

NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

22nd July, 2020

A meeting of Cabinet was held on Wednesday 22nd July, 2020. Due to government guidance during the COVID-19 pandemic this meeting was held virtually at various remote locations and live streamed.

Present

Councillor J.A Jackson	(Finance and Civic Affairs (Leader))
Councillor N.J.P. Phillips	(Planning, Development and Health (Deputy Leader))
Councillor I.K. Lloyd	(Arts and Leisure)
Councillor J. Sheppard	(Central Services and Refuse)
Councillor C.M. Watkins	(Housing and Communities)

PART I – PUBLIC BUSINESS

CB7 Declarations of Interest

RESOLVED that the Declarations of Interest for this meeting are as set out in the Schedule attached to these minutes.

CB8 Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 24th June 2020, be approved and signed by the Chair.

CB9 General Fund, Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and Capital Programme Outturn 2019/20

The Executive Director – Resources submitted a report to Cabinet detailing the final outturn position for 2019/20 for the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account budgets and the 2019/20 Capital Programme spend and financing. The report also included an updated Capital Programme for 2020/21 to take account of slippage from the previous year.

RESOLVED that

- a) the outturn position for 2019/20 for the General Fund, HRA and Capital Programmes be noted;
- b) the earmarked reserve balances (as detailed in section 4 onwards of the report and Appendix B of the report) be approved;
- c) the updated General Fund and HRA Capital Programmes for 2020/21 as attached at Appendix E of the report be recommended to Council for approval; and

- d) due to the timescales involved with approving the Statement of Accounts for 2019/20, this report be marked not for call in.

Speakers:

Councillor K. Kondakor

Options

To request further information on the outturn position

Reasons

The Council must achieve a balanced budget each year

CB10 Submission of Final Business Case to Future High Streets Fund

The Director – Regeneration and Housing submitted a report to Cabinet outlining the work undertaken to date to complete the Final Business Case. The report also sought Cabinet’s approval to submit the Final Business case as summarised in Section 4 of the report in line with the deadline of 31st July 2020.

RESOLVED that

- a) the content of the Final Business Case as summarised in Section 4 of this report be approved;
- b) the submission of the Final Business Case by 31st July 2020 be approved by Cabinet;
- c) delegated authority be given to the Director – Regeneration and Housing, to make any minor amendments that may be necessary to the Final Business Case; and
- d) the report be marked not for call in due to the Government’s timescales involved for submission of the Final Business case.

Speakers:

Councillor K. Kondakor

Councillor K. Wilson

Options

To reject the recommendations with no submission made, due to the timescales.

Reasons

To enable the Council to comply with the requirements of the Future High Streets Fund Programme and compete for funding to support the regeneration of Nuneaton Town Centre.

CB11 **Strategic Risk Register Review**

The Governance, Risk Management and Performance Officer submitted the Council's Strategic Risk Register for review. This is submitted on a quarterly basis and brought to Cabinet for approval when a significant change(s) is/are made to the register.

RESOLVED that report be noted.

Speakers:

Councillor K. Kondakor

Options

Note the report and request amendments/improvements

Reasons

Effective risk management arrangements are maintained.

CB12 **Local Plan Review**

A report was submitted to the Local Plan Committee held on the 1st July 2020 by the Director – Democracy, Planning and Public Protection on the Local Plan Review. The report updated the committee on the progress made since the previous report in January 2020 and outlined the process to be taken forward in respect of the Borough Plan review. From this, recommendations were agreed to be put forward to Cabinet for consideration.

Speakers:

Councillor K. Kondakor

RESOLVED that

- a) subject to the publication of the revised Government guidance, a revised Local Development Scheme with a clear timetable for the review be reported to Cabinet by the end of September 2020, together with a first draft of the list of policies that will be suggested for review;
- b) the work through the Joint Committee on a sub-regional basis be endorsed;
and
- c) the financial implications of abortive work be noted.

CB13 **Evidence Base and Planning for the Future**

A report was submitted to the Local Plan Committee held on the 1st July 2020 by the Head of Planning on the Evidence Base and Planning for the Future. The report detailed documents that were used in the development of the Borough Plan and would now need to be updated with a new evidence base. In addition, it outlined the changes to Planning Policy and future government legislation which may have an impact on this. From this, recommendations were agreed to be put forward to Cabinet for consideration.

Speakers:

Councillor K. Kondakor

RESOLVED that

- a) where new evidence is required to feed into the Supplementary Planning Documents, Development Plan Documents or other work the Council is progressing then an end date commensurate with being able to fit in with a review of the plan be encouraged;
- b) no further work on the evidence base be undertaken until the method for calculating Housing Needs and other policy changes are clearer so that work undertaken is not done so prematurely; and
- c) further reports be made to the committee on the changes to the planning regime.

CB14 Recommendations from Overview and Scrutiny Panels

Monitoring of the Grounds Maintenance Contract – Internal Overview and Scrutiny Panel – 11th June 2020

Speakers:

Councillor K. Evans

Councillor K. Wilson

Councillor Glass – Chair of the Internal OSP presented a recommendation to Cabinet regarding the Monitoring of the Grounds Maintenance Contract report which detailed the performance of the contract provider Glendale Grounds Maintenance. The performance information included the results of a satisfaction survey which listed a nil return as a positive response. The panel wished to recommend that the Council cease to recognise a nil return as a positive response to provide a more accurate picture of performance.

RESOLVED that Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council cease to recognise a nil return on a ground's maintenance satisfaction survey as a positive response.

CB15 Devolution White Paper

The Executive Director – Resources and Executive Director – Operations submitted a report to Cabinet seeking approval for the Borough Council to jointly commission, with a number of the other Warwickshire local authorities and suitable consultants, to undertake a review of the Local Government structures within the County. The results, and any recommendations, from this review is to be used for submissions to Central Government in proposing any changes necessary. This report arises as the Government intends to publish a White Paper in the autumn on further devolution to regions, as set out in the Queen's Speech delivered before Christmas. It has been widely reported that in considering the devolution and "levelling-up" agenda there will be a need to reform Local Government, especially in two-tier areas.

RESOLVED that

- a) the Borough Council participates in the review of Local Government in Warwickshire as set out in the report;
- b) the Executive Directors be given delegated authority, in consultation with the Leader of the Council to agree the final brief for the review;
- c) the Council contribute to the cost of the review, up to a maximum of £30k, to be funded from the Financial Planning Reserve;
- d) the Leader of the Council be appointed as the Borough Council's Elected Member representative on any working group to consider this work across the County or region; and
- e) this report be marked not for call in on the grounds of urgency.

Speakers

Councillor K. Kondakor

Councillor K. Wilson

Options

To ask for further information

Reasons

To enable the Council to be able to respond in a balanced, objective and well informed manner to the anticipated Autumn devolution White Paper.

CB16 Exclusion of Public and Press

RESOLVED that under section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item, it being likely that there would be disclosure of exempt information of the description specified in paragraphs 3 and 5 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Act.

CB17 Town Centre Urban Regeneration Update

The Director – Regeneration and Housing submitted a report to Cabinet detailing the current activities being undertaken by the Council to progress the Transforming Nuneaton Programme.

RESOLVED that

- a) the expenditure totalling £375k, funded from the Investment Properties Capital Programme budget to progress the Abbey Quarter Development proposals to masterplan stage be approved;
- b) the progress in relation to 4.3 of the report be noted; and

- c) the report be marked not for call in, due to the timescales involved to progress the matter to masterplan and subsequent planning permissions in a timely manner to support both the progress of the Transforming Nuneaton Programme and support the ongoing economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Speakers:

Councillor K. Kondakor

Councillor K. Wilson

Options

To reject the recommendations

Reasons

To enable the Council to progress the regeneration of the Abbey Street Quarter and place the Council in an excellent position to compete for funding to support the regeneration of Nuneaton Town Centre.

Chair

PUBLICATION DATE: 27th July, 2020

DECISIONS COME INTO FORCE: 4th August, 2020

Cabinet – Schedule of Declarations of Interests 2020/21

Name of Councillor	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest	Other Personal Interest	Dispensation
General dispensations granted to all members under s.33 of the Localism Act 2011			Granted to all members of the Council in the areas of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Housing matters - Statutory sick pay under Part XI of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992 - An allowance, payment given to members - An indemnity given to members - Any ceremonial honour given to members - Setting council tax or a precept under the Local Government Finance Act 1992 - Planning and Licensing matters - Allotments - Local Enterprise Partnership
J.A Jackson	Any matter relating to the employment policies and procedures of Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council or any matter relating to the contractual arrangements with Sport & Leisure Management Ltd.	Unite the Union	Dispensation to speak and vote on matters that do not relate specifically to her husband's contract of employment.
		Non Executive Director with Nuneaton and Bedworth Community Enterprises Limited	Dispensation to speak and vote
		Representative on the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coventry, Warwickshire & Hinckley and Bosworth Joint Committee • District Leaders • Local Government Association • Local Enterprise Partnership • West Midlands Combined Authority 	
I. Lloyd		Non Executive Director with Nuneaton and Bedworth Community Enterprises Limited.	Dispensation to speak and vote
		Representative on the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nuneaton & Bedworth Sports Forum 	

	Name of Councillor	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest	Other Personal Interest	Dispensation
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camp Hill Urban Village and Pride in Camp Hill • Poor's Piece Charity • Committee of Management of Hartshill & Nuneaton Recreation Group 	
	N. Phillips	Employee of DWP	<p>Member of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A5 Sterling Group (Council Representative) • Nuneaton Labour CLP • The Fabian Society • The George Eliot Society • The PCS Union • Nuneaton Credit Union <p>Non-Executive Director with Nuneaton and Bedworth Community Enterprises Limited.</p>	NABCEL – to speak and vote on any matter where the Council or Cabinet is asked to approve any funding arrangement; grant; or other legal instrument with the company but this dispensation shall not apply where any Non-Executive Director benefits from the arrangements in a personal capacity.
	J. Sheppard		<p>Partnership member of the Hill Top and Caldwell Big Local.</p> <p>Director of Wembrook Community Centre.</p> <p>Member of the Management Committee at the Mental Health Drop in.</p> <p>Champion for Safeguarding (Children & Adults)</p> <p>Representative on the following Outside Bodies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Government Superannuation Scheme Consultative Board • Warwickshire Direct Partnership 	Dispensation to speak and vote on any matters of Borough Plan that relate to the Directorship of Wembrook Community Centre

	Name of Councillor	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest	Other Personal Interest	Dispensation
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warwickshire Waste Partnership • West Midland Employers • Nuneaton Neighbour Watch Committee 	
	C.M Watkins	Landlord of a privately rented property	<p>Representative on the following outside bodies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nuneaton and Bedworth Home Improvement Agency. • Nuneaton and Bedworth Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership. • Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board. • Warwickshire Housing Support Partnership. • Warwickshire Police and Crime Panel. 	