

Minutes of the Cabinet

15 December 2020

-: Present :-

Councillor Steve Darling (Chairman)

Councillors Carter, Cowell, Law, Long, Morey and Stockman

(Also in attendance: Councillors Barnby, Barrand, Brooks, Brown, Bye, Mandy Darling, Douglas-Dunbar, Foster, Barbara Lewis, Chris Lewis, Loxton, Mills, David Thomas and Jacqueline Thomas)

144. Communications

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Steve Darling, wished colleagues a Merry Christmas and thanked all staff for their hard work during a challenging and difficult year.

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Councillor Law, welcomed Johanna Morrell from Torbay Youth Trust to the meeting. Members then received a presentation from Ms Morrell on the work of Torbay Youth Trust, including the good work to assist children and young people during the Covid-19 lockdown.

The Leader of the Council thanked Ms Morrell and Torbay Youth Trust for supporting the community and wished them success going forward.

145. 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.

146. Draft English Riviera Events Strategy for Consultation

147. Economic Growth Fund investment to deliver 5 light industrial units at Lymington Road Coach Station.

148. Leasehold disposal Pier Point Restaurant and Retail Unit, Torbay Road, Torquay

149. Performance and Risk Strategy and Framework

Record of Decisions

Draft English Riviera Events Strategy for consultation

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 15 December 2020.

Decision

That the Draft English Riviera Events Strategy be released for a four week consultation period launching in January 2021.

Reason for the Decision

As an area, Torbay is lagging behind other seaside destinations, our competitors, we are losing significant value to the local economy and the enrichment of our residents. We need to improve the Events offer and reposition to fully enhance the economic benefits for the area. The strategy document provides a clear approach to how our events sector will be repositioned. The strategy primarily does this by refocusing the use of existing resources to enable a more proactive approach.

Implementation

This decision will come into force immediately in order to commence the formal consultation process.

Information

Currently Torbay Council does not have an Events Strategy, there are elements of strategy that relate to events e.g. in the cultural strategy. There are a number of good local events but in essence there is limited development of events that will give the area a year-round appeal and events are developed in a piece-meal way. Without a coherent strategy it will be difficult to develop the events offer in the Bay and therefore we will lose a huge opportunity to support the local economy, develop the events infrastructure and opportunities for employment and volunteering, and enrich the lives and support the development and well-being of local residents.

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

A new strategy is required to reflect the current situation. The alternative is no strategy and limited scope to enact change.

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

18 December 2020

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

Record of Decisions

Economic Growth Fund investment to deliver 5 light industrial units at Lymington Road Coach Station

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 15 December 2020.

Decision

That the Chief Executive in consultation with the S151 Officer and Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Tourism and Housing be authorised to:

- i) obtain prudential borrowing of £850,000 from the Economic Growth Fund to meet the funding shortfall required to construct five light industrial units at Lymington Road Coach Station; and
- ii) that an employment and skills plan be developed for the units in order to increase local opportunities for Torbay's residents.

Reason for the Decision

The proposal will result investment in a Council property enabling the Council to redevelop a site that currently contains a derelict building.

Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on 30 December 2020 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

Information

The proposal seeks a £850,000 contribution from Torbay Council to supplement the circa £2m of funding that has already been secured from the Getting Building Fund. The project will create 11,367sqft of new modern business/light industrial units on the former Torquay Coach Station building on Lymington Road. These units once constructed will be let on the open market which, in turn will generate a rental stream which will be used to service the loan required to support the Councils contribution. As part of this proposal it is the intention to also provide a new public toilet and layout for coach arrivals.

Councillor Long 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

The proposed development will see the demolition of some existing derelict buildings which have historically been hard to let and are beyond their economic life. An alternative option to the proposal is to enhance the existing structure and then continue to try and find a potential tenant.

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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Record of Decisions

Leasehold disposal Pier Point Restaurant and Retail Unit, Torbay Road, Torquay

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 15 December 2020.

Decision

That the Director of Place, in consultation with the Interim Chief Executive, be authorised to enter into an Agreement for Lease to allow the existing tenants of the Pier Point Restaurant and retail unit to carry out works to extend the ground floor and to create a first floor to the existing premises and, upon completion of these works, to grant a 125 year lease to the existing tenants on terms previously agreed.

Reason for the Decision

The proposals will enable the current tenant to invest in the property that will result in the building being extended and improved in return for a long lease. The redevelopment, upon completion, will help secure new jobs and enhance Torquay seafront.

Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on 30 December 2020 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

Information

In July 2015, a Mayoral Decision was granted to allow the redevelopment of Pier Point Restaurant in isolation, which included a first floor extension. On practical completion of the development the Council would have granted a new 125 year lease. The decision was documented by way of an Agreement for Lease with Pier Point Ltd in January 2017.

At the beginning of 2020, Pier Point Torquay Ltd was sold and the new owner soon after also acquired the lease of Princess Gift Shop. The new owner, on obtaining control of the whole building approached Torbay Council seeking to re-negotiate the 2017 Agreement for Lease. The new owner is seeking to merge the Pier Point Restaurant lease with Princess Gift Shop lease that would therefore enable the redevelopment of the whole building. It is intended that upon practical completion of the proposed redevelopment of the whole building the Council would grant a new single 125 year lease.

Councillor Long proposed and Councillor Morey seconded a motion that was agreed by the Cabinet, as set out above.

Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision

Alternative options were set out in the submitted report but were not discussed at the Cabinet meeting.

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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Record of Decisions

Performance and Risk Strategy and Framework

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 15 December 2020.

Decision

That implementation of the new Performance and Risk Management Strategy as set out in Appendix 1 to the submitted report be agreed and adopted.

Reason for the Decision

Torbay Council has a Community and Corporate Plan that is based on ensuring our local community thrives. To support the council in delivering this ambition as well as other key council priorities it will be essential that the council is able to monitor and improve its performance and management of risks. The adoption of a new performance and risk management strategy will enable this to take place.

Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on 30 December 2020 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

Information

Through the Council's Council Re-Design Programme it had been identified that the council and its wholly owned companies (SWISCo and TDA) needed to review its approach to managing its performance and risks. Therefore, a new performance and risk strategy and framework for Torbay Council that relies on robust business planning and reporting across the organisation has been developed.

Performance management is essential to the success of Torbay Council and its ambitions as set out in the Community and Corporate Plan and its other key council priorities. Performance Management is a vital element of forward planning and continuous improvement. The strategy and framework also has the flexibility to enable the council to monitor performance on priorities that are not explicitly part of the Community and Corporate Plan via the collection and monitoring of performance indicators/performance standards.

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

In developing the performance and risk management strategy a range of strategies and frameworks were reviewed from other councils and public sector bodies.

The option to not design a new performance and risk strategy and framework was not considered and is not advised.

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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