

CABINET**14 June 2017****Attendance:**

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

Others in attendance who did not address the meeting:

Councillor Learney

1. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Cllrs Warwick, Humby and Godfrey indicated they were Members of Hampshire County Council, but none of the items involved the County Council and therefore they did not consider they had any interest to declare.

2. MEMBERSHIP OF CABINET COMMITTEES ETC

Following consideration of appointments at the previous meeting on 18 May 2017, Cabinet noted a number of outstanding vacancies to external bodies requiring appointment. The Chairman advised that she had received a number of nominations and Cabinet agreed to appointments being made as detailed below.

RESOLVED:

That the following appointments to external bodies be made (for the 2017/18 Municipal Year):

- a) **River Hamble Harbour Management Committee** – Councillor Pearson (to replace Councillor Huxstep – deputy appointment to be confirmed)
- b) **Police and Crime Panel** – Councillor Stallard (deputy)

- c) **South East Employers – Local Democracy & Accountability Network** – Councillors Pearson and Read
- d) **Southampton Airport Consultative Committee** – Councillors Cook and Ruffell (deputies)

3. **FUTURE MEETING DATES AND TIMES**

RESOLVED:

That the current timetable of meetings for 2017/18 be noted as set out on the agenda (and as agreed in PHD731 Revised).

4. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meetings held on 18 May 2017 be approved and adopted.

5. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no questions asked or statements made.

6. **LEADER AND PORTFOLIO HOLDER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councillor Horrill congratulated the Winchester Churches Nightshelter on their receipt of an award from the Queen in recognition of their voluntary work.

Councillor Horrill also congratulated George Hollingbery and Steve Brine for their re-election as Members of Parliament for the Meon Valley Ward and Winchester Ward respectively, following the General Election on 7 June 2017. She stated that they were both supportive of the City Council.

Councillor Warwick announced that the Winchester Car Club would be launched on 16 June 2017 and hybrid vehicles would be available at various locations around the town, including the Railway Station. Electronic charging points would be provided free of charge for users of the Club.

7. **TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE (TIC) REFURBISHMENT**

(Report CAB2931 refers)

Councillor Humby introduced the Report and emphasised the opportunity a refurbishment would offer to improve services and explore increased revenue generation potential. In addition, the proposals took account of the likely requirement to relocate the TIC in the longer term and could be transportable to a new site.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Thompson stated that she did not support the proposals as she did not consider the expenditure was a priority for the Council at a time when its resources were constrained. In addition, if the intention was to relocate the TIC in five years time, she did not believe the

timing of the proposed services was appropriate and was concerned that it might not be possible to move fixtures as intended. Councillor Thompson queried whether comparisons with TICs in similar locations had been undertaken.

Councillor Humby confirmed that the Head of Tourism had researched other TICs around the country and emphasised the importance of tourism to the Winchester District. The opportunity would also be taken to look at refreshing the Winchester brand. Other Cabinet Members commented that the proposal formed part of a more entrepreneurial approach to be taken by the Council.

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

RESOLVED:

1. That the proposals to refurbish Winchester Tourist Information Centre in its current location on Broadway be approved, on the understanding that elements of the fixtures and fittings could be relocated to a new site if the need arose.

2. That the remit of the Centre be extended to provide additional services for businesses from a range of sectors, as well as a continued high level of service for visitors and residents.

3. That, in accordance with Financial Procedure Rule 6.4, supplementary capital expenditure of £130,000 be approved for the delivery of the project, to be funded from the Major Investment Reserve.

8. UPDATE ON THE PROGRESS OF THE OPEN MARKET SHARED OWNERSHIP (OMSO) SCHEME

(Report CAB2932 refers)

Councillor Ashton introduced the Report and highlighted the differences since the Scheme had previously been approved by Cabinet, as outlined in the Report. He emphasised that the proposals were for a pilot scheme for 10 properties.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Thompson addressed Cabinet and in summary stated that whilst the Liberal Democrat group broadly supported the proposals, they still had some concerns, namely:

- whether there were adequate staffing resources available?
- Who was the scheme aimed at, and in particular, did the intended recipients still include key workers?
- The Council should use its local MPs to lobby Government regarding the requirement that the Council pay Stamp Duty Land Tax (SDLT) at a higher rate, as summarised in Paragraph 2.3 of the Report.

In response, the Corporate Director (Professional Services) advised that the Council were seeking further advice about the requirement to pay SDLT and the Report presented the worst case scenario. In addition, Cabinet Members agreed that it might be appropriate to make representations to Government regarding any such requirement.

In response to questions, Councillor Ashton confirmed that the Council's Communications Team would be involved in discussions regarding branding of the scheme, including its name. He also confirmed that the scheme would prioritise key workers, as explained in the Report and Appendix C (Application criteria).

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

RESOLVED:

1. That the progress and launch dates of the OMSO scheme be noted as set out in the Report.
2. That the amendments made since Cabinet approved the original scheme be agreed.
3. That authority be delegated to the Corporate Director (Professional Services) to administer the scheme as detailed in the Report.
4. That authority be delegated to the Corporate Director (Professional Services) in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance to agree terms for the purchase of the property and shared ownership lease.

9. **CONSULTATION ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF FOR BUSINESSES**

(Report CAB2933 refers)

Councillor Ashton introduced the Report and confirmed that the wording of the proposed list of questions contained in Paragraph 10.7 of the Report could be revised to ensure it was as simple and easy to understand as possible. He agreed that the Interim Head of Communications also be consulted on the wording.

Cabinet welcomed the scheme and in particular, its proposal to focus distribution of discretionary rate relief to smaller businesses around the District.

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

RESOLVED:

1. That approval be given to consult with Hampshire County Council, Hampshire Fire & Rescue Service and the Police & Crime Commissioner for Hampshire on the conditions listed in paragraph 10.5 for distribution of discretionary rate relief to businesses as described in this report, as well as with local businesses and our two Business Improvement Districts.

2. That, following the consultation described in Resolution 1 above, the Head of Revenues, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance, be granted delegated authority to enact the scheme determined by the outcome of the consultation.

10. **MANAGED SERVICES FOR TEMPORARY AGENCY RESOURCES**
(Report CAB2934 refers)

Councillor Godfrey introduced the Report and highlighted that the Council were required to employ temporary agency staff on occasions, for example to fulfil a one-off requirement for additional staff or to fill essential vacancies on a temporary basis, prior to a full-time replacement being employed. The Report outlined proposals to reduce the ongoing cost of employing temporary staff.

Councillor Godfrey requested that the Report's recommendations be amended to agree Option 3 as detailed in Appendix 1 to the Report. This was agreed.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Prince addressed Cabinet and in summary welcomed the proposals to reduce the cost of employing temporary agency workers. However, he expressed concern about the Council's ongoing reliance on temporary staff and the high cost per annum. He queried what measures were in place to minimise this and also suggested that the Council should only seek to undertake activities when it had the necessary capacity within its existing workforce.

In response, Councillor Godfrey stated that the Council did not employ as many temporary staff as other authorities (the expenditure referred to related to approximately 21 temporary members of staff), but sometimes it was necessary for the reasons he had stated above. He also highlighted that agency staff did not incur the consequential overhead costs for the Council, such as pension contributions and leave requirements.

Councillor Godfrey emphasised that over the previous years, the Council had retained approximately 45 – 52 posts across the authority which had not been filled, in addition to the 21 agency staff employed, resulting in savings every year.

In response to questions, the Chief Executive (as Head of Paid Service) advised that the Council, like other employers, necessarily operated with a number of staff vacancies. The Corporate Management Team examined

every vacancy to determine the preferred options for recruitment in each case and this included the possibility of internal secondment of staff.

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

RESOLVED:

That the Assistant Director (Services and Organisational Development) be authorised to enter into a Contract for Service for the provision of agency workers with a suitable supplier under Lot 2 of the framework agreement (Option 3 as set out in the Report).

11. **FUTURE ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

RESOLVED:

That the list of future items, as set out in the Forward Plan for July 2017, be noted.

The meeting commenced at 4.30pm and concluded at 5.20pm

Chairman