

Cabinet

Monday, 6 November 2017

7.30 pm

Present:

Cllr David Turner (Chair)
Cllr Leslie Hills (Vice-Chair)

Councillors: Gurjit Kaur Bains
Julia Burgoyne
Sandra Garside
Samir Jassal
John Knight
Jordan Meade
Alan Ridgers
Anthony Pritchard

Note: Councillors John Burden, Lee Croxton, David Hurley, Shane Mochrie-Cox, Lenny Rolles, Brian Sangha, Derek Shelbrooke and Jenny Wallace were also in attendance.

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| David Hughes | Chief Executive |
| Stuart Bobby | Director (Corporate Services) |
| Nick Brown | Director (Environment & Operations) |
| Kevin Burbidge | Director (Housing & Regeneration) |
| Wendy Lane | Assistant Director (Planning) |
| Sarah Parfitt | Assistant Director (Corporate Services) |
| Carlie Simmonds | Committee Services Manager |

41. Apologies

No apologies for absence were received.

42. To sign the minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 October 2017 were signed by the Chair.

43. Declaration of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

44. Delegated Decisions - Cabinet Members

No decisions other than those already circulated had been made.

45. Recommendation to Cabinet - Minute of Overview Scrutiny Committee, Thursday 19 October 2017

The Cabinet considered the following recommendation from the meeting of the Overview Scrutiny Committee held on Thursday 19 October 2017 in relation to the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies Document.

The Overview Scrutiny Committee recommends to Cabinet that large scale public meetings are held as part of the consultation process.

The Chair advised that the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies Document – Issues and Options was due to be considered by the Cabinet (agenda item 7) had been withdrawn in order to allow time for officers to consider concerns that been expressed, particularly in respect of clarity and transparency in the consultation process. The recommendation from the Overview Scrutiny Committee would also be considered at the same time.

The Chair advised the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies Document – Issues and Options would be resubmitted to the Cabinet in January 2018.

46. Site Allocations and Development Management Policies Document - Issues and Board Options

Please see Minute 45.

47. Budget Monitoring Report - Quarter 2 - General Fund and Housing Revenue Account 2017/18

Further to minute 27 (04.09.2017), the Cabinet received the second budget monitoring report for 2017/18 showing the position up to 30 September 2017.

The Cabinet noted the information provided on performance:-

- against the approved Revenue and Capital budgets for 2017/18, including known variances agreed or identified through budgetary control activity; and
- other key areas of financial performance that may impact on the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy, Medium Term Financial Plan, HRA Business Plan or Financial Statements.

The fact that the budget was being well managed was acknowledged and appreciated by the Cabinet. Officers confirmed that the Council will continue to maintain robust budgetary control actions to ensure good financial governance and respond to the pressures on the Council's finances.

The Cabinet thanked the Assistant Director (Corporate Services) and her team on the work that they have undertaken to date.

The Chief Executive informed Members that on 1 April 2017, the Government launched five pilots of 100% business rates retention. These pilots will retain all of their growth in business rates income.

As the Government continues to be committed in giving local authorities greater control over the money they raise locally, it has decided to expand the pilot for 2018/19. Local authorities have been invited to submit bids by Friday 27 October 2017.

Working alongside LG Futures, the Chief Executive and Director (Corporate Services) devised a Kent wide bid including all District Councils, Kent County Council, Medway Council and the Fire Authority which would see 70% of the monies being retained to support financial sustainability of the authorities involved and 30% being used to fund future growth initiatives. The retained monies would be distributed to each authority on the basis of their population and growth but each authority would be at least £500,000 better off than the baseline.

The Chief Executive advised that the proposal had been discussed and supported by both Kent Chief Executives and Kent Leaders groups.

Given the Government's interest in bids from two tier areas and areas of a rural nature, Kent could be considered as an ideal Pilot. The inclusion of Medway Council would add a unitary authority to the scheme and potentially make the pilot more attractive.

The Cabinet thanked the Chief Executive and Director (Corporate Services) on the work undertaken to devise the bid.

48. Corporate Performance Update: Quarter Two 2017-18 (July to September 2017)

Further to minute 28 (04.09.2017), the Cabinet received an update against the Performance Management Framework, as set out within the Council's Corporate Plan 2015-19, for Quarter Two 2017-18 (July to September 2017).

Appendix Two to the report provided Cabinet with a statistical overview of performance. Page one of the appendix provided a summary of performance against target in the last reporting quarter, with the following key statistical headlines from the 15 performance measures:-

- 9 had met their set target; and
- 6 had not met their set target.

The Director (Corporate Services) advised that following review by the Cabinet, all Cabinet Committees will be presented with individual performance reports tailored to the respective portfolios. These will provide statistical content in support of more detailed contextual updates outlining what actions have been delivered, and what is to be taken, to successfully realise the Corporate Plan's four corporate objectives and supporting policy commitments.

The Director (Corporate Services) also advised that all future updates to the Cabinet will be presented under each portfolio area instead of the Corporate Plan objectives.

49. Gravesham Area Board: 2017 Review

The Director (Corporate Services) advised in April 2011, the Cabinet approved the creation of the Gravesham Locality Board, the predecessor to the Gravesham Area Board. The

Board was tasked with coordinating partnership-led activities in the borough to be delivered in line with its adopted 'Statement of Intent'.

On the removal of Kent County Council's administrative support to the Locality Board project across the county, the Gravesham Locality Board was renamed the Gravesham Area Board in 2013 with County Councillors no longer being Members. Following its formation in 2013, membership of the Gravesham Area Board grew from 11 partner agencies to 20 in 2017/18.

Despite this growth in membership, following a period of limited partnership involvement, the Chair of the Board, Cllr David Turner commissioned a review into the Board and potential future options to deliver on its core business.

A survey was undertaken of all partner agencies to establish their opinion of the Board, both in terms of its purpose and whether it can be sustained in its current form. The results of the survey presented a mixture of opinions, albeit only one response advocating the benefit that continuation of the Board offers. The majority of responses from partners questioned the purpose and role the Board offered in its current format.

On consideration of the agenda items for the Gravesham Area Board since its inception, it was evident that the vast majority of items lent themselves to consideration at the Council's existing suite of Cabinet Committees. In support of such an approach, Annex 1.7 of the Council's Constitution (Terms of Reference for Cabinet Committee) currently allows for the invitation of partner agencies to Cabinet Committees where this may assist in the undertaking of Council business.

On the basis of the analysis of attendance levels and the feedback from partners, the Chair of the Board, Cllr Turner has therefore decided to discontinue the Board with the alternative proposal of greater use of the existing suite of Cabinet Committees.

Practically, this will be delivered through relevant partner agencies being invited to present items to Cabinet Committees in a guest capacity in line with the Council's constitutional arrangements.

50. Minutes of meeting Wednesday, 13 September 2017 of Gravesham Joint Transportation Board

The minutes of the meeting of the Gravesham Joint Transportation Board held on 13 September 2017 were noted.

Councillor Alan Ridgers informed Members that Mike Payton was the new District Manager for Gravesham.

51. Minutes of meeting Thursday, 13 October 2016 of Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee

The Chair advised that this item was an omission on the agenda.

Close of meeting

The meeting ended at 8.08pm