

MINUTES OF CABINET

2 DECEMBER 2024

PRESENT:

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

Councillors Lewis, McKenzie, Picker, Poole and Roodhouse were also in attendance.

53. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 November 2024 were approved and signed by the Chair.

54. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence from the meeting.

55. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Item 7 of Part 1 – UK Shared Prosperity Fund Year 3 Spend – Councillor C Edwards (non-pecuniary interest as defined by the Council's Code of Conduct for Councillors by virtue of being a trustee of Hill Street Youth Club and Newbold Village Hall).

Item 7 of Part 1 – UK Shared Prosperity Fund Year 3 Spend – Councillor Livesey (non-pecuniary interest as defined by the Council's Code of Conduct for Councillors by virtue of being a trustee of Newbold Village Hall).

56. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions.

Growth and Investment, Digital and Communications Portfolio

57. SOUTH WEST RUGBY MASTERPLAN SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT UPDATED APPENDIX K - ADOPTION

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Officer – Growth and Investment (Part 1 – agenda item 5) concerning the proposed adoption of the updated Appendix k to the South West Rugby Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document.

RESOLVED THAT – IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT -

- (1) the south west rugby masterplan supplementary planning document is adopted;
- (2) delegated authority be given to the chief officer for growth and investment to make minor amendments as necessary to that document prior to adoption; and

- (3) the superseded version of the South West Rugby Masterplan SPD adopted on 17 June 2021 be revoked and a statement publicised on the Council's website confirming this.

58. STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Officer – Growth and Investment (Part 1 – agenda item 6) concerning the proposed adoption of a new Statement of Community Involvement (SCI).

RESOLVED THAT – IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT the Statement of Community Involvement attached in Appendix 1 be adopted.

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

59. UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND (UKSPF) YEAR 3 SPEND

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Officer – Growth and Investment (Part 1 – agenda item 7) concerning the proposed allocation of the remaining proportion of UK Shared Prosperity Fund which is required to be spent by 31 March 2025.

RESOLVED THAT –

- (1) a supplementary capital budget of £0.048m for Hill Street Youth and Community Centre building improvements be approved and added to the general fund capital programme for 2024/25, to be fully funded from UKSPF grant;
- (2) a supplementary capital budget of £0.006m for Newbold Village Hall building improvements be approved and added to the general fund capital programme for 2024/25, to be fully funded from UKSPF grant;
- (3) a supplementary capital budget of £0.013m for Benn Partnership Centre enhancement be approved and added to the general fund capital programme for 2024/25, to be fully funded from UKSPF grant;
- (4) a supplementary capital budget of £0.029m for Caldecott Park accessibility equipment be approved and added to the general fund capital programme for 2024/25, to be fully funded from UKSPF grant;
- (5) the amendments to the previously approved People and Skills fund be noted; and
- (6) delegated authority be given to the Chief Officer for Finance and Performance in consultation with the Chief Officer for Growth and Investment to make any other minor changes to spend to ensure all money is spent by the end of the financial year 2024/2025.

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

Finance, Performance, Legal and Governance Portfolio

60. FINANCIAL AND PERFORMANCE MONITORING – QUARTER 2 2024/25

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Officer – Finance and Performance (Part 1 – agenda item 8) concerning the Council’s financial and performance position for quarter 2 of 2024/25.

RESOLVED THAT –

- (1) the Council’s forecast financial position for 2024/25 be noted; and
- (2) performance information in section 5 of the report be noted.

61. TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID-YEAR REPORT 2024/25

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Officer – Finance and Performance (Part 1 – agenda item 9) concerning details of the Council’s treasury activity in the first half of the current financial year.

RESOLVED THAT – the Treasury Management Mid-Year update for 2024/25 be noted.

Communities, Homes, Regulation and Safety Portfolio

62. HOUSING/LANDLORD SERVICE COMPLAINTS PERFORMANCE AND SERVICE IMPROVEMENT REPORT 2023/24

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Officer – Communities and Homes (Part 1 – agenda item 10) concerning the performance and service improvement measures of the housing/landlord service in respect of complaints received in 2023/24.

RESOLVED THAT –

- (1) the action plan noted in section 5.6 of Appendix 1 be endorsed;
- (2) the Portfolio Holder for Communities and Homes be appointed as Member Responsible for Complaints, as per the requirements set out at Appendix 3;
- (3) a cross-party Member Working Group be appointed by the Chief Officer - Communities and Homes, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Communities and Homes, to consider the proposals to be submitted to Cabinet in June 2025, in respect of the 2024/25 Complaints Performance and Service Improvement Report.

63. COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME 2025/26

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Officer – Communities and Homes (Part 1 – agenda item 11) concerning the Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2025/26.

RESOLVED THAT – IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT the Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2024/2025 be adopted as the Council’s Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2025/2026.

64. SUPPORT OF THE VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR 2025/26

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Officer – Communities and Homes (Part 1 – agenda item 12) concerning proposals for the Council's continued funding of the local voluntary and community sector for 2025/26.

RESOLVED THAT – IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT -

- (1) the £84,250 grant funding of the community associations, community partnerships and Foodbank, as detailed in table 1.0, be considered as part of budget setting for 2025/26;
- (2) each of the community associations and community partnerships be allocated £1,000 to administer, in consultation with local Ward Members, as micro grants (£300 or less) to small grassroots organisations developing initiatives within their ward. Any unspent allocation will be repayable to the council at the end of the 2025/26 financial year;
- (3) delegated authority be given to the Chief Officer of Communities and Homes and the Chief Officer of Legal and Governance to determine the final grant terms;
- (4) a ringfenced reserve of £10,000 be set aside in 2025/26 for funding projects, which are in the interests of the Council to see delivered, that are unable to attract funding from another source;
- (5) £10,000 be set aside in 2025/26 for supporting research and development of a Community Supermarket in Rugby; and
- (6) further work be undertaken in 2025/26 to develop proposals for how the Council commissions the support of the voluntary and community sector.

Operations and Traded Services Portfolio

65. FOOD WASTE

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Officer – Operations and Traded Services (Part 1 – agenda item 13) concerning proposals to spend capital funding grant from the Department for Environmental, Food and Rural Affairs and begin procuring food waste collection vehicles and caddies.

RESOLVED THAT – IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT -

- (1) a General Fund capital budget of £1.265m for the purchase of food waste vehicles be approved and added to the capital programme for 2025/26 to be financed by capital grants and internal borrowing as detailed in section 3 of the report; and

- (2) a General Fund capital budget of £0.419m for the purchase of food waste caddies be approved and added to the capital programme for 2025/26 to be financed by capital grants and internal borrowing as detailed in section 3 of the report.

CHAIR