

MINUTES OF CABINET

7 SEPTEMBER 2020

PRESENT:

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

Councillors Bearne, Brader, Mrs Brown (substituting for Councillor Mrs O'Rourke), Cranham, Gillias, Keeling, Miss Lawrence, Lewis, Mistry, Picker, Roodhouse, Sandison and Srivastava were also in attendance.

23. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 July 2020 were approved.

24. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from Councillors Douglas and Mrs O'Rourke.

25. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

26. QUESTION TIME

Mr B Coleman attended the meeting to ask the following question of the Leader of the Council, Councillor Lowe. The question had been submitted in accordance with the Council's public question time procedure.

(a) "Congratulations to Rugby Borough Council for continued support during the pandemic (particularly in the villages) with street cleaning waste/recycling and dealing with fly tipping. Also well done for promoting the independence of local councils to retain and hopefully increase the autonomy of local governance in this county.

In February 2020 I attended a workshop at the Rugby Library that was set up to include the views of Rugby as part of the Warwickshire's Heritage & Culture Strategy 2020-2025. It was chaired by Ayub Khan MBE, it was most constructive but given the limitations imposed by the pandemic it is more difficult for individuals to participate in the development and implementation of the strategy.

Does Rugby Borough Council support this Strategy and in particular from my perspective, the objective under "Sense of place", 'to promote pride in, and a sense of belonging to, local communities and the county as a whole', how is this covered in the RBC vision/strategy?

The H&C Strategy document under the heading *Sense of Place* states ‘Heritage and culture promote a sense of identity, providing a focus for growing strong communities and individuals who feel empowered to make choices that affect their lives and giving people a feeling of belonging to a place’.

What is the best way to engage with the RBC with regard to strategic thinking?”

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

“Officers of Rugby Borough Council were involved from an early stage in the development of the Warwickshire Heritage and Culture Strategy, participating in group discussions and consultation around the themes of the Strategy, and continue to attend meetings of the Working Group which is developing an Action Plan to deliver the Strategy. The Working Group last met in February 2020.

The Council’s understanding of sense of place, local identity and the significance of this for local communities is reflected in the strapline for the RBC Corporate Strategy 2017-20, Proud of our Past, Fit for the Future, and the commitments within that strategy document to

- Understand our communities and enable people to take an active part in them
- Enhance our local open spaces to make them places where people want to be
- Celebrate our cultural and artistic heritage through Rugby Art Gallery and Museum, the BENN Hall and events and festivals

Rugby Art Gallery and Museum fulfils that commitment to celebrate our cultural and artistic heritage through a programme of exhibitions and activities both on site and within the community. An example of work within the community is the Good Times project which uses materials from RAGM’s Social History collection to engage older residents and particularly those living with dementia through reminiscence, hands-on experiences and conversation. An example from the exhibition programme is the current Small Worlds exhibition drawn from the Social History collection, which uses models and miniatures to engage visitors with the buildings and technologies which have shaped Rugby’s history, including a model of the aerial tuning conductor from the Rugby Radio Station, a model of the Rugby Station railway gantry (nicknamed “the Rugby Bedstead”) from the 1890s, and models of Rugby street scenes. An associated social media campaign encourages people, particularly children, to create their own models at home to represent aspects of the Rugby they know, which can be added to the exhibition at a later date.

A sense of place and of community identity permeates the programme planning at RAGM; future plans include a community partnership project with the Benn Partnership, an exhibition with a ceramic artist working with a vulnerable young local mothers group, and projects involving community groups such as young carers, Rugby Autism Network, Warwickshire Pride and Black Lives Matter.

Rugby Borough Council also uses its planning policies to shape the borough as a place, in particular through the Borough Plan and the associated Supplementary Planning Documents, and the forthcoming Town Centre Spatial Strategy.

“Residents are encouraged to contribute towards these strategic plans by responding to relevant consultation and engagement events, such as for the South West Rugby Supplementary Planning Document which will be subject to consultation in the next few weeks. They may also raise strategic matters with their elected representatives and their parish council. Businesses and organisations with recognised objectives should engage with service areas relevant to their interests.”

Growth and Investment Portfolio

27. REOPENING HIGH STREETS SAFELY FUND – PLANNED KEY ACTIVITIES AND SPEND

Cabinet considered the report of the Head of Growth and Investment (Part 1 – agenda item 5) concerning proposed key activities and spend of this Council’s allocation received from the government’s Reopening High Streets Safely Fund.

RESOLVED THAT - the signing off of the Grant Fund Agreement be approved to ensure that the allocation of £96,000 can be utilised.

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

28. RYTON-ON-DUNSMORE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN EXAMINATION REPORT AND APPROVAL FOR REFERENDUM

Cabinet considered the report of the Head of Growth and Investment (Part 1 – agenda item 6) concerning the outcome of the independent examiner’s report for the Ryton-on-Dunsmore Neighbourhood Plan and approval for referendum.

RESOLVED THAT -

(1) the conclusions of the Examiner’s report and recommended modifications to the Neighbourhood Plan be accepted;

(2) a referendum be held at the earliest practicable opportunity (no earlier than 6th May 2021 in accordance with Government regulations), to take place in the Ryton on Dunsmore Neighbourhood Area; and

(3) a Decision Statement confirming acceptance of the Examiner’s report and modifications to the Ryton on Dunsmore Neighbourhood Plan, and the intention to proceed to referendum, be published.

29. FURTHER ENGAGEMENT 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 7) concerning a further public consultation period on the South West Rugby Supplementary Planning Document (SW SPD).

RESOLVED THAT -

(1) the South West Rugby Supplementary Planning Document (SW SPD) be approved to go out to further engagement public consultation for a period of four weeks; and

(2) the Head of Growth and Investment be given delegated authority to make amendments to the consultation draft of the SW SPD following the completion of the peer review by the Council's external advisors' team.

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

Corporate Resources Portfolio

30. FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE MONITORING 2020/21 – QUARTER 1

Cabinet considered the report of the Interim Chief Financial Officer (Part 1 – agenda item 8) concerning the Council's anticipated financial and performance position for 2020/21 based on data at 30 June 2020.

RESOLVED THAT -

(1) the Council's anticipated financial position for 2020/21 be noted;

(2) performance summary and performance data included in Section 7 and Appendix 3 be considered and noted;

(3) the response to the PWLB lending options consultation in section 8 and Appendix 4 be noted; and

(4) IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT -

(a) supplementary HRA capital budgets of £0.120m and £0.080m for 2020/21 for Kitchen Upgrades (Voids) and Bathroom Upgrades (Voids) to be met from the Major Repairs Reserve be approved;

(b) the following General Fund capital budgets be carried forward to 2021/22:

a. Crematorium Car Park Extension £0.180m

b. Glamara Close Play Area Refurbishment £0.150m

c. CRM system and new Website (Year 1 maintenance) £0.080m; and

(c) the 2020/21 draw down of Revenue carry forwards from earmarked reserves of £0.331m be approved.

31. INITIAL REVIEW OF GENERAL FUND BUDGET 2021/22

Cabinet considered the report of the Interim Chief Financial Officer (Part 1 – agenda item 9) concerning an initial overview of the Council's financial outlook taking into consideration the risks and challenges faced by the Council, alongside the approach that will be taken over the coming months to ensure a balanced budget be reported to Full Council in February 2021.

RESOLVED THAT -

(1) the initial financial and economic outlook and risks faced by the Council that will impact the General Fund Revenue budget position for 2021/22 be noted alongside the Council's Medium-Term Financial Plan;

(2) the Risk Assessment at Appendix 1 be noted; and

(3) the proposed changes to the process identified in section 6 of the report be approved.

32. 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 1 and 3 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

Corporate Resources Portfolio

33. TRADING COMPANY STRUCTURE AND DEVELOPMENT COMPANY BUSINESS CASE

Cabinet considered the private report of the Executive Director (Part 2 – agenda item 1) concerning the structure of the Council's trading company and the business case for the development company.

RESOLVED THAT – IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT –

(1) the principle of setting up a group company structure based on the management structure, financing, and governance arrangements, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report be approved, and delegated authority be given to the Executive Director and/or Monitoring Officer to deal with all legal and governance formalities required in order to implement this;

(2) scrutiny functions for the Council of both *HoldCo* and *GrowthCo* be performed as detailed in paragraph 1.9 of the report and delegated authority be given to the Executive Director and/or Monitoring Officer to deal with all legal and governance formalities required in order to implement this; and

(3) the principle of setting up a Joint Venture development company, as outlined in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved, subject to delegated authority being given to the Executive Director and/or Monitoring Officer to deal with all legal and governance formalities required in order to implement this.

34. WRITE OFFS

Cabinet considered the report of the Executive Director (Part 2 – agenda item 2) concerning write offs.

RESOLVED THAT – the schedule of write offs, as at Appendix 1 to the report, be approved.

CHAIRMAN