

CABINET**26 April 2017****Attendance:**

Councillor Horrill -	<i>Leader and Portfolio Holder for Housing Services (Chairman) (P)</i>
Councillor Weston -	<i>Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Built Environment (P)</i>
Councillor Ashton -	<i>Portfolio Holder for Professional Services (P)</i>
Councillor Godfrey -	<i>Portfolio Holder for Finance (P)</i>
Councillor Griffiths -	<i>Portfolio Holder for Health & Wellbeing (P)</i>
Councillor Humby -	<i>Portfolio Holder for Business Partnerships (P)</i>
Councillor Miller -	<i>Portfolio Holder for Economy & Estates (P)</i>
Councillor Warwick -	<i>Portfolio Holder for Environment (P)</i>

Others in attendance who addressed the meeting:

Councillors Bell, Cutler, Elks, and Hutchison.

Others in attendance who did not address the meeting:

Councillors Brook, Thacker and Thompson.

1. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Councillors Godfrey and Humby declared disclosable pecuniary interests in respect of agenda items due to their roles as a County Council employee and County Council member respectively. However, as there was no material conflict of interest, they remained in the room, spoke and voted under the dispensation granted on behalf of the Standards Committee to participate and vote in all matters which might have a County Council involvement.

2. MINUTES

Cabinet noted a typographical error in the minutes of the previous meeting held 20 March 2017. The final word on page 2 (Station Approach RIBA Plans of Works Stages Documentation (less Exempt Appendix) – Report CAB2864 refers) should continue with the word ‘Board’. It was agreed that the minutes be corrected accordingly.

RESOLVED:

That subject to the above correction, the minutes of the previous meeting held on 20 March 2017 and special meeting held on 5 April 2017 be approved and adopted.

3. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

At the invitation of the Chairman, four Councillors addressed Cabinet and their comments are summarised below.

4. **LEADER AND PORTFOLIO HOLDER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councillor Miller announced that the demolition of Friarsgate Multi Storey Car Park had now been completed and the site was to be reopened on 27 May with 72 spaces for public use.

5. **ADOPTION OF WINCHESTER AIR QUALITY ACTION PLAN 2017-2023**

(Report CAB2906 refers)

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillors Bell and Hutchison addressed Cabinet as summarised below.

Councillor Bell paid tribute to the hard work of officers and the Steering Group in the production of the Action Plan, which was welcomed. She made particular reference to WinACC who had acted as a 'critical friend' throughout the process. Councillor Bell referred to Figure 2 on page 108 which indicated actions that were likely to have the most impact on changes to emissions. These were likely to require partnership working, including with other local authorities in the region, for these to have the most positive impact.

Councillor Hutchison also thanked those involved in the production of the Action Plan. She suggested that some of the actions within the report could be better prioritised. For example, the only way to make a significant positive impact to emissions was for there to be a greater emphasis to encourage alternatives to using private vehicles when entering, or traveling through, the city. Councillor Hutchison referred to the Core Actions on Page 1 of the Plan. Referring to Core Action 8, she suggested that the Council should insist that the County Council commit to those areas of its responsibilities where changes could be made that would have most positive impact. She also highlighted that the Plan did not currently mention the Council's Walking Strategy. Councillor Hutchison suggested that there should be dedicated officer resource to help drive forward implementation of the Plan, as was the case in some other local authorities. Finally, she stated that the Council should continue to learn best practice from other local authorities and she highlighted a recent Transport for London 'Healthy Streets' publication that could be referenced.

During discussion, Cabinet noted that the Council had widely consulted during the process to draft the Action Plan. This had included national consultees such as DEFRA, other groups such as WinACC and Friends of Earth as well as with the Council's cross-party Steering Group. Cabinet welcomed the partnership working to date and reiterated its thanks to officers and partners in delivering the Action Plan.

Cabinet agreed to the following for the reasons outlined in the Report and set out above.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Winchester Air Quality Action Plan 2017-2023 at Appendix 1 be adopted by the Council;
2. That Cabinet delegates authority to the Assistant Director (Economy and Communities) to make minor subsequent amendments to the plan, where appropriate, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment

6. **DISCRETIONARY HOUSING PAYMENT POLICY**
(Report CAB2909 refers)

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillors Bell and Elks addressed Cabinet as summarised below.

Councillor Bell referred to other large associated costs for tenants of private landlords. These included management fees, over which the Council currently had no control, and she suggested that the Council should investigate these wherever possible, which would include working with Housing Associations.

Councillor Elks supported the policy and highlighted that not all local authorities had taken their full allocation of the grant available. Councillor Elks asked whether the Council was able to take an entrepreneurial approach in providing support to tenants most in need.

In response, it was explained that the Council supported customers in a number of ways to help improve their financial position. These included offering advice on reducing costs, managing debts etc. The Council also provided assistance with rent deposits. Reference was also made to the new Housing Strategy which referred to the broader ranges of tenure available and also highlighted efforts undertaken to support the most vulnerable.

Cabinet agreed to the following for the reasons outlined in the Report and set out above.

RESOLVED:

That the revised Discretionary Housing Payment Policy be agreed.

7. **RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY 2017**
(Report CAB2922 refers)

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillors Cutler addressed Cabinet as summarised below.

Councillor Cutler advised that the Audit Committee had welcomed the Council's more active approach to its risk management and that it had

introduced a new simplified Risk Register. He queried whether changes to the status of 'impacts' and 'likelihoods' from previous iterations of the Register may have been due to the Council's developing understanding of Risk? Councillor Cutler also referred to the recent decision to set up a Strategic Asset Purchase Fund and whether the Council's overall associated Risks should be revisited as a consequence. He also referred to the desirability of the Council adopting new technology to improve upon outcomes and the clarification on the role of External Audit in respect of risk management.

In response, Councillor Godfrey reiterated that the Policy was under development and was representative of the changes to the Council's ways of working going forward. For example, in 2016, the Council took a more commissioning partnership approach to delivering services. He also clarified that External Audit would not necessarily pass comment on the content of the Policy, but would have been likely to have done so if this had been absent.

Cabinet agreed to the following for the reasons outlined in the Report and set out above.

RESOLVED:

That the Risk Management Policy 2017, its Risk Appetite Statement for 2017/18 and the Corporate Risk Register be approved.

8. EXEMPT BUSINESS

RESOLVED:

1. That in all the circumstances, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

2. That the public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business because it is likely that, if members of the public were present, there would be disclosure to them of 'exempt information' as defined by Section 100I and Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

<u>Minute Number</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Description of Exempt Information</u>
##	Exempt Minutes of the Special Cabinet meeting held 5 April 2017	
	• Proposed Land Acquisition) Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). (Para 3 Schedule 12A refers)
	• Proposed Land Transaction)

9. **EXEMPT MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the Exempt minutes of the special meeting held on 5 April 2017 be approved and adopted.

The meeting commenced at 10.00am and concluded at 11.10am

Chairman