

**MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETING
HELD AT 10:00AM, ON
MONDAY 10 JANUARY 2022
SAND MARTIN HOUSE, PETERBOROUGH**

Cabinet Members Present: Councillor Fitzgerald (Chair), Steve Allen, Councillor Ayres, Councillor Cereste, Councillor Coles, Councillor Hiller, Councillor Simons, Councillor Walsh

Cabinet Advisor Present: Councillor Bashir, Councillor Bisby, Councillor Howard, Councillor Gul Nawaz

39. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence received.

40. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received.

41. MINUTES OF MEETINGS HELD ON:

(a) CABINET SHAREHOLDER COMMITTEE MEETING – 1 MARCH 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 March 2021 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

(b) CABINET SHAREHOLDER COMMITTEE MEETING – 13 SEPTEMBER 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 September 2021 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

(c) CABINET – 15 NOVEMBER 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 March 2021 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

(d) BUDGET CABINET – 29 NOVEMBER 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 November 2021 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

42. PETITIONS PRESENTED TO CABINET

There were no petitions presented to Cabinet.

STRATEGIC DECISIONS

43. ‘SAVE BRETTON OAK TREE’ PETITION – ACTION TO BE TAKEN

The Leader advised that this item had been deferred from this meeting, to be considered at the Cabinet meeting on 21 February 2022.

44. PETERBOROUGH CLIMATE COMMITMENT

The Cabinet received a report in relation to the Peterborough Climate Commitment.

The purpose of this report was to inform the Cabinet of the Peterborough Climate Commitment and to ask the Cabinet to sign the Council up to the Commitment.

The Cabinet Member for Waste, Street Scene and the Environment introduced the report and advised that the Council had a clear understanding of its environmental impact, routinely monitored reductions in environmental impact, and was committed to taking more action going forward.

Cabinet Members debated the report and in summary responses to questions raised included:

- Members were advised that any business, charities, or organisations could sign up if they had a carbon footprint.
- It was for each organisation to implement the Commitment. The Council had its own Carbon Action Plan, had plans to increase tree canopy cover to 25%, was reducing energy consumption, and had funding to reach 0 carbon by 2030.
- It was noted that 10 organisations had already signed up to the Commitment during the preparation process. If the Council could provide leadership and promotion, officers were optimistic that take up would be high.

Cabinet considered the report and **RESOLVED** to:

1. Sign up to the Peterborough Climate Commitment.
2. Encourage organisations across Peterborough to also sign up to the Peterborough Climate Commitment.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

It was decided that Cabinet sign up to the Peterborough Climate Commitment as it aligned with the Council's carbon emissions and natural environment ambitions.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

The alternative option was to not sign up to the Peterborough Climate Commitment, however this was not considered due to the Council's previous commitments to tackle climate change and the decision to increase tree planting ambitions.

45. HOMELESSNESS AND ROUGH SLEEPING STRATEGY 2021/2026

The Cabinet received a report in relation to the Council's Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy for 2021 to 2026.

The purpose of this report was to seek agreement from Cabinet to recommend the Strategy for Council for approval.

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Communities introduced the report and advised that the Strategy set out the Council's intention to relieve homelessness in the next five years. The five priorities of the Strategy were set out within the report, with the overarching aim to act as one city to end homelessness. The Cabinet Members went on to acknowledge the support received from housing services, both internally and externally.

Cabinet Members debated the report and in summary responses to questions raised included:

- Members noted that the Council needed to take an intelligent approach to tackling homelessness and the causes of homelessness in Peterborough as a priority. It was considered that loss of accommodation and Section 21 evictions had been a key issue prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Officers would be working with individuals at an early stage, for example, at the point at which notice is served.
- It was advised that the key risks were around future unknowns, with possible pressures residents may face following the end of the furlough scheme and the end of restrictions around evictions.
- Members were informed that there had been a reduction in the number of people presenting as homeless, although this was suspected to be a delay. Numbers were expected to increase to approximately one more person a week.
- It was noted that individuals who were not rough sleeping, but still homeless were also a priority for officers and that maintenance of accommodation was considered key to ensure that individuals could access the support they needed.
- It was felt that a great deal of progress had been made during the COVID-19 pandemic, with a strategy developed alongside the Council's partners taking an active role in providing support.
- Members considered that many of those affected by homelessness were difficult to reach, with no one approach appropriate for all. It was important that the Strategy provided a wide variety of options to help people take the first steps. It was specifically noted that, through the 'Housing First' model, chronically excluded adults would have support wrapped around them.
- It was advised that work was being undertaken with landlords, with suggestion from Members that a small fee should be considered, particularly in light of the benefits provided in avoiding court fees.

Cabinet considered the report and **RESOLVED** to:

1. Recommend the Strategy and Action Plan to Full Council for approval.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

It was decided that Cabinet approved progressing the report through to full council approval in order for the council to fulfil its statutory duty in relation to homelessness and to provide the Housing Needs service its service direction for the coming years in tackling homelessness in the city.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

No alternative options had been considered. It was a statutory requirement to develop a homelessness and rough sleeping strategy.

46. DEVELOPMENT OF THE INTEGRATED CARE SYSTEM

The Cabinet received a report in relation to the Integrated Care System (ICS).

The purpose of this report was to provide a briefing to Cabinet on the ICS and secure support for the Local Authority's role in delivering the required outcomes of the ICS.

The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Health and Public Health introduced the report and advised on the development of the ICS system. The target date for implementation of the new system had been altered from April 2022 to July 2022, with a great deal of work having already taken place at system level. It was anticipated that the Executive Director of People and Communities and the Director of Public Health would site on the ICS, with elected members having a role on the Partnership Board. The Health and Wellbeing Board would continue its current role in strategy and Joint Strategic Needs Assessment development.

Cabinet Members debated the report and in summary responses to questions raised included:

- Members were advised that this proposal provided an opportunity to join up health and care services at a local level, in order to increase local community involvement in health services and develop solutions to common but difficult problems.
- The proposals represented a big change for the NHS, with Clinical Commissioning Groups ceasing to exist and becoming part of the ICS. Budgets would also be devolved to NHS providers.
- It was noted that a development day with current members of the Health and Wellbeing Board had been held in October, with agreement reached on the objectives and ambitions of the partnership. The broad nature priorities being taken forward reflected the changing mood of the health service.
- Members felt it was imported to use language around the development of the ICS that was accessible to the general population, avoiding technical jargon and acronyms.
- In relation to the cost, Members were advised that the proposals aimed to reduce duplication of work and introduce a more systematic approach. With focus more on prevention, it was considered that the financial pressure on the Council for related services would be reduced.
- It was suggested that Peterborough City Council needed to ensure its input in the development of the ICS, and the value of the both Peterborough City Council and Cambridgeshire County Council's offering had been recognised by the NHS.
- If the ICS was successful, it was advised that services would be wrapped around residents and more reflective of the local community. It was also considered that the proposals would increase transparency around what funding was available.
- In order to ensure that the ICS delivered against its priorities, two Council officers were to site of the board, with the scrutiny function playing a key role in holding the ICS to account.
- Members highlighted the importance ensuring the wellbeing of children prior to them entering education, with attention being drawn to the Best Start in Life Strategy.
- It was suggested that a briefing be provided to all Members on the topic, in order to ensure that all were aware of the future arrangements.

Cabinet considered the report and **RESOLVED** to:

1. Note the update on the Integrated Care System (ICS); and
2. Endorse the Local Authority's role in delivering the required outcomes of the ICS.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

Local Authorities would have a legal requirement to co-operate with the NHS in the development and delivery of the ICS. It was therefore important that Members and the public understand what this legal requirement was and what it meant in practice for the local authority.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

No other options were considered. It was imperative that Members and the public were informed and understand the local authority's legal accountabilities.

47. COUNCIL TAXBASE 2022/23 AND COLLECTION FUND DECLARATION 2021/22

The Cabinet received a report in relation to the Council Taxbase 202/23 and the Collection Fund Declaration 2021/22.

The report formed part of the preparation for setting the Council's budget. It needed to be considered for the tax base and the Collection Fund balances to be used in setting the Council's overall budget and Council Tax and could be notified to other affected authorities within the statutory deadlines for the same purpose.

The Cabinet Member for Finance introduced the report and advised that there were no proposals for Council Tax payments in April. It was noted that there were under 90,000 properties on the Council Tax collection list, 68% of which were on the lowest possible band, and increase from the previous year.

Cabinet Members debated the report and in summary responses to questions raised included:

- Members were advised that the Council Tax Collection Fund deficit impacted on revenue budget. Government had, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, allowed local authorities to spread such deficit over three years.
- It was noted that a number of grants had been enabled in order to cover some of the deficit amount.

Cabinet considered the report and **RESOLVED** to:

1. Propose the calculation of the Council Tax Base for 2022/23 set at a level of 60,494.82 Band D equivalent properties based on the existing council tax support scheme.
2. To note the estimated position on the Collection Fund in respect of Council Tax as at 31 March 2022 being:

£1.320m Deficit

3. To note these estimated positions with the Corporate Director Resources reserving the right to amend the final estimated position on the Collection Fund balance as at 31 March 2022 in accordance with the statutory Determination legislation and timescales.
4. To note the estimated position on the Collection Fund in respect of Business Rates as at 31 March 2021 being £16.6m

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The Council Tax Base could be set at a higher or lower level. However, this could have the effect of either inflating unnecessarily the amount of Council Tax to be set or setting the tax at a level insufficient to meet the Council's budget requirements. A similar position could arise if the surplus or deficit were set at a higher or lower level.

The calculation and return of the information included in the NNDR1 was a statutory requirement which could be formally delegated to an officer. As with council tax if the amount of business rates estimated to be collected was increased or reduced or the surplus or deficit was set at a higher or lower level then the amount of income available to the council would change with the consequent effect on service provision or council tax levels.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

The report covered calculations that were all prescribed by regulations with the effect that no other options needed to be considered.

MONITORING ITEMS

48. BUDGET CONTROL REPORT NOVEMBER 2021

The Cabinet received a report in relation to the November 2021 Budget Control Report.

The purpose of this report was to provide Cabinet with the forecast outturn for 2021/22 as at November 2021 budgetary control position.

The Cabinet Member for Finance introduced the report and advised that the Council position was much more positive than the previous report. The Council's position was breakeven, with under figures improved by £5 million. The amount drawn down from reserves had decreased, as such, no capitalisation direction was required for this year.

It was noted that the majority of savings had come from the People and Communities Directorate. However, Members were advised that reserves were still be utilised, which was not a sustainable approach with one third of the financial year left. Upcoming pressures in relation to inflation were also noted and would be monitored ahead of the start of the next financial year.

Four key issues were highlighted to Members: the overspend in Children's Commissioning was now an underspend, there was some recovering on parking incoming although the service was still in a deficit position, benefits were expected to be seen from ESPC1 (previously known as Empower), and there was a £500,000 budget pressure in relation to selective licensing.

Cabinet Members debated the report and in summary responses to questions raised included:

- Work would already underway on the development of a new Capital Strategy and was currently undergoing internal checking, with submission to Full Council anticipated in March for approval.
- The report was based on forecasts for the winter months and officers were as confident as possible in these forecasts.

Cabinet considered the report and **RESOLVED** to note:

1. The budgetary control position for 2021/22 at 30 November 2021 is a forecast breakeven, however the use of reserves underpins the corporate financing position of the Council.
2. The key variance analysis and explanations are contained in Appendix A.
3. The Council's reserves position, as outlined within Appendix B.
4. The Council's capital financial performance as outlined in Appendix C.
5. Note the Council's performance with respect to Business Rates (NNDR) and Council Tax Collection, as outlined within Appendix D.

Cabinet **RESOLVED** to approve:

6. Capital Budget virements as outlined in Appendix C(i), these include:
 - a. Treescape Grant
 - b. Traffic Signals Maintenance Fund

Cabinet **RESOLVED** to recommend to Council for approval:

7. Capital Budget virements as outlined in Appendix C(i), these include:
 - a. Update on Clare Lodge Bid
 - b. A1260 Nene Parkway Junction 15 Improvements

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

To ensure that Cabinet are up to date on the forecast outturn for 2021/22 as at the November 2021 budgetary control position.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

No alternative options were considered.

49. OUTCOME OF PETITIONS

The Cabinet received a report in relation to the outcome of petitions.

The purpose of this report was to update Cabinet on the progress being made in response to petitions submitted to the Council.

Cabinet considered the report and **RESOLVED** to note the actions taken in respect of petitions.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

As the petitions presented in this report had been dealt with by Cabinet Members or officers, it was appropriate that the action taken was reported to Cabinet.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

There had been no alternative options considered.

Chairman
10.00am to 11:14am
10 January 2022