



Rutland County Council

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Minutes of the **MEETING of the CABINET** held Via Zoom on Tuesday, 15th February, 2022 at 10.00 am

PRESENT:	Councillor O Hemsley (Chair) Councillor S Harvey Councillor I Razzell	Councillor L Stephenson (Vice-Chair) Councillor K Payne Councillor D Wilby
OFFICERS	Mark Andrews	Chief Executive
PRESENT:	Saverio Della Rocca Dawn Godfrey John Morley Penny Sharp Marie Rosenthal Tom Delaney	Strategic Director for Resources Strategic Director for Children's Services Strategic Director for Adult Services and Health Strategic Director for Places Monitoring Officer Governance Manager

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 that the Statement of Persons Nominated had been recently published for the upcoming Ryhall and Catsterton by-election, with Richard Foster standing as the Conservative Party candidate, and Rick Wilson standing as the Green Party candidate. The poll would be taking place between 07:00 and 22:00 on Thursday, 10 March.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors S Harvey declared personal family interests in respect of item 7, Fees and Charges, and Item 13, Home to School Transport Contract. Councillor Harvey confirmed she had been advised by the Monitoring Officer she would be able to participate in the debate but would abstain from any votes on the items and would leave the meeting if discussion became focused on the areas of the interests.

Councillor L Stephenson also declared a personal interest in respect of item 7, Fees and Charges, as a payee of the fee set for the placing of A-boards. Councillor Stephenson confirmed she would remain in the meeting but abstain from any vote on the item.

4 RECORD OF DECISIONS

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 18 January 2022.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 18 January 2022 be **APPROVED**.

5 ITEMS RAISED BY SCRUTINY

There were no items raised by Scrutiny for consideration.

6 REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET 2022/23

Report No. 09/2022 was presented by Councillor K Payne, Portfolio Holder for Finance, Governance and Performance, Change and Transformation. The report presented the final budget proposals for 2022/23 for recommending to Council for approval. It was highlighted that the headline proposals were unchanged following the three-week public consultation, including market stalls in Oakham and Uppingham, and consideration of the budget proposals by the Scrutiny Committees. However, it was noted that the expected funding required from reserves to balance the budget had been reduced to £6000 following technical changes.

Members thanked the Section 151 Officer, the finance team, and all those involved in the budget setting process for their work in preparation of the budget.

RESOLVED

In consultation with Cabinet Councillor Karen Payne, Portfolio Holder for Finance, Governance and Performance, Change and Transformation recommended to Council that it:

- **APPROVES** the General Fund Budget for 2022/23 of £42.345m (Section 11)
- **APPROVES** an increase in Council Tax of 4.99% including 3% for the Adult Social Care precept resulting in a Band D charge of £1,917.36 (Section 10)
- **APPROVES** use of the remaining Government hardship fund to provide further council tax discounts to the most vulnerable residents (10.2.2)
- **DELEGATES** authority to the Strategic Director for Resources in consultation with the Portfolio Holder with responsibility for Finance to administer the Council Tax energy rebate scheme using new burdens funding as appropriate.
- **DELEGATES** authority to the Strategic Director for Resources and Strategic Director for Adult Services and Health to use any new burdens funding for adult social care charging reforms as required to enable the Council to meet the October 2023 target dates.
- **DELEGATES** authority for the Chief Executive or Strategic Director for Resources in consultation with the Portfolio Holder with responsibility for Finance to continue discussions with cost reduction consultants and spend up to £100k on a viable project (8.3.7).
- **APPROVES** additions/deletions to the capital programme as per 12.1.2
- **APPROVES** changes to earmarked reserves as per 9.2.3
- **NOTES** that additional revenue or capital expenditure may be incurred in 2022/23 funded through 2021/22 budget under spends to be carried forward via earmarked reserves. The use of reserves for budget carry forwards is not currently shown in the budget but will have no impact on the General Fund
- **APPROVES** the estimated surplus of £186k on the Collection Fund as at 31 March 2022 (Section 10.3) of which £159k is the Rutland share
- **NOTES** the responses to consultation (Section 15)
- **NOTES** the position on the Dedicated Schools Grant budget (Section 14)

- **DELEGATES** authority to the s151 Officer to make any necessary changes to the budget arising from the Council tax decision and/or any additional funding received.

7 FEES AND CHARGES 2022/23

Report No. 09/2022 was presented by Councillor K Payne, Portfolio Holder for Finance, Governance and Performance, Change and Transformation. The report set out the proposals for fees and charges for services provided by the Council for the financial year 2022/23, for recommending to Council for approval. It was highlighted that several informal queries from non-executive Members had been answered outside of the meeting.

RESOLVED

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

- 1) To **APPROVE** the level of fees and charges for 2022/23 as set out in Appendices 1-4 except for taxi and private hire vehicle licenses.
- 2) To **APPROVE** new fees for:
 - Learning Disability Day Centre Places (para 3.5),
 - Highways Vehicle Access Permits (para 4.5), and s278 agreement minimum fee (para 4.3),
 - Parking of solo motorcycles, Blue Badge over 3 hours, permits for residents in zone A and U3A permits for visitors of residents in zones C, E & V, and permits for carers (paras 4.17 and 4.20),
 - Coach Parking at Kilburn Road (para 4.18),
 - New parking services delivery, collection and photocopying of permits/season tickets, (para 4.21)
 - Installation of Advisory Blue Badge bays on street (para 4.22),
 - S106 monitoring fees (para 4.23) and exceptional review of Community Infrastructure Levy (para 4.24),
 - Museum and Castle full day hire and exclusive hire of the Castle for ceremonies (paras 4.10 and 4.11)
 - Registrars diary amendments and bookings (para 4.13).
- 3) To **NOTE** that taxi and private hire vehicle licenses fees will be subject to change based on the outcome of forthcoming consultation through a public notice procedure and be brought back for approval following that consultation.

8 QUARTER 3 FINANCE UPDATE

Report No. 08/2022 was presented by Councillor K Payne, Portfolio Holder for Finance, Governance and Performance, Change and Transformation. The report update Members on performance against the 21/22 budget and on any emerging finance issues that might affect the financial position in 2021/22 and beyond. It was noted that since the mid-year update there had been no significant concerns but savings had been made in respect of demand-led budgets in adult and children's care, and in vacant positions across the Council currently unfilled. Continuing overspends were noted with regard to Commercial Properties and the Resource Directorate Management.

RESOLVED

Councillor Karen Payne, Portfolio Holder for Finance, Governance and Performance, Change and Transformation and the Cabinet **NOTED** the updated financial position.

9 SUSTAINABLE WARMTH FUNDING ALLOCATION AND AWARD

Report No. 27/2022 was presented by Councillor I Razzell, Portfolio Holder for Planning, Highways and Transport. Councillor Razzell explained that since the publication of the report a further delivery option had been explored by Leicestershire districts led by Leicestershire County Council and there was an opportunity for the Council to accept the Sustainable Warmth funding via the shared Public Health service. It was requested that Cabinet support an amended recommendation to delegate the final decision regarding the Sustainable Warmth Funding Allocation from the Midlands Energy Hub to the Strategic Director for Places.

Members welcomed the report and amended proposals as a positive method to improve energy efficiency in Rutland homes.

RESOLVED

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

- 1) **NOTED** the resources available from the existing partnership with Peterborough City Council for housing retrofit.
- 2) **DELEGATED** the final decision regarding the Sustainable Warmth Funding Allocation from the Midlands Energy Hub for Local Authority Delivery Phase 3 and Home Upgrade Grant Phase 1, to the Strategic Director for Places, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder with responsibility for Planning, and the Section 151 Officer.

10 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE AND FORESTRY PROCUREMENT

Report No. was presented by Councillor L Stephenson, Portfolio Holder for Communities, Environment and Climate Change. The report sought approval to the establishment of the required project structures to allow the undertaking of the re-procurement of grounds maintenance and forestry services and to progress with the re-procurement exercise. It was highlighted that the intention was where possible the Council would secure the best possible value for money when procuring a new contract but this would often be subject to external factors.

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

- 1) **APPROVED** the re-procurement of a combined grounds maintenance and forestry contract as detailed in the Pre-Procurement Business Case attached at Appendix A and in accordance with the service-led governance arrangements detailed in the report.

- 2) **NOTED** that the Council has exercised a contractual option to extend the existing Grounds Maintenance contract to now expire on the 31st December 2023.
- 3) **NOTED** that the Council has exercised a contractual option to extend the existing Forestry contract to now expire on 31st December 2023.

11 PRIORITISED PROGRAMME FOR SPENDING OF COMMUTED SUMS FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Report No. 26/2022 was presented by Councillor I Razzell, Portfolio Holder for Planning, Highways and Transport. The report proposed a fresh bidding round for remaining resources in the Rutland Affordable Housing Fund and a process for future bidding rounds.

RESOLVED

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

- 1) **APPROVED** the priorities listed in section 3 of this report noting of the likely level of resources available for allocation through the bidding rounds.
- 2) **AUTHORISED** the Strategic Director of Places to establish a bidding process for grant applications setting out in a separate document for bidders the priorities in section 3, other lower priority bids that may be accepted and the details of the scoring matrix to be used by the Council.
- 3) **AUTHORISED** the Strategic Director of Places to determine grant applications in accordance with the bidding process.

12 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was moved by the Chair that the meeting remain in a public session as it was felt Cabinet would be able to consider the following items without divulging the contents of the confidential appendices to the reports. This was seconded and upon being put to the vote the motion was unanimously carried.

RESOLVED

That the meeting continue in a public session without exclusion of the press or public.

13 HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT CONTRACT AWARD

Report No. 19/2022 was presented by Councillor I Razzell, Portfolio Holder for Planning, Highways and Transport. The report set out the process and proposed award criteria for the procurement of home to school transport contracts, along with recommendations for approval and delegation of final award.

RESOLVED

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

- 1) **APPROVED** the procurement model (section 4) and criteria for the award of home to school transport (Appendix B) contracts for academic year 22/23.
- 2) **DELEGATED** authority to the Strategic Director for Places in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Highways & Transport to award the contracts resulting from this procurement.

14 **BUS SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLAN AND ENHANCED PARTNERSHIP**

Report No. 36/2022 was presented by Councillor I Razzell, Portfolio Holder for Planning, Highways and Transport. The report recommended the approval of the draft Rutland Enhanced Partnership Plan and Scheme, produced in line with Government requirements. The report also highlighted the implications associated with the Enhanced Partnership Plan and Scheme, sought approval to formally 'make' the EP Plan and EP Scheme and their submission to the Department for Transport (DfT).

During discussion officers in the Transport team were thanked for their work on the preparation of the detailed BSIP and EP given the difficult and changing deadlines and subsequent available funding allocations set by central government, and the need to continue lobbying for a fairer and simpler bidding process was agreed. The commitment to operate within the funding set by central government was also welcomed and Members highlighted the importance of setting bus routes that were viable and most likely to be used.

RESOLVED

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

- 1) **APPROVED** the draft Rutland Enhanced Partnership (EP) Plan and Enhanced Partnership (EP) for submission to Council for approval.
- 2) **DELEGATES** authority to the Strategic Director for Places, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Highways and Transport to approve any amendments to the EP Plan and EP Scheme prior to Council and recommends Council to undertake the same delegation.
- 3) **NOTED** that the Enhanced Partnership Plan and Enhanced Partnership Scheme once 'made' will be legally binding.
- 4) **NOTED** that the Enhanced Partnership Plan and Enhanced Partnership Scheme are subject to statutory consultation prior to being 'made'.

15 **ANY ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of urgent business for consideration.

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The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10.38 am.

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