

Minutes



To: All Members of the Cabinet,
Chief Executive, Chief Officers

From: Legal, Democratic & Statutory Services
Ask for: Deborah Jeffery
Ext: 25563

CABINET **21 January 2019**

ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS OF THE CABINET

D A Ashley, P Bibby, T L F Douris, T C Heritage, T W Hone, T R Hutchings, R M Roberts, R Sangster, J D Williams, (Leader of the Council)

Other Members in Attendance

A J S Mitchell

Upon consideration of the agenda for the Cabinet meeting on 21 January 2019 as circulated, copy annexed, conclusions were reached and are recorded below:

Note: No conflicts of interest were declared by any member of the Cabinet in relation to the matters on which decisions were reached at this meeting.

PART I ('OPEN') BUSINESS

1. MINUTES

1.1 The Minutes (Parts I and II) of the Cabinet meeting held on 17 December 2018 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

2. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL TO EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

2.1 There were no questions from Members of the Council to Executive Members.

CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS

.....

3. PUBLIC PETITIONS

3.1 There were no public petitions.

4. INTEGRATED PLAN 2019/20 - 2022/23

Disclosable Interests

4.1 It was noted that All Members who had a disclosable pecuniary interest arising from an allowance from the county council, another local authority in Hertfordshire, or a body to whom they had been appointed by the county council, had received a dispensation to allow them to participate in debate and vote on the Integrated Plan.

4.2 All Members had been granted a dispensation to participate in debate and vote in any business of the county council relating to setting the council tax or precept when they would otherwise be prevented from doing so in consequence of having a beneficial interest in land which is within the administrative area of Hertfordshire or a licence (alone or jointly) to occupy such land.

4.3 D A Ashley declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in item 4 as he receives an allowance from the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority; the dispensation referred to in the first paragraph above applies to this interest.

4.4 The following Members declared Declarable Interests under the county council's Code of Conduct for Members:-

D A Ashley – as he is Chairman of Hitchin Educational Foundation, a charity which derives part of its income from leasing a property to the county council; and a board member of Groundwork which derives part of its income from the county council.

T L F Douris – as he is a trustee of the Hertfordshire Community Foundation which contracts with the county council for the delivery of training and also for the distribution of the Hertfordshire Community Funds scheme.

T C Heritage – as she is a member of the Oaklands Corporation (the Further Education College) which derives part of its income from funds received from the county council.

4(i) PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT ON THE 2019/20 – 2022/23 INTEGRATED PLAN
[Forward Plan Ref: A081/18]

Decision

4.5 Cabinet noted the results of the public engagement activity undertaken and took this into account when considering the proposed Integrated Plan for 2019/20 and beyond.

Reasons for the decision

4.6 The Integrated Plan engagement process has primarily been focused on informing and raising awareness with residents about the financial pressures faced by the county council. Ongoing dialogue concerning the financial issues the council faces continues to be promoted through channels such as the council website, and through stakeholder and user groups.

4.7 Specific service-related proposals which affect the integrated plan are each subject to their own individual consultations, the outcomes of which are reported to Cabinet separately at the appropriate time. Alongside this consultation activity, the council has engaged widely with service users and partners to help shape its future spending and service plans.

4.8 Cabinet Panels will be invited to consider these results when reviewing the Integrated Plan proposals at their forthcoming meetings.

Any alternative options considered and rejected

None.

4(ii) INTEGRATED PLAN 2019/20 - 2022/23
[Forward Plan Ref: A082/18]

Decision

4.9 Cabinet:

- i) agreed the draft Integrated Plan as the basis to seek feedback from Service Cabinet Panels, Overview & Scrutiny Committee, and Resources and Performance Cabinet Panel, prior to the next Cabinet meeting on 18 February 2019.
- ii) approved the release of schools budget data/information to the Department for Education (DfE), and delegated authority to the Interim Director of Resources to make any consequential amendments arising from current uncertainties to comply with and ensure submission by the deadline (21 January 2019).

**CHAIRMAN'S
INITIALS**

.....

iii) requested officers to start work on budget proposals now relating to 2020/21 and beyond with a view to establishing timescales for review. No options should be excluded at this stage and areas may include the following:

- Options to further reduce spending within safe limits
- Review and challenge of all relevant service spending
- Opportunities to support lobbying for additional resources (e.g. future council tax flexibility)
- Opportunities to develop transformational change across all Council activities.

Reasons for the decision

- 4.10 As set out above.
- 4.11 Cabinet considered the Integrated Plan which brings together the financial impact of service plans and the available funding to resource these over the next four years. These plans have been set in the context of the difficult challenges that the council faces, which include the increasing demand for services from Hertfordshire's growing and ageing population; inflation pressures impacting on service providers; significant savings already delivered and further reductions expected in Central Government grant funding.
- 4.12 Although a balanced budget is presented for 2019/20, the medium term financial position, detailed in section 7 of the report, is extremely challenging, with a savings requirement rising from £20.2m in 2020/21 to £44.7m in 2022/23. This is in addition to the delivery of already identified efficiencies and policy choices forecast to save £45.2m by 2022/23; any slippage in delivery in planned savings will increase the unfunded gap in future years.
- 4.13 The Integrated Plan period has been extended to 2022/23, to enable forward planning to respond to changing demand and to deliver service change. However, only the first year (2019/20) falls within the Government's four year settlement offer, and subsequent years will depend on proposed changes to local authority financing.
- 4.14 Service Cabinet Panels, the Overview & Scrutiny Committee and the Resources and Performance Cabinet Panel will consider and provide feedback on the Integrated Plan proposals to Cabinet on 18 February prior to final recommendation being made, for determination by the County Council on 19 February 2019.

Any alternative options considered and rejected

None.

**KATHRYN PETTITT
CHIEF LEGAL OFFICER**

CHAIRMAN _____

**CHAIRMAN'S
INITIALS**

.....