

CABINET

6.00 P.M.

6TH NOVEMBER 2018

PRESENT:- Councillors Eileen Blamire (Chairman), Janice Hanson (Vice-Chairman), Nathan Burns, Darren Clifford, Brendan Hughes, Margaret Pattison and Anne Whitehead

Apologies for Absence:-

Councillor Andrew Warriner

Officers in attendance:-

Susan Parsonage	Chief Executive
Kieran Keane	Assistant Chief Executive
Mark Davies	Director for Communities and the Environment
Suzanne Lodge	Deputy Director for Communities and the Environment
Mark Cassidy	Planning Manager
David Brown	Interim Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer
Daniel Bates	Financial Services Manager
Paul Thompson	Accountancy Manager
Jez Bebbington	Executive Support Manager
Liz Bateson	Principal Democratic Support Officer

40 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 4 September 2018 were approved as a correct record.

41 ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS AUTHORISED BY THE LEADER

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

42 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made at this point.

43 PUBLIC SPEAKING

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

44 REFERRAL FROM THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - REPORT OF THE RESILIENCE COMMISSION INFORMAL TASK GROUP

Cabinet received a report from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee together with the final report and recommendations of the Resilience Commission Informal Task Group. Councillor Caroline Jackson, the Chairman of the task group presented the report.

The options were set out in the report as follows:

1. To accept the recommendations of Overview and Scrutiny.
2. Not to accept the recommendations of Overview and Scrutiny.
3. To make alternative proposals to those recommended by Overview and Scrutiny.

Councillor Hanson proposed, seconded by Councillor Whitehead:-

“That Cabinet notes the recommendations of the Resilience Commission Informal Task Group and requests that the Flooding Cabinet Liaison Group consider the recommendations in more detail when convened.”

Councillors then voted:-

Resolved unanimously:

- (1) That Cabinet notes the recommendations of the Resilience Commission Informal Task Group and requests that the Flooding Cabinet Liaison Group consider the recommendations in more detail when convened.

Officer responsible for effecting the decision:

Director for Communities and the Environment

Reasons for making the decision:

The decision is consistent with the Council Plan Principles regarding Community Leadership and Our Ambitions for Clean, Green and Safe Neighbourhoods. A Flooding Cabinet Liaison Group will provide a strategic oversight of flooding issues in the district including hearing the action plans and timescales from all the agencies with a responsibility for flooding and hearing from residents about what would help them best prepare and deal with flooding. It will also provide an appropriate forum to consider the recommendations of the task group in more detail.

45 FLOODING CABINET LIAISON GROUP (Page 8)

(Cabinet Member with Special Responsibility Councillor Warriner)

Cabinet considered a report which sought approval of the terms of reference of a Flooding Cabinet Liaison Group. Cabinet had agreed to establish a Flooding Cabinet Liaison Group in principle at its meeting on 26 June 2018 (Minute 12 refers).

The options were to agree to the Terms of Reference as attached at appendix 1 to the report or propose alternatives, subject to Cabinet's desired focus for the Cabinet Liaison Group. As long as the terms fit with the Constitution, there was no officer-preferred option.

Councillor Clifford proposed, seconded by Councillor Burns:-

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

Councillors then voted:-

Resolved unanimously:

- (1) That the proposed terms of reference for the Flooding Cabinet Liaison Group, as appended, be approved.

Officer responsible for effecting the decision:

Director for Communities and the Environment

Reasons for making the decision:

The establishment of Cabinet Liaison Groups assists the Cabinet in the discharge of executive functions. The rationale for a Flooding Cabinet Liaison Group was identified as a result of the work undertaken by the Resilience Commission Informal Task Group and is intended to provide a strategic oversight of flooding issues in the district and is consistent with the Council Plan Principles regarding Community Leadership and Our Ambitions for Clean, Green and Safe Neighbourhoods.

46 PROGRESS WITH THE COMMUNITY HOUSING FUND

(Cabinet Member with Special Responsibility Councillor Warriner)

Cabinet received a report from the Planning Manager (Regeneration & Planning) to set aside funding for the development of a sub-regional Community Housing Hub with neighbouring local authorities and to create a new fixed term Community Housing Fund Development Officer post.

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

	Option 1: Proceed with setting up a Community Housing Hub and create an officer resource through direct recruitment or through the Hub	Option 2: Only provide funding for officer support.	Option 3: Do not proceed with either option
Advantages	It will improve access to and increase the range of specialist services available to Community Groups that will not otherwise be available. It will provide the direct officer support	It will create a local resource to directly support groups in Lancaster district.	There will be no budget implications.

	required.		
Disadvantages	The funding could be spent on other projects.	The funding could be spent on other projects. Option 2 would not increase the range of specialist services available to Community Groups although there would be a local resource, it would potentially take longer for schemes to come to fruition.	There would be very little direct support available to support groups to bring projects forward. The capacity within the existing establishment will result in delays in bringing schemes forward due to lack of specialist input and the momentum of projects would be lost.
Risks	The effectiveness of the Hub will rely on the successful Provider who are likely to be based in Cumbria. It may be difficult to find a candidate that has the skills and knowledge required for the position. Using the Hub as a means of securing direct officer support will not provide the equivalent hours	The council may be unable to fill the vacancy. It is unlikely that the Hub Provider would be able to provide direct support if Lancaster City Council is not involved in the Hub partnership.	Loss of opportunities Reputational damage if the budget is not used for its intended purpose. Lack of delivery could hinder the future funding opportunities available. MHCLG may seek to recoup the allocation and direct it elsewhere.

The Officer Preferred Option is Option 1. The establishment of a sub-regional Community Housing Hub will improve access to and increase the range of specialist services required to bring Community Led developments into fruition, building on the successes of some of the schemes already completed or being brought forward in Cumbria. Along with the provision of direct support (either through a recruitment process or through a Hub) will ensure that Community Groups will have the necessary support and assistance required. This is particularly important if bids are made for capital grant due to the requirements of Homes England in terms of the quality of bids, acquiring Investment Partner Status, and in some instances, acquiring Registered Provider status for the management of rented units.

Community Led developments provide an opportunity to diversify the housing market in Lancaster district and increase the provision of affordable housing. Given that a further announcement of £163M national funding to support these initiatives and the fact that the council was successful in receiving the original allocation of £707K in 2016/17, funds have been put in place to provide a robust framework of support for local community groups without any direct impact on other council resources.

Councillor Hanson proposed, seconded by Councillor Hughes:-

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

Councillors then voted:-

Resolved unanimously:

- (1) That the progress being made within this region in relation to the development of a Community Led Housing Hub be noted.
- (2) That funding from the Community Housing Fund be set aside to enable a contribution of up to £15K for Year 1 set up costs for a Community Led Housing Hub, and that where there is opportunity to do so, officers be authorised to submit a bid for continued revenue funding for the Hub in future years, either through Homes England or other relevant external funding sources.
- (3) That further funding of up to £40K from the Community Housing Fund also be set aside to support the creation of a new fixed term part-time post (21 hours per week) for up to two years from initial appointment.
- (4) That, in the event that Lancaster City Council is unable to recruit a suitable candidate, the equivalent budget is used to purchase direct support from the Community Housing Hub Provider if capacity exists.
- (5) That the Interim Financial Services Manager/Section 151 Officer be authorised to update the General Fund Revenue Budget to reflect any decisions taken under recommendation 2 and 3 to be funded from the Revenue Grants Unapplied Reserve, and for continuation of the Hub in future years through additional external funding bids where appropriate to do so, and subject to there being a nil impact on the Council's resources.

Officers responsible for effecting the decision:

Planning Manager (Regeneration & Planning)
Interim Financial Services Manager/Section 151 Officer

Reasons for making the decision:

The decision is consistent with a success measure within the Corporate Plan to improve the quality and availability of housing, including the provision of affordable housing in some instances. In addition, it is consistent with the Lancaster District Housing Strategy, as it will increase the opportunities for specific groups to bring forward community led schemes tailored to their own needs and objectives providing a more diverse housing offer.

47 CORPORATE FINANCIAL MONITORING 2011/19 - QUARTER 2

(Cabinet Member with Special Responsibility Councillor Whitehead)

Cabinet received a report from the from the Interim Financial Services Manager to provide an overview of the Council's financial position for Quarter 2 of the 2018/19

monitoring cycle, and the supporting actions underway.

As the report was primarily for noting, no options were provided.

It was proposed by Councillor Whitehead, seconded by Councillor Hanson and resolved unanimously that the report and supporting actions be noted.

Resolved unanimously:

- (1) That the report and supporting actions, as set out in the report, be noted.

**48 DELIVERING OUR AMBITIONS - PERFORMANCE AND PROJECT MONITORING
QUARTER 2 2018/19**

(Cabinet Member with Special Responsibility Councillor Whitehead)

Cabinet received a report from the Chief Executive on the performance of key indicators and projects for July to September 2018. It was noted that the report now included a breakdown of performance against key corporate indicators for the period and these would be developed to provide further information.

Officers responded to a number of questions and as the report was primarily for noting, no options were provided.

It was proposed by Councillor Whitehead, seconded by Councillor Pattison and resolved unanimously that the report be noted.

Resolved unanimously:

- (1) That the report be noted.

Chairman

(The meeting ended at 6.35 p.m.)

**Any queries regarding these Minutes, please contact
Liz Bateson, Democratic Services - telephone (01524) 582047 or email
ebateson@lancaster.gov.uk**

MINUTES PUBLISHED ON TUESDAY 13 NOVEMBER, 2018.

**EFFECTIVE DATE FOR IMPLEMENTING THE DECISIONS CONTAINED IN THESE MINUTES:
WEDNESDAY 21 NOVEMBER, 2018.**

Flooding Cabinet Liaison Group

Chairman:

Cabinet Member and Portfolio Holder with Responsibility for Housing and Environmental Health

By invitation of the Chair.

Terms of Reference:

To provide assistance to the Cabinet Member in helping to form a strategic oversight of flooding issues in the district, including hearing the flooding issues, action plans and timescales from all the agencies with a responsibility for flooding.

To advise the Cabinet Member on actions arising from an update report on relevant issues that will/may affect the District from the Lancashire Resilience Forum.

To consider, on an annual basis, arrangements to mitigate the risk to council properties, where it has been shown that properties have flooded in the past and for appropriate adaptations to be made to these properties.

To advise on the local flood emergency responses of the various agencies, including the efficacy of the use of sandbags or alternatives.

To advise the Cabinet Member on action following receipt of reports on cross boundary issues.

To invite members of the Planning Policy Cabinet Liaison Group, at an appropriate time, in order to hear policies/strategies for reducing the impact of flooding when planning for new development.

That future reports and surveys, including reports from the Lancashire Flood Partnership, be submitted for consideration to assist the Cabinet Member in making recommendations for action.

To invite community/residents representatives to hear their experiences on emergency responses and future resilience.

To invite agencies/organisations with a responsibility or interest in flooding and flood prevention work to provide information on flood preparedness and flood recovery.

Frequency:

The Group to meet twice a year, and/or more frequently as/when required.