

Minutes of the Cabinet

19 October 2021

-: Present :-

Councillor Steve Darling (Chairman)

Councillors Carter, Cowell, Law, Morey and Stockman

(Also in attendance: Councillors Barrand, Bye, Chris Lewis and David Thomas)

261. Apologies

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Long.

262. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 21 September 2021 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman subject to the 'Reason for Decision' section of the Record of Decision on the Member Champion Annual Report - Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence being amended as follows:

'The review the previous activity of the ~~Armed Forces~~ **Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence** Member Champion and to approve targets for the next 12 months.'

263. Communications

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Councillor Law raised awareness of the Children's Society petition requesting Government to prioritise funding for children in the autumn spending review.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Steve Darling advised Members he had been liaising with the Chief Constable of Devon and Cornwall Police to raise the need for Torbay to be a police command area like Plymouth and Exeter, whilst also working with Torbay Together Strategic Partnership to develop a task force to address the use of drugs and alcohol within Torbay.

The Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture, Councillor Morey provided feedback on a positive visit to Torbay by the Arts Council.

264. Matters for Consideration

The Cabinet considered the following matters, full details of which (including the Cabinet's decisions) are set out in the Record of Decisions appended to these Minutes.

265. Domestic Abuse Act - Safe Accommodation Strategy

266. Torre Abbey Development Foundation Proposal

267. Bus Service Improvement Plan

268. Member Champion for Volunteers - Annual Report

269. Member Champion for Mental Health and Wellbeing - Annual Report

Chairman

Record of Decisions

Domestic Abuse Act - Safe Accommodation Strategy

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 19 October 2021.

Decision

That:

- 1) the outline commissioning and action plan is approved in principle as set out at Appendix 1;
- 2) full consultation on the Safe Accommodation Strategy and action plan is undertaken as part of the consultation on the new DASV Strategy. A wider DA Needs Assessment has been commissioned alongside the production of the Safe Accommodation Strategy Needs Assessment, these will inform and enable the production of a new Strategy for Domestic Abuse in Torbay. This new DASV Strategy will involve a full consultation process and therefore come back to Cabinet as will form part of the Council's governance framework. Hence why at this stage it is recommended to approve this direction of travel ahead of full consultation next year; and
- 3) the progress on work to protect the safety of women and girls and to address sexual violence is noted and that the Council fully support not just the White Ribbon accreditation process, but encourage Officers and Councillors alike to become White Ribbon Ambassadors (men) or Champions (women).

Reason for the Decision

To enable the Council to meet its statutory responsibilities under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and protect Torbay's victims of domestic abuse from harm.

Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on Monday, 1 November 2021 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

Information

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 requires Tier 1 Authorities to undertake an assessment of the support need of victims of domestic violence and their children in safe accommodation. The Needs Assessment has been undertaken as part of a wider review of domestic abuse in Torbay, that will inform the new Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (DASV) Strategy to be produced next year.

Due to the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) deadline for the submission of the Strategy, consultation on the draft Strategy has been necessarily limited to the statutory partners attending DASV Executive and Operations Groups. The draft Strategy will require some updating once the full strategic review has been completed. It is therefore

proposed that the current ongoing governance processes are to seek approval for the direction of travel and that full and robust consultation on the Safe Accommodation Strategy will take place as part of the consultation for the new DASV Strategy.

The Council would also be seeking to renew its White Ribbon Campaign Accreditation that expired in 2020. The White Ribbon Campaign seeks to engage and facilitate men speaking out about violence against women and girls with a view to ending it. In doing so the Council aims to recognise, amplify and facilitate the role men can play in challenging violence perpetrated by men, <https://that-guy.co.uk/> is a useful tool in starting the conversation.

At the meeting Councillor Carter proposed and Councillor Stockman seconded a motion that was agreed unanimously by the Cabinet, as set out above.

Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision

There were no alternative options considered.

Is this a Key Decision?

No

Does the call-in procedure apply?

Yes

Declarations of interest (including details of any relevant dispensations issued by the Standards Committee)

None.

Published

22 October 2021

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Leader of Torbay Council on behalf of the Cabinet

Record of Decisions

Torre Abbey Development Foundation Proposal

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 19 October 2021.

Decision

That:

- 1) The development of a Development Foundation for Torre Abbey be approved;
- 2) The Director of Place be delegated authority to establish a Memorandum of Understanding between the Council and the Torre Abbey Foundation, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture and the Monitoring Officer; and
- 3) The Director of Place write a letter of thanks to the Friends of Torre Abbey group recognising how vital their contribution is to the ongoing development of Torre Abbey.

Reason for the Decision

Since the Covid-19 Pandemic grant funding had become even more competitive and necessary. With many funding pots being oversubscribed and only available to charities, restrictions that limited the funding avenues for Torre Abbey. A Development Foundation would open up the opportunity for Torre Abbey to apply to a wider range of funds and to make use of the government Gift Aid scheme.

Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on Monday, 1 November 2021 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

Information

The Cabinet were asked to approve the development of an independent foundation with charitable status to support Torre Abbey. The foundation will secure additional funding enabling Torre Abbey to move towards becoming a financially sustainable asset. The governance and operating model of Torre Abbey will not change. The asset will remain under the care and management of Torbay Council. The foundation will simply raise funds to support the asset.

At the meeting, Councillor Morey proposed and Councillor Steve Darling seconded a motion that was agreed unanimously by the Cabinet, as set out above.

Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision

The alternative options were:

Option 1: Stay as is – this is not feasible as Torre Abbey needs to increase the funding it receives to pay for essential maintenance work and a variety of projects.

Option 2: Request Support from Friends of Torre Abbey (FOTA) – FOTA have confirmed they are unable to undertake the level of funding bids required to be submitted by a charitable arm and do not wish to supply gift aid support.

Is this a Key Decision?

No

Does the call-in procedure apply?

Yes

Declarations of interest (including details of any relevant dispensations issued by the Standards Committee)

Councillor Bye declared a personal interest as a Member of the Torre Abbey 1196 Club.

Published

22 October 2021

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Leader of Torbay Council on behalf of the Cabinet

Record of Decisions

Bus Service Improvement Plan

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 19 October 2021.

Decision

That the Cabinet:

1. Note the National Bus Strategy's overarching goal to grow bus patronage: both to build it back after the pandemic and then to increase it and raise buses' mode share and to approve the priorities and principles set out in this report and appendices for inclusion within the Bus Service Improvement Plan and continue to support the work towards an Enhanced Bus Partnership by 31st March 2022; and
2. Delegates the publication and submission of the final plan by 31st October 2021 to the Assistant Director – Planning, Housing and Climate Emergency in consultation with Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture.

Reason for the Decision

The submission of the Bus Service Improvement Plan will improve accessibility for everyone across Torbay, improve connectivity to facilities whether that is education, health, employment or other, ensuring those most deprived are not excluded from that connectivity, supporting our town centres and other trip generating hubs in our towns, and helps to move journeys away from the private car and onto zero emission buses to contribute to reductions in Torbay's carbon footprint.

Implementation

The decision in respect of the Bus Service Improvement Plan will come into force immediately as the decision maker has decided that any delay likely to be caused by the call-in process would prejudice the Public' and Council's interest. The Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinator was consulted on 5 October 2021.

Information

On 15th March 2021 the Government published the National Bus Strategy, 'Bus Back Better'. The strategy sets out a vision for improving bus services nationally. It recognises the need to act quickly, whilst acknowledging that the industry will need ongoing support for some time to recover from the consequences of Covid-19. The aim was to re-establish patronage at pre-covid levels and then to exceed them. To do this, buses must be a practical and attractive alternative to the car.

The strategy makes it clear that funding will be made available to Local Authorities who pursue this vision and seek to make the improvements to their services and network. This has clear direct benefits to the Local Authority, not least in respect of accessibility for the community and supporting the carbon neutrality aims.

Following agreement earlier this year for the authority to enter into a partnership with operators,

the next step in the process is publication of a Bus Service Improvement Plan by 31st October 2021. The Plan sets out a vision and priorities for the future of bus services in Torbay and will be a high-level bidding document used to secure capital and revenue grant funding from the Department for Transport.

At the meeting Councillor Morey proposed and Councillor Law seconded a motion that was agreed unanimously by the Cabinet, as set out above.

Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision

The options for this decision are to:

Option 1: agree a Bus Service Improvement Plan and therefore continue the process towards a Partnership.

Option 2: to take the decision to no longer pursue a Bus Service Improvement Plan. This option was discounted due to the Local Transport Plan supporting bus travel already, the opportunities through the partnership for a greater level of improvement in services helping to meet the corporate visions and objectives, and the ongoing work towards carbon neutrality.

Is this a Key Decision?

No

Does the call-in procedure apply?

No

Declarations of interest (including details of any relevant dispensations issued by the Standards Committee)

None.

Published

22 October 2021

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Leader of Torbay Council on behalf of the Cabinet

Record of Decisions

Member Champion Annual Report - Volunteering

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 19 October 2021.

Decision

That the report be endorsed.

Reason for the Decision

To review the previous 12 months activity of the Member Champion for Volunteering.

Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on 1 November 2021 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

Information

In 2019 the Cabinet appointed a number of Member Champions. Member champions are elected members who act as an advocate or spokesperson for a specific area of the Council's business. The main responsibility of each member champion is to encourage communication and positive action over the issue they represent. The Member Champion for Volunteering was requested to provide an update on the activities they have undertaken over the last 12 months.

At the meeting Councillor Steve Darling proposed and Councillor Cowell seconded a motion that was agreed unanimously by the Cabinet, as set out above.

Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision

There were no alternative options considered.

Is this a Key Decision?

No

Does the call-in procedure apply?

Yes

Declarations of interest (including details of any relevant dispensations issued by the Standards Committee)

None.

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Leader of Torbay Council on behalf of the Cabinet

Record of Decisions

Mental Health and Wellbeing Member Champion - Annual Report

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 19 October 2021.

Decision

That the report be endorsed.

Reason for the Decision

To review the previous year activity of the Mental Health and Wellbeing Member Champion.

Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on 1 November 2021 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

Information

In 2019 the Cabinet appointed a number of Member Champions. Member champions are elected members who act as an advocate or spokesperson for a specific area of the Council's business. The main responsibility of each member champion is to encourage communication and positive action over the issue they represent. The Mental Health and Wellbeing Member Champion was requested to provide an update on the activities they have undertaken over the last 12 months.

At the meeting Councillor Steve Darling proposed and Councillor Cowell seconded a motion that was agreed unanimously by the Cabinet, as set out above

Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision

There were no alternative options considered.

Is this a Key Decision?

No

Does the call-in procedure apply?

Yes

Declarations of interest (including details of any relevant dispensations issued by the Standards Committee)

None.

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