



Rutland County Council

Catmose Oakham Rutland LE15 6HP

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MINUTES AND RECORD OF DECISIONS AT A MEETING OF THE CABINET

Tuesday, 15th August, 2023 at 10.00 am

PRESENT: Councillor G Waller (Chair) Councillor A Johnson (Vice-Chair)
Councillor P Browne Councillor D Ellison
Councillor T Smith Councillor C Wise

OFFICERS PRESENT: Mark Andrews Chief Executive
Dawn Godfrey Strategic Director for Children and Families
Penny Sharp Strategic Director for Places
Kim Sorsky Strategic Director for Adult Services and Health
Kirsty Nutton Strategic Director for Resources
Angela Wakefield Strategic Director for Law and Governance
Tom Delaney Democratic Services Manager

Decisions published on 16 August 2023

Key Decisions will be implemented on 24 August unless the Call-in Procedure as outlined in Procedure Rule 149 is invoked.

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, announced to Cabinet that officers were currently working to address significant business continuity issues within the Highways Team due to vacancies and recruitment issues. It was confirmed senior officers had met and agreed short term interventions to provide additional resource whilst accelerating planned investments in the customer journey aimed to reduce undue pressures on the service.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4 MINUTES

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 11 July 2023.

RESOLVED

- a) That the minutes of the meeting held on 11 July 2023 be **APPROVED**.

5 ITEMS RAISED BY SCRUTINY

A report had been received from the Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the report set out suggestions from the Economic Strategy Task and Finish Group regarding the proposed strategy.

The Chair confirmed that the Task and Finish Group had been involved since the early stages of the process of preparing the strategy, and that the suggestions would be taken into consideration during the drafting of the strategy which was due for consideration by Cabinet in October.

6 PROPOSED RAILWAY TICKET OFFICE CLOSURES

The Chair presented the item which was for Cabinet to discuss the proposals from the Department for Transport to close the ticket office at Oakham train station. Members of Cabinet felt the proposals for closure of Oakham's ticket office presented significant issues for residents requiring additional assistance in navigating an already complicated ticketing system.

It was proposed by Councillor C Wise and seconded that the Leader be asked to respond to the ongoing consultation on behalf of the Council setting out the concerns raised, and to also write to the Secretary of State for Transport on the matter, copying in the Member of Parliament for Rutland and Melton.

Upon being put to the vote, with six votes in favour the motion was unanimously carried.

RESOLVED

- a) That the Leader be asked to respond to the ongoing consultation on behalf of the Council setting out the concerns raised, and to also write to the Secretary of State for Transport on the matter, copying in the Member of Parliament for Rutland and Melton.

7 RESERVES STRATEGY AND POLICY - MANAGEMENT OF RESERVE FUNDS

Report No. 114/2023 was received from Councillor A Johnson, Portfolio Holder for Resources. The report presented a proposed Reserves Strategy & Policy which would provide the context of use of the reserve balances to support the delivery of a sustainable financial position for the Council.

It was moved by Councillor P Browne and seconded that the recommendations of Report No. 114/2023 be approved. Upon being put to the vote, with six votes in favour the motion was unanimously carried.

That Cabinet:

- a) **RECOMMENDED** to Council the approval of the Reserves Strategy & Policy which set the future direction of travel and planned use of reserves.

8 2023/24 QUARTER 1 – REVENUE AND CAPITAL FORECAST REPORT

Report No. 116/2023 was received from Councillor A Johnson, Portfolio Holder for Resources. The report provided Cabinet with the forecast outturn position for both the revenue budget and capital programme for 2023/24.

Councillor Johnson moved an amendment for the recommendations to include approval of the requested adjustment to the Adults Fair Cost of Care budget as set out in section 3.2 of the report. This was seconded and upon being put to the vote, with six votes in favour the amendment was unanimously carried.

The motion as amended was then moved by Councillor T Smith and seconded. Upon being put to the vote, with six votes in favour the motion as amended was unanimously carried.

RESOLVED

That Cabinet:

- a) **NOTED** the forecast year end position as at the end of June (first quarter) for:
 - i) Revenue Position (Section 3)
 - ii) Capital Position (Section 4)
 - iii) Dedicated Schools Grant (Section 6)
- b) **NOTED** the update on the Financial Sustainability Strategy (Section 7)
- c) **NOTED** performance against the Treasury Management Prudential Indicators was in line with or better than the Strategy set (Appendix B)
- d) **APPROVED** the request for a budget adjustment for Adults Fair Cost of Care, as set out in section 3.2 of the report.

9 LEVELLING UP FUND: COMMISSIONING DESIGN AND PLANNING TO RIBA STAGE 3

Report No. 118/2023 was received from Councillor G Waller, Leader of the Council. The report sought approval to access Levelling Up Fund (LUF) capital grant monies to procure the technical design phases of Rutland's LUF projects up to RIBA (Royal Institute of British Architects) stage 4.

The recommendations of Report No. 118/2023 were moved by Councillor A Johnson and seconded. Upon being put to the vote, with six votes in favour the motion was unanimously approved.

RESOLVED

That Cabinet:

- a) **APPROVED** the commissioning of works using Levelling Up Fund (LUF) capital grant to enable delivery of Rutland's three capital projects to RIBA Stage 3: The Medi-Tech Centre; The Mobi Hub; and the investment in cultural and visitor economy related to the Ichthyosaur and roman villa.
- b) **RECOMMENDED** to Council that approval be given in due course to the commissioning of works to RIBA stage 4 and beyond to procure necessary design, build and constructions partners to deliver on LUF capital projects.
- c) **DELEGATED** authority to the Strategic Director for Places in consultation with the Leader and Portfolio Holder for Levelling Up Grant & Economic Development to approve associated procurement and spend.

10 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Chair set out that as it was expected both of the following items would require information in the exempt appendices to be discussed, the relevant Portfolio Holders would provide a brief introduction to Report Nos 115/2023 and 117/2023 before a motion to exclude the press and public was considered. Following discussions, the public session would then resume for the Cabinet's votes on the matters.

Following introductions to the items it was moved by Councillor C Wise and seconded that the press and public be excluded, upon being put to the vote, with six votes in favour the motion was unanimously carried.

RESOLVED

- a) That the public and press be **EXCLUDED** from the meeting in accordance with Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, and in accordance with the Access to Information provisions of Procedure Rule 239, as the following item of business is likely to involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

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The meeting moved to an exempt session at 10:52 am and returned to a public session at 11:19 am.

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11 WASTE AND STREET CLEANSING VEHICLE PROVISION - OPTIONS FOR PROVISION OF VEHICLES

It was moved by Councillor C Wise and seconded that the recommendations of Report No. 115/2023 be approved. Upon being put to the vote, with six votes in favour the motion was unanimously approved.

- a) **AUTHORISED** the Strategic Director for Places, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Highways, Transport, and the Environment and Portfolio Holder with responsibility for Finance, to agree to fund the purchase of vehicles to provide the fleet for the contract, to be initially financed by the Contractor so that orders may be placed without delay.
- b) **AUTHORISED** the Strategic Director for Places, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Highways, Transport and the Environment to agree the fleet replacement programme with the Contractor.
- c) **APPROVED** the required capital contribution to the Contractor for the purchase of vehicles up to £2.069m as per the financial implications in Appendix B paragraph 2.
- d) **AMENDED** the Treasury Management Performance Indicators as per Appendix B paragraph 3.
- e) **AUTHORISED** the Strategic Director of Resources in consultation with the Portfolio Holder with responsibility for Finance to incorporate the financing of the capital contribution into the Medium-Term Financial Strategy making best use of reserves and borrowing options to mitigate risks as outlined in paragraph 8 and Appendix B.
- f) **NOTED** the risk to service continuity if a replacement fleet was not available by May 2024.

12 OUTCOME OF LEISURE PROCUREMENT INITIAL TENDER

An amendment to the recommendations was moved by Councillor G Waller and seconded to add 'stage of' to the third recommendation. Upon being put to the vote, with six votes in favour the amendment was unanimously carried.

The recommendations of Report No. 117/2023, as amended, were then moved by Councillor G Waller and seconded. Upon being put to the vote, with six votes in favour the motion was unanimously carried.

RESOLVED:

That Cabinet:

- a) **NOTED** the outcome of the Initial Tender Stage of the procurement for a leisure operator.
- b) **AGREED** to proceed to Stage 2 of the procurement of a leisure operator, and **NOTED** that Contract Award will be a decision for either Cabinet or Council depending on value.
- c) **DELEGATED** authority to the Strategic Director for Places, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Portfolio Holder with responsibility for Finance to determine the approach to energy risk to be specified in the Final stage of Tender for the operation of the site.

13 ANY ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of urgent business for consideration.

14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

This was noted to be Tuesday, 12 September 2023.

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The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 11.24 am.

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