

CABINET**Wednesday, 20 January 2021**

Attendance:

Councillor Thompson (Chairperson)	– Leader and Cabinet Member for Communications
Councillor Cutler (Vice-Chair)	– Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Risk
Councillor Ferguson	– Cabinet Member for Local Economy
Councillor Learney	– Cabinet Member for Housing and Asset Management
Councillor Murphy	– Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency
Councillor Porter	– Cabinet Member for Built Environment and Wellbeing
Councillor Prince	– Cabinet Member for Sport, Leisure and Communities
Councillor Tod	– Cabinet Member for Service Quality and Transformation

Others in attendance who addressed the meeting:

Councillors Bell, Brook, Horrill, Lumby, Miller and Pearson

[Full audio recording and video recording](#)

1. MEMBERSHIP OF CABINET BODIES ETC.

There were no changes to the membership of cabinet bodies to be made.

2. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Councillors Porter and Tod declared personal (but not prejudicial) interests in respect of reports due to their role as a County Councillors.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 16 DECEMBER 2020.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 16 December 2020 be agreed as a correct record.

4. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Three members of the public/representatives of local groups spoke during public participation as summarised briefly below.

Patrick Davies

Queried why report CAB3278 appeared to make no reference to comments and discussion at the Local Plan Action Group meeting that was held on 11 January 2021. Reiterated points made at that meeting including regarding the relevance of the background work listed at Appendix 1 of CAB3278 and the necessity to take account of the impact of the Covid pandemic. Believed that the Council should be cautious about including its carbon neutrality work as it was not directly relevant to the Local Plan and might downgrade its standing. With regard to report CAB3279, considered that undertaking the consultation on the Air Quality Supplementary Planning Document at the same time as the Local Plan consultation might cause confusion.

John Beveridge (City of Winchester Trust)

Noting the current Ministry of Defence consultation regarding the future of the St John Moore Barracks, requested that no planning application be approved without full consideration of the implications of the Local Plan and what was required for the Winchester district. Emphasised the importance of agreeing a strategic plan for the whole of Winchester town, particularly in the light of ongoing proposals for major developments.

John Tippett-Cooper

Commended the work of Unit 12, Winnall as a community interest group hosting a number of key charities, community groups and a dance school. A community food pantry had also recently been established, with the support of the Council. Hoped that, with the help of the Council, the community cohesion and groups established in response to the Covid pandemic could continue longer term.

In response, the Leader noted that comments regarding CAB3278 would be considered further under the relevant agenda item. In addition, the Winchester Town Forum was leading on the Vision for Winchester document. An announcement on the community food pantry would be made under the minute below.

5. **LEADER AND CABINET MEMBERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Leader and Cabinet members made a number of announcements as summarised briefly below.

Councillor Thompson

Announced the award of two grants of £12,500 to assist with the set up costs of two community food pantries – one at Unit 12 Winnall and another at Wickham Community Centre. The payments would be made from the local authority emergency assistance grant.

Councillor Porter

Provided an update on the proposals for the Aquind Interconnector and the ongoing public examination.

The consultation on the M3 Junction 9 proposals would be delayed until Summer 2021 and parish councils would be consulted at this time.

The consultation on the proposals for a new model of healthcare and new hospital would also be delayed until Summer 2021.

Councillor Tod

Provided an update on the new waste contract and garden waste recycling scheme. Highlighted that the new contract to come into effect from 1 February 2021 would also allow kerbside recycling of batteries and small electrical appliances. Opportunities to explore more “carton bins” to collect tetra Pac recycling were also being examined.

Councillor Learney

Announced that the Central Winchester Regeneration project consultation had recently ended with higher levels of contributions than for previous events, with a broader range of participants. A full report on the consultation responses would be given at the Central Winchester Regeneration Open Forum to be held on Tuesday 26 January 2021. Further details available [here](#).

6. **CONSULTATION ON THE STRATEGIC ISSUES & PRIORITIES**
(CAB3278)

Councillor Porter introduced the report highlighting that the document would be consulting on the principles for the district and not specific sites. She responded to the points raised during the public participation, including confirming that the meeting of the Local Plan Advisory Group (LPAG) on 11 January 2021 had been very useful and comments and suggestions made had been reflected in the Strategic Issues and Priorities document appended to the report. In addition, a joint piece of work had been commissioned to investigate employment in the district with regard to the impact of the Covid pandemic.

At the invitation of the Leader, Councillors Bell, Brook and Horrill addressed Cabinet as summarised briefly below.

Councillor Bell

Welcomed the announcement of the start date for the consultation and also the inclusion of carbon neutrality in the local plan. Highlighting the public concern regarding the recent Royal Down land owner proposal, emphasised the importance of continuing to explain the status of the Strategic Housing and Employment Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA).

Councillor Brook

Agreed with comments made during public participation that points made at the meeting of the LPAG did not appear to have been taken into account. Believed that the consultation was Winchester town centre focussed with over regard for the Winchester Town Forum as opposed to parish councils. In general, considered that the proposed consultation

would not be meaningful and was a “tick box exercise”.

Councillor Horrill

Requested specific assurance from the Cabinet Member that the comments made at LPAG would be taken into account prior to the publication of the document. Queried whether the Council could take a more innovative approach to the definition of brownfield sites, similar to that adopted by Hounslow Council (she offered to share this work with Officers and the Cabinet Member which was welcomed). Considered that the information provided to residents in order to effectively respond to the consultation could be improved.

The Head of Regulatory, the Strategic Planning Manager and the Cabinet Member responded to comments made including reiterating that the points raised at LPAG by both Councillors, members of the public and parish councils had been very useful and been taken into account. The wording of the consultation documents would be carefully considered to ensure it was readily understandable and “jargon free”. It was noted that the consultation period would run for eight weeks and agreed that the report recommendations be amended to reflect this.

The Head of Regulatory and Strategic Planning Manager also answered Cabinet Member queries in relation to the definition and allocation of brownfield sites, the details of the consultation proposed (including with parish councils) and the process for any designation of a green belt.

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

RESOLVED:

1. That the Strategic Issues & Priorities Document, as attached at Appendix 1, and publication and eight week public consultation under Regulation 18 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 be approved.
2. That authority be delegated to the Strategic Planning Manager, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Built Environment & Well Being, to undertake updating, drafting of any amendments and the visualization of the Strategic Issues & Priorities document required prior to publication and consultation on the document.
3. That authority be delegated to the Strategic Director - Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for the Built Environment & Wellbeing, to amend the Local Development Scheme (LDS) to include consultation on the Strategic Issues & Priorities document.

7. **AIR QUALITY SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT (AQ SPD)**
(CAB3279)

Councillor Murphy introduced the report highlighting that the production of an AQ SPD was a core action of the Air Quality Action Plan and in addition to improving

air quality, it could also attract investment in green technology and sustainable travel. The Service Lead: Public Protection outlined the background and detail of the proposals.

At the invitation of the Leader, Councillor Pearson addressed Cabinet as summarised briefly below.

Queried why the AQ SPD only applied to the Winchester town area and did not cover the wider district? Believed that the document was a useful starting point to improving air quality but in view of proposals set out in the current Environment Bill, he questioned whether it went far enough to control particulate emissions.

The Service Lead: Public Protection responded to questions raised, including confirming that the Council did monitor air quality across the district, but it was only in the Winchester town area that Nitrogen Dioxide levels exceeded national standards which is why there is a designated air quality management area. The Head of Regulatory confirmed that preparation for the new local plan could examine whether other policies to address air quality matters were required.

Cabinet agreed that the proposed public consultation period be extended to eight weeks to coincide with the consultation on the Strategic Issues and Priorities document and the report's recommendation be amended accordingly.

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

RESOLVED:

That an eight week public consultation on the proposed Air Quality Supplementary Planning Document be commenced, as set out within Appendix A of report CAB3279, the findings of which will then be reported back to a future Cabinet meeting.

8. **BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN**
(CAB3280)

Councillor Murphy introduced the report which set out the strategic direction for how the Council would deliver actions which protect, enhance and restore key biodiversity within the district. The Natural Environment and Recreation Manager outlined the report in more detail and emphasised that the Plan contained realistic targets and would focus on the Council's own operations.

At the invitation of the Leader, Councillor Pearson addressed Cabinet as summarised briefly below.

Welcomed the Plan as a useful document in providing a guide for development and the protection of vital habitats within the district. Emphasised the crucial importance of protecting biodiversity in the context of tackling climate change.

During debate, Cabinet Members welcomed the Plan and highlighted that it be a useful resource for young people and schools within the district. The Natural Environment and Recreation Manager agreed to examine how this idea could be taken forward as an addition to the action plan for 2022.

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

RESOLVED:

That the draft Biodiversity Action Plan be approved, as set out in appendix A-C of report CAB3280 and that the Natural Environment and Recreation Team Manager be authorised to make minor changes to enable updates that may occur from the cabinet meeting and any other minor editing changes, in consultation with Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency.

9. **CAR PARKS MAJOR WORK PROGRAMME**
(CAB3284)

Councillor Tod and the Service Lead: Environmental Services introduced the report which set out the proposed programme for 2021/22 together with the indicative programme for 2022/23. It also outlined work achieved during the current financial year.

At the invitation of the Leader, Councillors Miller and Lumby addressed Cabinet as summarised briefly below.

Councillor Miller

Welcomed the inclusion of the project at The Dean, New Alresford which would offer vital additional parking to support a market town. Also welcomed the work on the new Carfax park and ride site.

Councillor Lumby

Believed the programme was confused and ill-considered with regard to the declared climate emergency and in recommending significant expenditure on car parks with no evidence that this would be self-funded. There was also little consideration of market towns. Considered that the introduction of Sunday and evening parking charges during a pandemic was misguided. Disputed that the Ringo mobile parking system was free to users.

Councillor Tod responded to comments made including highlighting that the vast majority of capital expenditure items related to the whole district and there was no evidence that parking charges had reduced footfall in the city centre. In addition, the Ringo service was free to users unless they required a receipt or reminder.

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

RESOLVED:

1. That, subject to Full Council approval of the Budget and Capital Investment Strategy in February 2021 expenditure of £368,000 for the car park major works programme 2021/22 be approved as outlined in appendix A of report CAB3284.

2. That the indicative programme for 2022/23 totalling £410,000 be noted as a basis for planning and preparing future works.

3. That authority be delegated to the Head of Programme in consultation with the Corporate Head of Asset Management and Cabinet Member for the Service Quality and Transformation, to make minor adjustments to the programme in order to meet maintenance and operational needs of the car park service throughout the year, as required.

10. **FUTURE ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION BY CABINET**

RESOLVED:

That the list of future items, as set out in the Forward Plan for February 2021, be noted.

The meeting commenced at 9.30 am and concluded at 11.40 am

Chairperson