

CABINET

6.00 P.M.

24TH OCTOBER 2023

PRESENT:- Councillors Phillip Black (Chair), Caroline Jackson, Joanne Ainscough, Gina Dowding, Tim Hamilton-Cox, Peter Jackson, Jean Parr, Catherine Potter and Jason Wood

Apologies for Absence:-

Councillor Nick Wilkinson

Officers in attendance:-

Mark Davies	Chief Executive
Luke Gorst	Chief Officer - Governance and Monitoring Officer
Paul Thompson	Chief Officer - Resources and Section 151 Officer
Mark Cassidy	Chief Officer - Planning and Climate Change
Joanne Wilkinson	Chief Officer - Housing and Property
Daniel Wood	Partnerships Officer
Liz Bateson	Principal Democratic Support Officer

It was noted that the Leader had been delayed and Councillor Caroline Jackson (Deputy Leader) took the Chair to enable the meeting to start at the appointed time.

30 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 11 September 2023 were approved as a correct record.

31 ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS AUTHORISED BY THE LEADER

The Chair advised that there were no items of urgent business.

32 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made at this point.

33 PUBLIC SPEAKING

Members were advised that there had been no requests to speak at the meeting in accordance with Cabinet's agreed procedure.

The Leader arrived during consideration of the following item and took the Chair at the conclusion of the item.

34 HOMELESS AND ROUGH SLEEPER STRATEGY

Cabinet Member with Special Responsibility Councillor Caroline Jackson)

Cabinet received a report from the Chief Officer Housing & Property to request Cabinet's approval of the Homeless and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023-2028.

The options, options analysis, including risk assessment and officer preferred option, were set out in the report as follows:

	Option 1: Do not approve the revised Homeless and Rough Sleeper Strategy.	Option 2: Approve the revised Homeless and Rough Sleeper Strategy.
Advantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No notable advantages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Independently reviewed strategy which is compliant with current legislation and good practice. Reduction in homelessness. Reduction in use of bed and breakfast, for families and single people. Provides a clear framework and action plan for the council and partners to reduce homelessness. Improved community cohesion
Disadvantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unable to carry out statutory duties to prevent homelessness. Increased statutory homeless applications. Increased health inequalities. Increase in temporary accommodation costs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No notable disadvantages
Risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legal challenge – the council would be in breach of its legal requirements and face censure, and the loss of funding support, from the Government. Increased costs to the council through increasing levels of homelessness and rough sleeping. Reduced community cohesion and increase in ASB. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Targets are not achieved.

The officer preferred option is 2.

Councillor Caroline Jackson proposed, seconded by Councillor Hamilton-Cox:-

“That the recommendations, as set out in the report, be approved.”

Councillors then voted:-

Resolved unanimously:

- (1) That the Homeless and Rough Sleeper Strategy and the three-year action plan (Appendix One) to the report, be approved and adopted.
- (2) That annual updates on progress be presented to Cabinet.

Officer responsible for effecting the decision:

Chief Officer Housing & Property

Reasons for making the decision:

Whilst the national and local housing context is undeniably challenging setting out a clear plan for action and working in partnership with others provides the best opportunity to support some of the district’s most vulnerable residents.

The decision directly contributes to the Council’s approved priorities including focussing on early intervention approaches and involving our communities.

It is also consistent with the Homes Strategy through supporting independent living, creating sustainable communities, and improving health through housing.

Councillor Phillip Black took the chair at this point.

35 LIVESTREAMING OF CABINET MEETINGS

(Cabinet Member with Special Responsibility Councillor Wood)

Cabinet received a report from the Chief Officer Governance to enable Cabinet to consider livestreaming meetings during the municipal year 2024/25.

The options, options analysis, including risk assessment and officer preferred option, were set out in the report as follows:

	Option 1: To livestream meetings of Cabinet from May 2024.	Option 2: Not to livestream meetings of Cabinet.	Option 3: To livestream meetings of Cabinet held at Morecambe Town Hall only.
Advantages	Fits with the modernising local government agenda, allowing people to watch meetings as they	Continuation of alternating venues would allow people to attend in person at venues in and Lancaster	Would allow the public to continue to attend Cabinet meetings in Lancaster Town Hall in person.

	<p>happen without having to attend in person.</p> <p>Reduces the need for the public to travel to meetings.</p> <p>Increased transparency, accountability, and openness.</p>	<p>Town Hall as well as Morecambe.</p>	
Disadvantages	<p>All meetings would have to be held at Morecambe Town Hall.</p>	<p>Would not take advantage of the livestreaming equipment.</p> <p>The public would have to attend in person to be able to watch/listen to the meeting as it happens.</p>	<p>Would not take full advantage of the livestreaming equipment.</p>
Risks	<p>None identified. Livestreaming of meetings is now used by many local authorities and has been for some time.</p>	<p>May attract criticism if the equipment is in place but not used for Cabinet meetings where the Council's key decisions are taken.</p>	<p>Could confuse the public – they are likely to expect all meetings to be livestreamed and it may attract criticism if only half the formal meetings are livestreamed.</p>

The officer preferred option is Option 1, to allow the public to access a livestream of Cabinet meetings and make full use of the equipment in the Council Chamber. The public will still be able to attend at Morecambe Town Hall if they do not have access to the software to watch the livestream.

Councillor Wood proposed, seconded by Councillor Ainscough:-

“That the recommendation, as set out in the report, be approved.”

Councillors then voted:-

Resolved unanimously:

- (1) That Cabinet meetings be livestreamed during the municipal year 2024/25.

Officer responsible for effecting the decision:

Chief Officer Governance

Reasons for making the decision:

Extending the Council's livestreaming offer to include formal Cabinet meetings is consistent with the Council's priorities. The use of technology will facilitate public viewing by improving accessibility and transparency of decision making in line with the focus on serving residents. This fits with the modernising local government agenda, allowing people to watch meetings as they happen without having to attend in person.

36 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY MID YEAR REVIEW

Cabinet Member with Special Responsibility Councillor Hamilton-Cox)

Cabinet received a report from the Chief Officer Resources which sought Cabinet's consideration of various matters in connection with the amendments to the Treasury Management Strategy for 2023/24 and the Treasury Management Mid-Year Review 2023/24.

As the report was for consideration and progressing to Budget and Performance Panel and Full Council, no alternative options were put forward. Councillor Hamilton-Cox, the Chief Executive and Chief Officer Resources responded to several questions with regard to the possible postponement of certain capital projects.

Councillor Hamilton-Cox proposed, seconded by Councillor Wood:-

"That the recommendations, as set out in the report, be approved."

Councillors then voted:-

Resolved unanimously:

- (1) That the various matters in connection with the amendments to the Treasury Management Strategy for 2023/24 and the Treasury Management Mid-Year Review 2023/24 be noted.
- (2) That the amendments to the Treasury Management Strategy for 2023/24 as set out in Appendix B to the report be forwarded to the Budget & Performance Panel for consideration and comment and then forwarded to Full Council for approval in accordance with CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management (the Code) and the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (the Prudential Code).
- (3) That the Mid-Year Review 2023/24 as set out in Appendix C to the report be forwarded on to the Budget & Performance Panel and Full Council for consideration in accordance with CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management (the Code) and the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (the Prudential Code).

Officer responsible for effecting the decision:

Chief Officer Resources

Reasons for making the decision:

Effective Treasury Management and use of the Councils' resources is fundamental to the delivery of its priorities and outcomes.

Consideration of Treasury Management Mid-Year Review and presentation to Full Council will ensure the Council complies with CIPFA's Code of Practice on Treasury Management (the Code) and the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (the Prudential Code).

37 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was moved by Councillor Wood and seconded by Councillor Hamilton-Cox:-

"That, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business, on the grounds that it could involve the possible disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of that Act."

Members then voted as follows:-

Resolved unanimously:

- (1) That, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business, on the grounds that it could involve the possible disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of that Act.

38 WHITE LUND DEPOT IMPROVEMENTS (Pages 8 - 11)**Cabinet Member with Special Responsibility Councillor Phillip Black)**

Cabinet received a report from the Chief Officer Housing & Property. The report was exempt from publication by virtue of paragraph 3, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972.

The options, options analysis, including risk assessment and officer preferred option, were set out in the exempt report.

Councillor Phillip Black proposed, seconded by Councillor Parr:-

"That the recommendations, as set out in the exempt report be approved."

Councillors then voted.

Resolved unanimously:

The resolution is set out in a minute exempt from publication by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972.

Officer responsible for effecting the decision:

Chief Officer Housing & Property

Reasons for making the decision:

The decision is consistent with the Council's priorities. Exactly how the decision fits with Council priorities is set out in the exempt minute.

Chair

(The meeting ended at 7.28 p.m.)

**Any queries regarding these Minutes, please contact
Liz Bateson, Democratic Services - email ebateson@lancaster.gov.uk**

MINUTES PUBLISHED ON MONDAY 30 OCTOBER, 2023.

**EFFECTIVE DATE FOR IMPLEMENTING THE DECISIONS CONTAINED IN THESE MINUTES:
TUESDAY 7 NOVEMBER ,2023.**

Document is Restricted