



## Cabinet

Minutes of a meeting held at County Hall, Colliton Park,  
Dorchester, Dorset, DT1 1XJ on Wednesday, 16 March 2016.

### Present:

Robert Gould (Chairman)  
Robin Cook, Toni Coombs, Peter Finney, Jill Haynes and Rebecca Knox.

### Members Attending:

John Wilson, as the Chairman of County Council and County Councillor for Ferndown  
Peter Wharf, County Councillor for Egdon Heath

### Officers Attending:

Nicky Cleave (Deputy Director of Public Health), Catherine Driscoll (Director for Adult and Community Services), Patrick Ellis (Assistant Chief Executive), Jonathan Mair (Monitoring Officer), Jim McManus (Chief Accountant), Matthew Piles (Head of Economy) and Lee Gallagher (Democratic Services Manager).

### For certain items, as appropriate:

John Alexander (Performance and Policy Manager), Grace Evans (Principal Solicitor), Patrick Myers (Head of Corporate Development), Peter Scarlett (Estate and Assets Manager) and Tom Smith (Contracts and Marketing Development Manager).

- (Notes:(1) In accordance with Rule 16(b) of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules the decisions set out in these minutes will come into force and may then be implemented on the expiry of five working days after the publication date.  
Publication Date: **Tuesday, 22 March 2016.**
- (2) These minutes have been prepared by officers as a record of the meeting and of any decisions reached. They are to be considered and confirmed at the next meeting of the Cabinet to be held on **Wednesday, 13 April 2016.**)

### **Apologies for Absence**

- 44 Apologies for absence were received from Richard Bates (Chief Financial Officer), Cllr Rebecca Knox – for part of the meeting, Mike Harries (Director for Environment and the Economy), Cllr Colin Jamieson, Sara Tough (Director for Children's Services) and Debbie Ward (Chief Executive). Jim McManus (Chief Accountant) attended for Richard Bates and Matthew Piles (Head of Economy) attended for Mike Harries.

### **Code of Conduct**

- 45 There were no declarations by members of disclosable pecuniary interests under the Code of Conduct.

### **Minutes**

- 46 The minutes of the meeting held on 24 February 2016 were confirmed and signed.

### **Public Participation**

#### 47 Public Speaking

There were no public questions received at the meeting in accordance with Standing Order 21(1).

There were no public questions received at the meeting in accordance with Standing Order 21(2).

Petitions

There were no petitions received at the meeting in accordance with the County Council's Petition Scheme.

**Cabinet Forward Plan**

48 The Cabinet considered the draft Forward Plan, which identified key decisions to be taken by the Cabinet on or after the next meeting. The following changes were noted:

- An update on the Medium Term Financial Strategy would be added in July 2016.
- A report in relation to the outcome of the current OfSTED inspection of Children's Services would be scheduled in due course.

Noted**Panels and Boards**

49 The Cabinet received the following minutes of meetings:

Dorset Police and Crime Panel - 4 February 2016

50 **Resolved**  
That the minutes of the meeting be received

Tricuro Executive Shareholder Group - 19 February 2015

51 The Cabinet considered the recommendation within the minutes to approve action required in relation to the budget of Tricuro. It was noted that £345k was identified within the financial forecast to be returned to partner councils on a proportional basis with the County Council due to receive 70%. It was noted that £26k would also be returned to Bournemouth Borough Council to refund an overpayment into the company in the first year.

In relation to minute 5, the introduction of 20 apprentices was welcomed by the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People and it was suggested that the opportunities for apprenticeships for looked after children and care leavers should be investigated. It was agreed that this would be raised with Tricuro for consideration.

**Resolved**

1. That the minutes of the meeting be received and the following recommendation be approved:  
*Recommendation 4 - Tricuro Budget 2016/17*  
*That the shareholders be asked to take necessary action to agree the Finance Director's recommendation.*
2. That apprenticeships for looked after children and care leavers be investigated with Tricuro.

Dorset Waste Partnership Joint Committee - 29 February 2016

52 **Resolved**  
That the minutes of the meeting be received and the following recommendations, as amended, be approved:

*Recommendation 8 - Review of the Governance Arrangements*

- (i) *That the formation of a Waste Partnership Scrutiny Group as agreed at the December meeting of the Joint Committee be confirmed, and note that a member and reserve member would be appointed by the Leader of the Council outside of the meeting;*
- (ii) *That the principle of revisions to the Inter Authority Agreement as set out in section 3 of the report be agreed and the revised Agreement be commended to the partner Councils for adoption and signature; and*

- (iii) *That the Inter Authority Agreement be approved in conjunction with authority delegated to the Legal Advisor to the Waste Partnership to finalise and sign the agreement after consultation with the solicitors of all partner Councils.*

Reason for Recommendations

*To improve the governance arrangements of the Waste Partnership.*

**Forward Together Update**

- 53 The Cabinet considered a report by the Cabinet Member for Corporate Development on the progress of the Forward Together Programme, including the Chief Executive's Department Restructure and Forward Together 2020.

In relation to the restructuring of the Chief Executive's Department, attention was drawn to the need to consider any possible future governance changes and the devolution opportunities available to the Council. It was recognised that there was a balance needed in order to deliver business as usual and forecasting requirements in the future.

**Noted**

**Corporate Performance Monitoring Report**

- 54 The Cabinet considered a report by the Cabinet Member for Corporate Development on the monitoring of the Corporate Balanced Scorecard, including the Corporate Plan, for the third quarter of 2015-16, and the draft refresh of the County Council's corporate plan for 2016-17, including a revised outcomes framework.

In relation to performance information, it was suggested that effort should be put into the language and colours used to describe risk causes within the report as they could be taken out of context. It was noted that the language was only appropriate for internal consideration. It was agreed that the comments would be taken account of in the presentation of future reports including consideration of an explanation of the risk register to put the content into context.

The Cabinet welcomed the new concise and focused format of the Corporate Plan which provided clear outcomes across the Council. However, it was recognised that the forthcoming changes to committees reflected the themes, but needed to ensure that duplication of work across multiple committees should be avoided. It was noted that this would be the responsibility of the new Overview and Scrutiny Management Board.

**Noted**

**Quarterly Asset Management Report**

- 55 The Cabinet considered a report by the Cabinet Member for Corporate Development on the strategic direction for the management of the County Council's assets, key targets and the main asset classes of Property, Highways, ICT, Fleet and Waste, covering approvals required and emerging issues.

In relation to the Maiden Newton Youth and Community Centre, the community aspiration to redevelop the site into a sports facility for the community and school was noted, together with the Community Land Trust arrangements to allow the community to take on the site and progress the project.

The Cabinet considered the arrangements for the Warden Bungalow at the Piddlehinton Gypsy and Travellers site and discussed the impact on the warden role. It was clarified that the building was planned to be released and the Countryside Service no longer required the warden role to be associated with residence on site. It was agreed that the decision would be subject to consultation with the Councillor local

member.

In relation to the replacement of the farmhouse at Eastbrook Farm, it was recognised that as farm work had intensified it was necessary to provide a new farmhouse by selling off the existing house and return the balance of proceeds as capital funds (approximately £80k). It was asked if the new farmhouse would have agricultural planning restriction.

*(Note: It was subsequently confirmed following the meeting that the new farmhouse would have an agricultural restriction.)*

It was reported that there had been difficulty in the project to provide extra care housing in Gillingham due to the Government's change in the benefits system which could provide exemption in due course in relation to maximum rent levels for social housing, but provided a delay at present. This had impacted upon the current viability analysis for the scheme.

An update was provided on a recent landslip on 9 March 2016 at Dinah's Hollow in Melbury Abbas which required a study and risk assessment to be undertaken to assess the future risks at the site, including the containment barrier system. The Cabinet noted that the road closure resulted in redirected traffic to the A350 and was supportive of actions to be taken by officers either to reopen the route or to keep it closed until further action could be taken depending on the outcome of the assessment. Officers and engineers were thanked for their efforts as a result of a recent closure for an earlier landslip which had led to the mitigation works in place.

The Cabinet welcomed the successful delivery so far of the significant A338 Major Maintenance Scheme and complimented the communications and delivery teams on the work to date which was ahead of schedule, and acknowledged the innovative use of recycling materials to reduce the environmental impact by not disposing of and receiving new materials.

In relation to smarter computing, members were provided with an overview of the flexibilities of cloud computing which was planned to be used in the future instead of providing ICT storage onsite, with SharePoint being the first of the Council's major systems to be used in this way. It was noted that security and storage requirements meant that it could not be rolled out sooner, that the system was revenue funded instead of capital, and that when implemented would provide a more responsive service.

The Cabinet acknowledged the Property Rationalisation and Modernisation Programme including Living and Learning Project, which required local members to be involved in their electoral divisions to enable future service delivery through proactive engagement.

### **Resolved**

1. That the County Council's general powers of competence be used to transfer the land comprising the Maiden Newton Youth and Community Centre building to the Upper Frome Valley Community Land Trust, subject to that party producing a viable business plan, and otherwise on terms to be agreed by the Director for Environment and the Economy (para 3.1.1 (d) of the Cabinet Member's report).
2. That the disposal of the on-site warden bungalow at the Piddlehinton Gypsy and Travellers site on terms to be agreed by the Director for Environment and the Economy (para 3.1.2 (a) of the report) be approved, subject to consultation with the local member.
3. That the construction of a replacement farmhouse on Eastbrook Farm from the proceeds derived from the sale of the current farmhouse, with the balance of the proceeds of sale being returned to Corporate Capital funds (para 3.1.3 (d)

- of the report) be approved.
4. That the overall revised estimates and cash flows for projects as summarised and detailed in appendices 1 and 2 (para 8.2 of the report) be approved.
  5. That the emerging issues for each asset class be noted.
  6. That the actions required as a result of the risk assessment regarding the landslip at Dinah's Hollow, Melbury Abbas be agreed.

#### Reason for Decisions

A well-managed Council ensured that the best use was made of its assets in terms of optimising service benefit, minimising environmental impact and maximising financial return.

### **Tendering of the Connexions information, advice, guidance and tracking service for young people**

- 56 The Cabinet considered a report by the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People for children's services to seek competitive tenders for a county-wide Connexions information, advice, guidance and education, employment and training tracking service for young people. The report was produced in accordance with the contract procedure rules for contracts with an estimated value of over £500,000 which required Cabinet approval.

#### Resolved

That the competitive tendering of the Connexions service be approved.

#### Reasons for Decision

1. To ensure continuity of service whilst seeking greater value for money within a smaller budget.
2. To comply with Contract Procedure Rules and EU Procurement Regulations.

### **Questions from County Councillors**

- 57 No questions were received from County Councillors.

### **Exempt Business**

#### Resolved

58 That under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for minute number 59 because it was likely that if members of the public were present, there would be a disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in the paragraphs 3 and 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A and the public interest in withholding the information outweighed the public interest in disclosing that information.

### **Queen Elizabeth's School, Wimborne - Position Statement**

- 59 The Cabinet considered an exempt report by the Cabinet Member for Corporate Development on the progress of the project to replace the Queen Elizabeth's School in Wimborne.

A comprehensive overview was provided by the Principal Solicitor. It was noted that progress was due to be made in the coming weeks, that an update would be provided for members outside of the meeting and a further update report would be presented to the next meeting on 13 April 2016.

Members discussed the report in detail and expressed views regarding the next steps, together with supporting the work undertaken to date.

#### Resolved

That the action taken be noted and that an update on progress be reported to the Cabinet meeting on 13 April 2016.

Reason for Decision

Approval would enable the Cabinet to make an informed decision at a later meeting about how best to proceed.

Meeting Duration: 10.00 am - 11.20 am