

MINUTES OF CABINET

4 MARCH 2025

PRESENT:

Councillors Moran (Chair), Brown, C Edwards, Livesey, Mistry, O'Rourke and Robinson.

Councillors McKenzie and Poole were also in attendance.

89. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 February 2025 were approved and signed by the Chair.

90. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence from the meeting.

91. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

92. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

In accordance with the Council's public question time procedure. Mr Larkin submitted the following question to the Growth, Investment, Digital and Communications Portfolio Holder. Mr Larkin did not attend the meeting.

"With regard to agenda item 6 this evening – Local Plan preferred option consultation – is road safety considered a showstopper constraint on any site?"

The Growth, Investment, Digital and Communications Portfolio Holder, Councillor Robinson, provided the following response:

"As part of the Local Plan process a wide range of technical appraisals are undertaken to assess a sites suitability.

A Strategic Transport Assessment is one of these appraisals which will assess highway safety and network capacity. These findings will feed into the Local Plan process along with inputs from the Local Highway Authority which is Warwickshire County Council."

Growth, Investment, Digital and Communications portfolio

93. ECONOMIC STRATEGY 2025-2035 CONSULTATION

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Officer – Growth and Investment (Part 1 – agenda item 5) concerning a proposed public consultation on an Economic Strategy for 2025-35.

RESOLVED THAT –

- (1) the Economic Strategy at Appendix 1 to the report be approved for a 30 day consultation; and
- (2) the Chief Officer for Growth and Investment in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Growth & Investment and Digital & Communications be granted delegated authority to make amendments and corrections as necessary to the Economic Strategy prior to its publication for consultation.

94. LOCAL PLAN PREFERRED OPTIONS CONSULTATION

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Officer – Growth and Investment (Part 1 – agenda item 6) concerning the Rugby Borough Local Plan Preferred Option draft and policies map update for public consultation.

RESOLVED THAT – IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT –

- (1) the Preferred Option Local Plan attached as appendix 1 and policies map be approved for an eight-week public consultation;
- (2) delegated authority be given to the Chief Officer for Growth and Investment to make amendments and corrections as necessary to the Preferred Option Local Plan prior to its publication for consultation;
- (3) delegated authority be given to the Chief Officer for Growth and Investment to publish evidence documents and topic papers as part of the consultation; and
- (4) delegated authority be given to the Chief Officer for Growth and Investment to, in liaison with the portfolio holder, agree a list of locations for in-person consultation events.

Finance, Performance, Legal and Governance Portfolio

95. NON DOMESTIC RATE DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Officer – Finance and Performance (Part 1 – agenda item 7) concerning proposed changes to the Non Domestic Rates discretionary relief policies from 1 April 2025 onwards.

RESOLVED THAT – the Discretionary Rate relief guidance at Appendices 1,2 and 3 to the report be approved.

96. CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2025/26

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Officer – Legal and Governance (Part 1 – agenda item 8) concerning the proposed calendar of meetings for 2025/26.

RESOLVED THAT – the Calendar of Meetings for 2025/26, as at Appendix 1 to the report, be approved.

Communities, Homes, Regulation and Safety Portfolio

97. PROPOSED HOUSING ALLOCATIONS POLICY 2025

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Officer – Communities and Homes (Part 1 – agenda item 9) concerning a proposed Housing Allocations Policy for 2025.

RESOLVED THAT – IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT -

- (1) the proposed CBL Housing Allocation Policy 2025 (Appendix 1) be adopted; and
- (2) delegated authority be given to the Chief Officer (Communities and Homes):
 - a. to review and revise the policy in response to:
 - i. any national policy or legislative changes;
 - ii. in response to any policy changes instigated by the Council;
 - iii. reflect the requirements of any new leading and relevant case law;
 - b. report any significant changes to this policy to this Council's Cabinet;
 - c. to make minor changes to the policy in consultation with the Portfolio Holder responsible for the Housing Service; and
 - d. to make changes to the operating procedures.

98. HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN 2025-2029

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Officer – Communities and Homes (Part 1 – agenda item 9) concerning a proposed Homelessness Strategy and Action Plan for 2025 – 2029.

RESOLVED THAT – IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT –

- (1) the Rugby Homelessness Strategy 2025 – 2029 and action plan (Appendix 1) be adopted; and
- (2) delegated authority be given to the Chief Officer (Communities and Homes) to update the Action Plan on an annual basis, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Communities and Homes and the Rugby Homelessness Forum.

99. MOTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC UNDER SECTION 100(A)(4) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

RESOLVED THAT - under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of information defined in paragraphs 2 and 3 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

Finance, Performance, Legal and Governance Portfolio

100. REVENUES AND BENEFITS TEAM SERVICE TRANSFORMATION

Cabinet considered the private report of the Chief Officer – Finance and Performance (Part 2 – agenda item 1) concerning service transformation of the Revenues and Benefits teams.

RESOLVED THAT –

- (1) the Revenues and Benefits teams be combined into a single service function, as part of the wider Finance and Performance Service;
- (2) the action plan as per section 7 be approved with an updated report being presented to Cabinet following the appointment of the manager's post; and
- (3) IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT the post of Revenues and Benefits Manager be added to the establishment.

Communities, Homes, Regulation and Safety Portfolio

101. HOMES ENGLAND COMPLIANCE AUDIT REPORT

Cabinet considered the private report of the Chief Officer – Communities and Homes (Part 2 – agenda item 2) concerning the findings of a Homes England compliance audit report.

RESOLVED THAT – the outcome of the Homes England Compliance Audit report and measures taken be noted.

Note: this decision is not subject to call-in.

Item considered en bloc

102. URGENT DECISION UNDER DELEGATED POWERS – PURCHASE OF LAND

Cabinet considered the private report of the Acting Chief Executive (Part 2 – agenda item 3) concerning an urgent decision taken under delegated powers with regard to purchase of land.

RESOLVED THAT – the report be noted.

Note: this decision is not subject to call-in.

CHAIR