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Minutes of the meeting of the **Cabinet** held in Committee Rooms, East Pallant House on Tuesday 5 October 2021 at 9.30 am

**Members Present** Mrs E Lintill (Chairman), Mrs S Taylor (Vice-Chairman), Mr R Briscoe, Mr A Dignum, Mrs P Plant and Mr A Sutton

**Members Absent** Mr P Wilding

**In attendance by invitation**

**Officers Present** Mr N Bennett (Divisional Manager for Democratic Services), Ms P Bushby (Divisional Manager for Communities), Mr K Carter (Divisional Manager, CCS), Ms C Day (Estates Surveyor), Mr T Day (Environmental Coordinator), Mrs K Dower (Principal Planning Officer (Infrastructure Planning)), Mr A Howard (Open Spaces and Street Scene Manager), Mr P Jobson (Taxation Manager), Mrs T Murphy (Divisional Manager for Place), Mr A Frost (Director of Planning and Environment), Miss L Higenbottam (Democratic Services Manager), Mrs J Hotchkiss (Director of Growth and Place), Mrs L Rudziak (Director of Housing and Communities), Mrs D Shepherd (Chief Executive) and Mr J Ward (Director of Corporate Services)

## 58 **Chair's Announcements**

Cllr Lintill welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Cllr Lintill announced the sad news of the passing of Michael Woolley, a former district councillor and Mayor of Chichester.

Apologies were received from Cllr Wilding.

## 59 **Approval of Minutes**

### **RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 5 October 2021 be approved as a correct record.

## 60 **Declarations of Interests**

There were no declarations of interest.

61 **Public Question Time**

There were no public questions.

62 **Council Tax Review of Locally Defined Discounts and Premiums**

In Cllr Wilding's absence Cllr Dignum introduced the item.

Mr Jobson added that the district has a proportionately large number of second homes compared with other local authorities with percentage currently 6% alongside a countrywide average of 1%. He noted that although the rate is high the number of empty homes in the district is relatively low.

Cllr Lintill requested clarification regarding the classification of a second home. Mr Jobson explained that to be considered a second home the property would be furnished but not used a main residence.

In a vote the following recommendation to Council was agreed:

**RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL:**

That the Council Tax Discounts and Premiums proposed in the Appendix to the agenda report be applied for the 2022-2023 financial year.

63 **Release of funds from the Community Infrastructure Levy to Chichester District Council Environment Team to fund Project IBP/842 Strategic Wildlife Corridors**

Cllr Taylor introduced the item.

Mrs Dower added that the project supports the Adopted Local Plan Policies 49: Biodiversity, and Policy 52: Green Infrastructure; and is in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework.

Cllr Dignum asked how it can be ensured that wildlife corridors are given protection and included in the Local Plan. Cllr Taylor explained that they can be incorporated within biodiversity and environmental policies within the Plan.

Cllr Dignum requested a map be circulated to members. Mr Day agreed to circulate the map.

In a vote the following recommendation to Council was agreed:

**RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL:**

The approval of the release of £575,000 from the Community Infrastructure Levy to Chichester District Council's Environment Team to cover most of the costs of funding Infrastructure Business Plan Project 842 Strategic Wildlife Corridors.

64 **Appointment to Panel**

Cllr Lintill introduced the item.

In a vote the following resolution was agreed:

**RESOLVED**

That Cllr Sarah Lishman be appointed to the Grants and Concessions Panel in place of Cllr Sarah Sharp.

65 **Modern Slavery Transparency Statement**

Cllr Briscoe introduced the item.

Mrs Bushby added that often Modern Slavery can take place in plain sight and the Statement shows a clear commitment to tackling this type of crime.

Cllr Briscoe noted that when he had reported a crime of this nature it had been dealt with thoroughly and efficiently.

Cllr Dignum asked why the statement was focussed primarily on procurement. Mrs Bushby said this was what the Government requested but there were many other areas of Council business where modern slavery was a focus including community safety.

Cllr Sutton explained how crimes of this nature can be picked up from licensed activities and noted his reassurance in the measures put in place by the council.

In a vote the following resolutions were agreed:

**RESOLVED**

1. That Cabinet adopt the Chichester District Council Modern Slavery Transparency Statement (Appendix 1).
2. That Cabinet delegate any future revisions of this Policy to the Director of Housing & Communities following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Community Services and Culture.
3. That Cabinet note the Declaration of Intent (Appendix 2).

66 **Place Brand Strategy**

Cllr Dignum introduced the item.

Cllr Moss was invited to speak. He spoke in support explaining the need to consider the social, commercial and built environment. He asked that the Strategy come from a high strategic level.

Cllr Lintill noted Cllr Moss's comments.

Cllr Taylor commented on the lack of support from major stakeholders and wished to not duplicate work already underway.

In a vote the following resolutions were agreed:

**RESOLVED**

1. That Cabinet has considered the report outlining the background to the potential development of a Place Brand Strategy for the District.
2. That Cabinet notes that the proposals contained within the report are to be considered within the context of the Council's Future Services Framework priority setting exercise after which projects will be reported back to Cabinet as appropriate for further consideration.

**67 Proposal to deter unauthorised vehicle encampments on CDC land**

Cllr Plant introduced the item.

Mrs Bushby noted the positive engagement that had taken place with local residents.

Mr Howard explained that the legalities of the work proposed on the East Broyle estate were being researched by the council's legal team.

Cllr Lintill asked whether the proposals would include the opportunity to include planting on the sites. Mr Howard explained that planting had been discussed with bulbs likely to be the most practical option available.

Cllr Moss was invited to speak. He spoke in support of the proposals and thanked members for attending the public meetings at East Broyle and New Park. He asked whether there were plans to use a landscape architect. Mr Howard explained that if the proposals were agreed then a building project contractor would be selected.

Cllr Lintill commented on the importance of communicating with residents. Mrs Bushby confirmed that she had written to and hand delivered a number of letters to provide updates to residents.

Cllr Lintill wished to amend line 2 of section 4.1 of the report to refer to all unauthorised vehicles.

Cllr Briscoe noted that the plans support the work of the Police.

Mr Bennett in response to Mr Howard added that the council's legal team had already undertaken some of the research required and that the works would be possible as they are attempting to improve the recreation and leisure facilities of the public space as well as preventing unauthorised use of the space.

In a vote the following resolutions were agreed:

**RESOLVED**

1. To approve the release of £69,930 from reserves to fund vehicle incursion deterrent measures at both New Park and East Broyle open spaces, as set out in appendix A.
2. To note the positive engagement approach used for this work and the positive feedback received.

68 **Late Items**

There were no late items.

69 **Exclusion of the Press and Public**

Cllr Lintill proposed and read the part II resolution in relation to agenda item 13. This was seconded by Cllr Taylor. The Cabinet then voted to go into part II.

**RESOLVED**

That with regard to agenda item 18 the public including the press should be excluded from the meeting on the grounds of exemption in Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 namely Paragraph 3 (Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)) and because, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption of that information outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

70 **Midhurst Castle, St. Anne's Hill, Midhurst**

Cllr Dignum introduced the item.

There were no questions.

In a vote the following resolution was agreed:

**RESOLVED**

That Cabinet approves the resolution as set out in section 2.1 of the report.

The meeting ended at 10.18 am

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CHAIRMAN

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Date:

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