O Hemsley - Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Policy, Strategy, Partnerships, Economy and Infrastructure. The report sought approval to extend the existing cleaning contract with S4 Facilities Ltd (trading as Extra Fresh) for cleaning of Council properties, pending procurement of a new cleaning contract following the conclusion of the ongoing property asset review. It was highlighted that there were also many ongoing changes to the Council's working practices and the proposals would ensure service continuity allowing the contract to be placed with the minimum delay and service disruption.

In response to a query, it was confirmed by Penny Sharp, Strategic Director for Places, that the initial report from the asset review was expected by April of 2022 and it was considered possible to have a new contract [prepared in time for the end of the proposed extension in 2023.

### **RESOLVED**

In consultation with Cabinet Councillor O Hemsley, Portfolio Holder for Policy, Strategy, Partnerships, Economy and Infrastructure:

**APPROVED** the extension of the existing cleaning contract of Council properties to 31 March 2023 at an estimated cost up to £141,756 pa for 12 months ending 31 March 2023, including consumables and laundry but excluding exceptional events such as deep cleaning following a Covid-19 event.

## **12 RUTLAND FAMILY HUB**

Report No. 48/2022 was presented by Councillor D Wilby, Portfolio Holder for Education and Children's Services. The report updated Cabinet on the national and local Family Hub programme and set out the opportunities and actions to develop a Family Hub for Rutland.

The paper was welcomed by Members and in particular the focus given to the sizeable Armed Forces community in the county.

### **RESOLVED**

Councillor D Wilby, Portfolio Holder for Education and Children's Services and the Cabinet:

**NOTED** the development of a national and local Family Hub programme and **ENDORSED** the opportunities the Family Hub provides, to build upon existing services in Rutland.

## **13 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

It was moved by Councillor O Hemsley that the meeting continue in a public session as it was felt Cabinet could consider the following item of business without divulging the content of the exempt appendix.

This was seconded and upon being put to the vote, the motion was unanimously carried.

**RESOLVED**

That the meeting remain in a public session.

**14 WRITE OFF OF IRRECOVERABLE DEBTS**

Report No. 38/2022 was presented by Councillor K Payne, Portfolio Holder for Finance, Governance and Performance, Change and Transformation. The report sought approval to write off debts, over the value of £2,500, where officers believed that there was little or no prospect of recovering them. It was highlighted that in many of the cases before Cabinet it would not be cost effective to pursue the sums.

**RESOLVED**

In consultation with Cabinet Councillor K Payne, Portfolio Holder for Finance, Governance and Performance, Change and Transformation:

- 1) **NOTED** the action taken to recover outstanding debts.
- 2) **APPROVED** the write off of the debts shown in Exempt Appendix A.

**15 ANY ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of urgent business for consideration.

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**The Chair declared the meeting closed at 10.52 am.**

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