

MINUTES OF CABINET

7 OCTOBER 2019

PRESENT:

Councillors Lowe (Chairman), Mrs Crane, Poole, Roberts, Ms Robbins and Mrs Simpson-Vince.

Councillors Miss Lawrence, Picker, Mrs O'Rourke and Roodhouse were also in attendance.

34. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 September 2019 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

35. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

36. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Item 5 of Part 1– Public consultation on the South West Rugby Supplementary Planning document – Councillors Mrs O'Rourke, Ms Robbins, Roodhouse, Mrs Simpson-Vince (non-pecuniary interests as defined by the Council's Code of Conduct for Councillors by virtue of land referred to in the report being owned by Warwickshire County Council, of which they are all serving Members).

37. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

In accordance with the Council's public question time procedure, Ms Rebecca Stevenson asked the following question of the Leader of the Council, Councillor Lowe:

1. When can Rugby residents expect to hear back on the steps the council plans to take as regards their declaration of a climate emergency in July; and
2. How the council reflects on being ranked so low on Green Party MEP for the West Midlands, Ellie Chowns' league table of local authority responses to the climate emergency?

Councillor Lowe, Leader of the Council, responded as follows:

1. The Council recognises the complexities of developing a response to the Climate Emergency and is keen to ensure that it does so in a way that is appropriate and meaningful. To this end, a cross party Members Working Group has been established to progress the agenda.

As detailed in the Notice of Motion which was agreed by Council on 18 July 2019, the working group will report back to Cabinet within 6 months on the actions and targets needed.

As this work progresses, we will ensure that residents are kept informed via the Council's website.

2. The Council notes the ranking of West Midlands Council responses to the Climate Emergency, by Ellie Chowns, Green Party MEP for the West Midlands.

The Council also notes the methodology which her team have adopted for determining this ranking.

Of note, six of the eight criteria which are used relate to matters which our cross-party working group will consider and advise on. It would be entirely wrong for the Council to have addressed those points in advance of the working group presenting their findings.

Growth and Investment Portfolio

38. PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE SOUTH WEST RUGBY SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT

Cabinet considered the report of the Head of Growth and Investment (Part 1 agenda item 5) concerning a proposed public consultation with regard to the draft South West Rugby Supplementary Planning Document.

RESOLVED THAT –

- (1) the South West Rugby Supplementary Planning Document be approved to go out to public consultation for a period of six weeks; and
- (2) delegated authority be given to the Head of Growth and Investment to make any necessary amendments to the current draft of the South West Rugby Supplementary Planning Document (as at Appendix 1 to the report) following completion of the viability testing work and the pre-consultation legal review of the South West Rugby Supplementary Planning Document.

39. WILLOUGHBY NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN EXAMINATION REPORT AND APPROVAL FOR REFERENDUM

Cabinet considered the report of the Head of Growth and Investment (Part 1 – agenda item 6) concerning a proposed referendum in relation to the Willoughby Neighbourhood Development Plan.

RESOLVED THAT -

- (1) the conclusions of the Examiner's report and recommended modifications to the Neighbourhood Development Plan be accepted; and
- (2) a referendum be held at the earliest practicable opportunity, to take place in the Willoughby Neighbourhood Area.

Corporate Resources Portfolio

40. INITIAL REVIEW OF GENERAL FUND BUDGET 2020/21

Cabinet considered the report of the Head of Corporate Resources and Chief Financial Officer (Part 1 – agenda item 7) concerning the Council's initial review of its General Fund budget for 2020/21.

RESOLVED THAT –

- (1) the initial outlook on the General Fund Revenue budget position for 2020/21 be noted alongside the Council's Medium-Term Financial Plan;
- (2) Cabinet considers the key decisions identified to date and identifies other policy or service changes required for consideration to deliver a balanced budget for 2020/21; and
- (3) a detailed scheme by scheme review will be carried out of the items in the Capital Programme to rationalise the overall programme in terms of affordability and sustainability.

Environment and Public Realm Portfolio

41. AMENDMENT TO CIVIL PENALTIES POLICY FOR PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING

Cabinet considered the report of the Head of Environment and Public Realm (Part 1- agenda item 8) concerning proposed amendments to the Council's Civil Penalties Policy for private sector housing.

RESOLVED THAT - IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT the updated Private Sector Housing Civil Penalties Policy (as set out in Appendix 1 to the report) be approved.

CHAIRMAN