

CABINET

MINUTES of the meeting held on Tuesday, 22 April 2025 commencing at 2.00 pm and finishing at 2.30 pm

Present:

Voting Members: Councillor Liz Leffman – in the Chair
Councillor Dr Pete Sudbury (Deputy Chair)
Councillor Andrew Gant
Councillor John Howson
Councillor Dan Levy
Councillor Dr Nathan Ley
Councillor Judy Roberts

Other Members in Attendance: Councillor Donna Ford

Officers:

Whole of meeting Martin Reeves (Chief Executive) Lorna Baxter (Executive Director of Resources & Section 151 Officer), Stephen Chandler (Executive Director of People, transformation and Performance), Anita Bradley (Director of Law & Governance and Monitoring Officer), Chris Reynolds (Senior Democratic Services Officer)

The Cabinet considered the matters, reports and recommendations contained or referred to in the agenda for the meeting, together with a schedule of addenda tabled at the meeting, and decided as set out below. Except insofar as otherwise specified, the reasons for the decisions are contained in the agenda, reports and schedule, copies of which are attached to the signed Minutes.

65/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

(Agenda Item. 1)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bearder, Fawcett and Gregory.

66/25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

(Agenda Item. 2)

There were none.

67/25 MINUTES

(Agenda Item. 3)

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 March 2025 were approved as a correct record.

68/25 QUESTIONS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

(Agenda Item. 4)

There were none received.

69/25 PETITIONS AND PUBLIC ADDRESS

(Agenda Item. 5)

There were no requests received.

70/25 APPOINTMENTS

(Agenda Item. 6)

There were no appointments to report to this meeting.

71/25 REPORTS FROM SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

(Agenda Item. 7)

Councillor Kieron Mallon, Chair of the People Overview and Scrutiny Committee, presented the report in Co-production in Adult Social Care.

Cabinet received the report and will respond in due course.

72/25 COST OF LIVING PROGRAMME FOR 2025/26

(Agenda Item. 8)

Cabinet had before it a report setting out the intended approach to support those residents who were most negatively impacted by cost-of-living pressures following the government's announcement of an extension of the Household Support Fund from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026.

The report also provided the latest position on the impact of cost-of-living pressures and set out highlights from the 2024/25 funding programme.

Councillor Dr Nathan Ley, Cabinet Member for Public Health, Inequalities and Community Safety, presented the report. Councillor Lay highlighted the main elements of the programme including holiday free school meal support, resident support scheme (crisis payments and local district level funding), and advice services. He also congratulated the cost of living team for their nomination for the best small team of the year at the Local Government Chronicle Awards

During discussion, members referred to the government's plan to publish a child poverty strategy later in the year. The importance of protecting those struggling with the cost of living was emphasised.

RECOMMENDED to:-

- a) approve the support package for 2025/26, as summarised in Table 2**
- b) approve the repurposing £85,000 of funding held in the Emergency Welfare Fund reserve to support the Community Wealth Building programme**
- c) delegate authority to the Director for Public Affairs, Policy & Partnerships in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Public Health, Inequalities and Community Safety, to approve the deployment of unallocated funds for emerging need, and to amend the programme during the year in response to changing and emerging need, within the overall programme budget**

73/25 CAPITAL PROGRAMME APPROVALS - APRIL 2025

(Agenda Item. 9)

Cabinet had before it which set out change requests requiring Cabinet approval that will be incorporated into the agreed Capital programme and included in the next update to programme in June 2025.

Councillor Dan Levy, Cabinet Member for Finance, presented the report. He referred to the two schemes detailed in the report relating to energy saving measures funded through corporate resources and a government decarbonisation scheme and fire safety improvements in council buildings, ensuring compliance with safety regulations. Both initiatives reflected the council's commitment to reducing carbon emissions and maintaining safe facilities.

RESOLVED to:

- a) approve the addition of a new phase of energy saving measures into the capital programme, at a total cost of £10.360m. The two-year programme will run from 2025-2027 and is to be funded by £10.000m from corporate resources, as approved by Council in February 2025, with the remaining £0.360m to be funded by a successful bid to Phase 4 of the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS4).**
- b) approve the inclusion of phase 2 and 3 of Fire Compartmentation Remedial works into the capital programme, at a cost of £3.700m. The programme of work is to be funded from £2.000m corporate resources agreed by Council in February 2024 and a further £1.700m agreed by Council in February 2025.**

74/25 DELEGATED POWERS REPORT FOR JANUARY TO MARCH 2025
(Agenda Item. 10)

There were no executive decisions taken under delegated powers during the period January to March 2025 to report to this meeting.

75/25 FORWARD PLAN AND FUTURE BUSINESS
(Agenda Item. 11)

The Cabinet considered a list of items for the immediately forthcoming meetings of the Cabinet together with changes and additions set out in the schedule of addenda.

RESOLVED to note the items currently identified for forthcoming meetings.

76/25 FOR INFORMATION ONLY: CABINET RESPONSE TO SCRUTINY ITEM
(Agenda Item. 12)

Cabinet noted the response to the Scrutiny item on Infrastructure Funding Statement and S.106 Project Review.

.....in the Chair

Date of signing