

CABINET

Date and Time: Thursday 6 October 2022 at 7.00 pm

Place: Council Chamber

Present:

Neighbour (Leader), Radley (Deputy Leader), Bailey, Clarke, Cockarill, Collins, Oliver and Quarterman

In attendance:

Officers:

Patricia Hughes,	Joint Chief Executive
John Elson	Head of Environmental and Technical Services
Peter Summersell	Sustainability Officer
Gemma Watts	Housing Strategy and Development Officer
Laura Stone	Eunomia
Sharon Black	Committee Services Officer

49 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of 1st September were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

50 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence had been received.

51 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Joint Chief Executive declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 54, as a Director of the Housing Company.

52 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Recognising that this would be his last meeting, the Chairman and his Cabinet colleagues thanked Mr Elson for all his hard work and long service to Hart District Council.

53 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (ITEMS PERTAINING TO THE AGENDA)

Mr Wilf Hardy and Ms Tamsin Briggs from Blackwater Valley Friends of the Earth were at the meeting. Mr Hardy made a statement relating to agenda item 7, in which he stated that it was hoped that the Council would produce a meaningful and comprehensive action plan for the future which would include timescales, milestones and checkpoints, and owners.

54 REPORT OF SCRUTINY PANEL ON THE OPERATION OF BUTTERWOOD HOMES

Cabinet received a report from Cllr Farmer on the recent Scrutiny Panel on the operation of Butterwood Homes. Income and expenditure were broadly in line with previous forecasts and there were no significant issues on the horizon.

The Terms of Reference for Butterwood Homes had been amended to show that there were now 4 Directors, with the only other amendment being the amalgamation of 2 separate but similar clauses into 1, making the intent clearer. The Terms of Reference also stated that the Directors would meet twice a year, and there were no plans to change this arrangement. The Terms of Reference were reviewed annually by the Board.

The Portfolio Holder for Commercialisation had also attended the Scrutiny Panel meeting as an observer and thanked Cllr Farmer for his accurate overview of the meeting,

DECISION

Cabinet:

1. Noted the 2021/22 performance of the Housing Company against the initial business plan
2. Adopted the altered Terms of Reference, which had been endorsed by Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

55 ENDORSEMENT OF HART'S CARBON PATHWAY

Cabinet received the background to the presentation of the delivery of the two reports from Eunomia. These covered the pathway to Operational Net Zero by 2035 and District Wide Net Zero by 2040. Both reports included indicative pathways on how the Council could achieve these targets.

Cabinet discussed a range of items, including:

- Whether the cost analysis had included a historical cost for energy or current prices, it was noted that the figures provided had broad variables included and the current cost of energy was not part of that calculation
- What would happen to the baseline data – this would be used to formulate the new action plan, and will inform outcomes and any milestones required
- The amount of carbon reduction that would be achieved against the costs involved
- What funding was likely to be available in future budgets
- Setting a short term (2-4 years) action plan that will still allow us to meet the trajectory required to achieve the 2035 target date. This should be

pragmatic and focussed, with “owners” for all items to ensure they were effectively managed

- Prioritisation of items and ensuring that there were some “quick wins” for the District
- The potential of future developments to greater assist the pathway to net zero

It was agreed that a third recommendation be added, in that a proposed action plan be brought back to Cabinet at their February 2023 meeting for endorsement.

DECISION

Cabinet endorsed:

1. The 2035 Net Zero Operational Road Map which had been circulated to the Cabinet members.
2. The Net Zero Carbon Action Plan which had also been circulated to the Cabinet members.
3. That a proposed action plan be presented to Cabinet at the February 2023 meeting for endorsement

56 QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORTS

The Quarterly Performance Reports for Q1 had been discussed and agreed at the recent Overview & Scrutiny Meeting.

It was noted that the absence of data relating to the waste contract when reported to Overview & Scrutiny was due to a contractual dispute. Details had now been provided but, as indicated by the report’s narrative comments, this data was not validated by both parties.

DECISION

Cabinet noted the performance report for Quarter 1 2022/23.

57 ESSENTIAL REPAIRS TO THE CROSS BARN, ODIHAM, RG29 1JX

For background, the Chairman advised that the Cross Barn was a Grade II listed building which was owned by the Council and leased and managed by a Board of Trustees.

DECISION

Cabinet agreed:

That £25,000 be allocated from central reserves to fund essential repair works to The Cross Barn, Odiham.

58 UPDATE TO COUNCIL'S APPROACH IN DEALING WITH SHARED OWNERSHIP STAIRCASING WITHIN DESIGNATED PROTECTED AREAS AND WAIVER REQUESTS

The Portfolio Holder for Communities gave the background to the paper and explained that the amendment being proposed was to bring the Council into line with current Government legislation.

Cabinet discussed:

- The need for waivers to be made on occasion when dealing with shared ownership staircasing within designated protected areas
- That the Portfolio Holder for Communities already had the delegated power to deal with waivers but that there were changes to our procedures that needed to be "tidied up"
- Consultation was always undertaken with Ward Members before any decision was made
- There were maps and lists showing where the designated protected areas were within Hart
- Most who were able to staircase up to 100% did not usually do this, preferring to move out of shared ownership into the normal housing market
- There were very few shared ownership properties in Hart that have owners who have staircased to 100%

DECISION

Cabinet agreed:

That the Council move in line with the updated Government guidance which required all shared ownership properties to seek a waiver, where they wished to staircase above 80%, however the shared ownership homes were funded.

59 DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN CONSULTATION

Cabinet was advised that they were being asked to agree that the draft Corporate Plan go out to consultation, with a view to a final report coming back to Cabinet in the new year.

Thanks were given to the working group for the quality of the plan. Cabinet members felt that it was easy to understand and navigate, and well laid out.

DECISION

Cabinet approved:

1. The draft Corporate Plan for consultation purposes, which had previously been circulated to the Cabinet members.

2. The timetable and approach for public consultation which had also been previously circulated to Cabinet members

60 CABINET WORK PROGRAMME

Cabinet considered and approved the Work Programme as circulated prior to the meeting.

It was noted that it was likely that there would be an additional paper for the Civic Regen item, due to go to the December Cabinet meeting. A potential paper on bio-fuels and changes to Council vehicles was also raised.

As outlined, a paper would be coming forward to Cabinet on the outcomes of the public consultation on the Corporate Plan in February

The meeting closed at 8.19 pm