

## **Cabinet**

**Monday, 3 September 2018**

**7.30 pm**

### **Present:**

Cllr David Turner (Chair)

Councillors:        John Knight  
                              Julia Burgoyne  
                              Harold Craske  
                              Sandra Garside  
                              Derek Shelbrooke

**Note:** Councillors    John Burden, Leslie Hills, Shane Mochrie-Cox and Jenny Wallace were also in attendance.

David Hughes        Chief Executive  
Stuart Bobby        Director (Corporate Services)  
Nick Brown         Director (Environment & Operations)  
Kevin Burbidge     Director (Housing & Regeneration)  
Melanie Norris     Director (Communities)  
Andrew Barnett     Principal Accountant  
Alexandra Jarvis    Principal Accountant  
Carlie Simmonds    Committee Services Manager (Minutes)

### **115. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 June 2018 were signed by the Chair.

### **116. Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were made.

### **117. Delegated Decisions - Cabinet Members**

No decisions other than those already circulated had been made.

### **118. Corporate Performance Update: Quarter One 2018-19**

The Cabinet received an update against the Performance Management Framework (PMF), as set out within the Council's Corporate Plan 2015-19, for Quarter One 2018-19 (April to June 2018).

The Director (Corporate Services) drew Members' attention to paragraph 2.5 of the report which detailed several changes that had been made to the PMF relating to homelessness and sickness absence.

Appendix Two to the report provided Cabinet with a statistical overview of the Council's 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 performance measures:-

- 9 performance measures have met their set target; and
- 4 performance measures have 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

The Cabinet noted the information contained within the report.

### **119. Annual Review of the Legal Shared Service**

The Cabinet was provided with a copy of the annual review that had been conducted in respect of the Legal shared service with Medway Council.

The Director (Communities) drew Members' attention to appendix two of the report which detailed the following objectives that had been identified for the shared service and were currently being met:-

- efficiency savings. Realising actual financial savings across the two sites but maintaining delivery of the service;
- added resilience across the two authorities. There will be a larger pool of officers covering both authorities providing additional resilience to cover sickness absence/vacancies or increased workload should this be required;
- availability of specialist skills across both authorities leading to increased efficiency; potential for a reduced requirement for external support from contractors etc.;
- sharing of best practice in the delivery of Legal Services;
- expansion of knowledge base of individual officers.

The Cabinet noted the information contained within the report

### **120. Land at Milton Place, Gravesend**

Further to minute 60 (08.01.2018), the Cabinet was advised that as part of the joint working initiative with the Ebbsfleet Development Corporation (EDC) in respect of potential housing development sites, it was considered appropriate to look at land at Milton Place alongside the land on the corner of Milton Place/Ordnance Road.

An Exclusivity Agreement was entered into between Gravesham Borough Council (GBC) and EDC and consultancy work procured jointly to establish the site's development capacity, the Council requiring the retention or replacement of the existing parking provision, which not only serves the town centre but also the Riverside Leisure Area and, overnight, local residents.

The Director (Housing and Regeneration) advised that officers from GBC and EDC had now considered the best approach to delivering a development on the combined sites.

An initial offer was made by EDC to acquire both the Fairview land, which the Council understand has been accepted by their Board, and the GBC land. Officers felt that they were unable to recommend to Members to accept the offer for the GBC land therefore the proposed approach will be for GBC and EDC to enter into a Disposal Agreement this summer to dispose of and develop the site for older persons' accommodation.

If a joint sale of the respective landholdings is not secured then the agreement between GBC and EDC will terminate and each party will be free to dispose of its site independently of the other.

The Cabinet was informed that progressing this work will require funding which will be provided from the Business Rates Retention development fund.

**Resolved** that the proposed method of seeking to secure development of this site be approved and officers be authorised to progress work in accordance with those proposals, reporting back to Cabinet for further decision when the options for delivery of the development are fully worked up.

## **121. Budget Monitoring Report - Quarter One 2018/19**

The Cabinet received the first budget monitoring report for 2018/19 showing the position up to 30 June 2018.

The Cabinet noted the information provided on:-

- actual performance against the approved Revenue and Capital budgets for 2018/19, 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 noted the information contained within the report and thanked the Director (Corporate Services) and his team on the work that had been undertaken to date.

## **122. Minutes of the meeting of the Gravesham Joint Transportation Board held on Wednesday, 6 June 2018**

The Cabinet considered the minutes of the Gravesham Joint Transportation Board meeting held on 6 June 2018.

### **123. Exclusion**

**Resolved** pursuant to Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 that the public be excluded during the following items of business because it was likely in view of the nature of business to be transacted that, if members of the public were present during these items, there would be disclosure to them of exempt information.

### **124. Write Offs**

The Cabinet was presented with Business Rates and Housing Benefits debts over £15,000 that had now become irrecoverable.

**Resolved** that authority be given to write-off the debts listed in Appendix 2 and Appendix 4 of the report.

### **Close of meeting**

The meeting ended at 8.00pm