



Minutes of the Cabinet

26 November 2019

-: Present :-

Councillor Steve Darling (Chairman)

Councillors Long, Morey, Carter, Law and Cowell

(Also in attendance: Councillors Brooks, Brown, Douglas-Dunbar, Kennedy, Chris Lewis, Loxton and David Thomas)

51. Apologies

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Stockman.

52. Minutes

Subject to the inclusion of Councillor Loxton as being in attendance, the Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 12 November 2019 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

53. Communications

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Steve Darling, provided an update on a meeting of the Great South West held last week and the joint plan which was being developed by Torbay, Plymouth, Devon, Somerset and Dorset Councils. This would be put to the new Government following the General Election on 12 December 2019.

The Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Tourism and Housing, Councillor Long advised of the outcome of the annual rough sleeper count which took place last week, with the help of himself, the Cabinet Member for Corporate and Community Services (Councillor Carter) and the Civic Mayor (Councillor Douglas-Dunbar). Torbay had identified 16 rough sleepers compared with 21 last year, although this was a slight increase since October when there was 12.

The Cabinet Member for Corporate and Community Services, Councillor Carter, advised that Paignton Academy had submitted a bid for £9m from Building Schools for the Future to help develop and improve the school. The Cabinet supported the Bid and the Leader of the Council agreed to write a letter of support to the school for the Bid.

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Councillor Law, highlighted the recent filming for BBC/ITV showing the foster carers using their free tickets on the Train of Light. There had also been raffle prizes for the foster families.

The Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture, Councillor Morey, advised that following recent renovations Brixham Library had now fully reopened.

The Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance, Councillor Cowell, advised of a successful and productive meeting with members of the Cabinet, Councillor Lewis and Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust to better understand how we can work collaboratively together with the community for the benefit of Torbay.

54. 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.

54.1 Community Conference 2019 - Next Steps

54.2 Draft Community and Corporate Plan for consultation

54.3 Revised Children's Services Medium Term Financial Plan

The expenditure on Children's Services was currently the most significant and challenging budget pressure the Council was facing. Despite additional resources being allocated to this service the levels of demand, complexity of needs and cost have regularly exceeded the allocated budget. Spend on this service was likely to exceed £42m in 2019/20.

The Plan attached at Appendix 1 had been jointly formed by the service and financial services. Compared to the previous Children's Services financial recovery plans the proposed Plan simply outlined a wide range of actions that, if undertaken, would help to challenge, reduce or mitigate the expenditure pressures within the service, and where appropriate increase income.

The Cabinet noted and supported the actions outlined in the Finance Recovery Plan set out at Appendix 1 to the submitted report. Quarterly 'back to the floor' visits would be undertaken by Cabinet Member and Senior Officers.

54.4 Exclusion of Press and Public

Councillor Steve Darling proposed and Councillor Cowell seconded the motion, which was agreed by the Cabinet unanimously, as set out below:

that the press and public be excluded from the meeting prior to consideration of the items 11 and 12 on the agenda on the grounds that exempt information (as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)) was likely to be disclosed.

Prior to consideration of the items in Minutes 55.4 and 55.5, the press and public were formally excluded from the meeting.

54.5 New Investment Opportunity 1/6/18 Update

54.6 New Economic Growth Fund Opportunities

None

Chairman

Record of Decision

Community Conference 2019 - Next Steps

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 26 November 2019

Decision

- (i) that the Cabinet makes the following commitments to the community of Torbay:
 - We will embrace a spirit of cooperation and partnership.
 - We will be open with our communities about the challenges that the Council faces.
 - We will work to empower and enable our communities.
 - We will operate with openness and transparency.
- (ii) that the Cabinet seek the views of the community of how they would like to see these commitments put into practice;
- (iii) that the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive identify Ward Ambassadors from within the Partnership and the Senior Leadership Team and other senior managers to act together as a point of contact for activity within each ward and linking to the Community Partnerships;
- (iv) that the possibility of establishing a Community Enablement Fund be considered in making proposals for the 2020/2021 Revenue Budget; and
- (v) that the action plan set out in Appendix 2 to the submitted report be approved and, in the main, be implemented through the Whole Council Redesign Programme which is currently underway as part of the wider Transformation Portfolio.

Reason for the Decision

It is a priority of the Cabinet and the wider Partnership that the Council better engages with our communities, enabling them to be involved in both the decisions which affect them and in the delivery of services which matter to them.

Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on Monday, 9 December 2019 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

Information

The Council's first Community Conference was held on 11 September 2019. The aim of the Conference was to help deliver a new and more engaged relationship between the Council, individuals and communities from across Torbay.

The report from the Community Conference has now been published. The submitted report set out the next steps which the Council was proposing to take to ensure that the commitment and determination to engage more effectively is put into place.

It was agreed by the Leader during the course of debate, that he would discuss and agree with all Group Leaders how the Ward Ambassadors would operate in practice. The idea behind them being a route into both the Administration and Senior Officers, in order to 'unblock' and resolve matters. The Ward Ambassadors would work in complement with Ward Councillors and Community Partnerships.

Councillor Carter proposed and Councillor Cowell seconded a motion which was agreed unanimously by the Cabinet as set out above.

Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision

None

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

29 November 2019

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

Date: 29 November 2019

Record of Decision

One Torbay: Working for all Torbay - Draft Community and Corporate Plan 2019-2023

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 26 November 2019

Decision

That the draft document “One Torbay: Working for all Torbay” be published for consultation.

Reason for the Decision

The Community and Corporate Plan is the overarching document within the Council’s Policy Framework setting out the Council’s ambitions for the next four years. The Cabinet now wishes to gather feedback from the wider community in Torbay on those ambitions and priority which should be attached to them.

Implementation

This decision will come into force immediately so as to commence the consultation process.

Information

Following the local elections in May 2019, a draft Community and Corporate Plan has been prepared by the Cabinet which sets out the ambitions and visions of the Council over the next four years and the principles within the Council will operate.

As part of its commitment to changing how the Council engages with its residents, communities and partners (and in line with the Council’s Constitution), the draft Plan will now be subject to consultation. The Cabinet are seeking views on whether the ambitions within the Plan are the right things for Torbay and which of these ambitions are the most important.

Councillor Steve Darling proposed and Councillor Morey seconded a motion which was agreed by the Cabinet as set out above.

Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision

None

Is this a Key Decision?

Yes – Reference Number: I060817

Does the call-in procedure apply?

No

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

None

Published

November 2019

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

Record of Decision

New Investment Opportunity 1/6/18 Update

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 26 November 2019

Decision

That the revised Investment Opportunity 1/6/18 as set out in the Exempt Cabinet Minute 56.2/11/19, be approved.

Reason for the Decision

To enable the continued investment in this property.

Implementation

The decision in respect of Investment Opportunity 1/6/18 Update 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 Council's interest. The Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinator was consulted on 21 November 2019.

Information

At the meeting of the Investment and Regeneration Committee held on 26 June 2018 Members approved Investment Opportunity 1/6/18. Full details of this investment were set out in the submitted exempt report considered at the Cabinet meeting on 26 November 2019. At the time it was agreed that this would be classes as a general investment opportunity and not a regeneration investment opportunity.

Due to a number of factors the costs associated with this investment have increased and it was therefore necessary for the Cabinet to review the decision of the Investment and Regeneration Committee, as the investment would no longer meet the requirements for a general investment under the Council's Investment and Regeneration Fund Strategy and also the Council had created a new Economic Growth Fund which this investment now meets the criteria for.

Councillor Long proposed and Councillor Cowell seconded a motion which was agreed by the Cabinet as set out above.

Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision

None

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

29 November 2019

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

Date: 29 November 2019