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Minutes of the meeting of the **Cabinet** held in Committee Rooms, East Pallant House on Tuesday 7 November 2023 at 9.30 am

**Members Present** Mr A Moss (Chairman), Mr J Brown (Vice-Chairman), Mrs T Bangert, Mr B Brisbane, Ms J Brown-Fuller, Mr M Chilton and Ms H Desai

**Members Absent** Mr D Betts

**In attendance by invitation**

**Officers Present** Mrs L Baines (Democratic Services Manager), Mr S Ballard (Senior Environmental Protection Officer), Mrs H Belenger (Divisional Manager for Financial Services), Mrs V Dobson (Principal Planning Officer), Mr A Frost (Director of Planning and Environment), Mrs J Hotchkiss (Director of Growth and Place), Mrs T Murphy (Divisional Manager for Place), Mrs V McKay (Divisional Manager for Growth), Mrs D Shepherd (Chief Executive) and Mr J Ward (Director of Corporate Services)

## 59 **Chair's Announcements**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Betts.

## 60 **Approval of Minutes**

### **RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 10 October 2023 be approved as a correct record.

## 61 **Declarations of Interests**

There were no declarations of interest.

## 62 **Public Question Time**

There were no public questions.

## 63 **Making the West Wittering Neighbourhood Development Plan**

Cllr Brisbane introduced the item.

Cllr Brown requested clarification as to why the decision was being made ahead of the referendum. Mrs Dobson explained that it was procedural in order to implement any decision made in a timely manner. If the referendum outcome is against then the item would no longer be referred to Full Council.

Cllr's Brisbane and Brown wished to commend the parish for its work.

**RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL**

**That Cabinet recommends to Council that subject to a successful referendum result to:**

**Make the West Wittering Neighbourhood Development Plan part of the Development Plan for Chichester District (excluding the area within the South Downs National Park).**

**64 Financial Strategy and Plan 2024-25 to 2028-29**

Cllr Chilton introduced the item.

Cllr Bangert asked in relation to the food waste collection service whether the impact of the size of the district had been considered. Cllr Chilton clarified that the full implications are not yet known until more details are provided. Cllr Moss added that a meeting with the county council and the other districts had taken place and would be discussed further once more details are available.

Cllr Brown noted that the £8 million Covid Revenue Budget Support reserves had been held in reserve for some time.

Cllr Moss thanked those involved for providing a detailed overview. He explained the importance of the newly established Budget Review Group in having regular overview of the budget.

**RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL**

**That Cabinet considers and recommends to Council:**

- a) The key financial principles and actions set out in Appendix 1 of the 5 year Financial Strategy report are approved.**
- b) That the Minimum Level of Reserves is set at £4 million, following the recommendation of the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee.**
- c) That the current 5 year Financial Model detailed in appendix 2 (part 2) and the Resources Statement in appendix 3 to the Financial Strategy report be noted.**
- d) That the earmarked Revenue Budget Support Reserve of £8m is returned to the Council's General Fund Reserve.**

65 **2023-2024 Treasury Management half-yearly update**

Cllr Chilton introduced the item.

Cllr Brown confirmed that the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee had been content that the council had reserves in place to manage short term pressures.

Cllr Brisbane requested clarification of whether any of the council's investments are based overseas. Mrs Belenger confirmed that to her knowledge the council's investments were all UK based but agreed to check and come back to Cllr Brisbane with a definitive response.

Cllr Moss requested an update from Mrs McKay about the St James Industrial Estate and whether the council's units across the district are being occupied. Mrs McKay confirmed that a significant number of the units are under offer. She added that the council's retail assets across the district had seen strong occupancy rates.

**RESOLVED**

**That Cabinet duly considers the Treasury activity summarised in this report.**

66 **Review of Parking Charges**

Cllr Desai introduced the item.

Cllr Boulcott was invited to speak by Cllr Moss. Cllr Boulcott explained that he hoped that the consultation would be as far reaching as possible and emphasised the importance of engaging with the parishes who would be subject to lose free parking.

Cllr Brown explained the use of car park income across the council.

Cllr Brown-Fuller referred to the appendices which demonstrate parking charges across similar size town and city centres. In particular the flat fee approach of Winchester. Cllr Desai clarified that this could be an option for Chichester dependent on the results of the consultation.

Cllr Brisbane noted that an increase in parking could be viewed as a way to support the council's Active Travel policies to encourage people to use other methods of transport.

Cllr Bangert asked Cllr Boulcott how an increase in parking charges would affect him as a local business owner. Cllr Boulcott explained that the current offering at the Selsey car park of a free first hour encourages return visitors.

**RESOLVED**

**That Cabinet approves the proposal as set out in 5.1 of this report to go out to consultation on the proposed increases to the car parking charges from 1 April 2024. Following the consultation, a further report will be brought back to Cabinet to recommend to Council any increases.**

67 **Consultation response to WSCC's draft Active Travel Strategy and Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan**

Cllr Brown introduced the item. He noted an amendment to paragraph 3.2 to add the words 'where possible and appropriate'.

Cllr Brisbane noted the number of cordoned off cycle routes during Covid and asked what lessons had been learnt. Cllr Brown explained that he hoped that the county council would consult further in future. Mr Ballard explained that delivery of the cycle route had been in accordance with the terms of the grants scheme. Cllr Moss confirmed that members had little time to reply to the consultation at the time. Cllr Brown added that if the council continues to work on its schemes when funding options become available the council is in a better position to bid.

Cllr Brisbane asked how current county council consultations sit in the council's scheme. Mr Ballard explained they are separate to the council's own Local Cycle and Walking Infrastructure Plan.

Cllr Brown-Fuller requested clarification of whether e-scooters are likely to be legalised. Cllr Brown explained they are becoming more common but the council is not aware of any plans to legalise their use at this time.

Cllr Chilton asked Cllr Brown why e-scooters are part of active travel. Cllr Brown explained that e-scooters take up less space than cars and help people travel short distances.

Cllr Bangert requested a progress update on Chemroute. Cllr Brown explained that consultation work is still ongoing. Cllr Moss added that National Highways have invited WSCC and parish councillors to carry out further work.

**RESOLVED**

**That Cabinet supports the Council's consultation response to WSCC's 'draft West Sussex Active Travel Strategy 2023-2036' and 'draft West Sussex Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan'.**

68 **Late Items**

There were no late items.

69 **Exclusion of the Press and Public**

There was no requirement to exclude the press and the public.

The meeting ended at 10.34 am

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CHAIRMAN

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Date:



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