

Minutes of the Cabinet

19 May 2020

-: Present :-

Councillor Steve Darling (Chairman)

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

(Also in attendance: Councillors Barnby, Barrand, Brown, Bye, Douglas-Dunbar, Foster, Chris Lewis, Loxton, Manning and David Thomas)

98. Communications

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Steve Darling expressed his sincere thanks to all colleagues at the Council, partner agencies and community volunteers who had ensured the continued delivery of services during COVID-19.

99. Matters for Consideration

The Cabinet considered the following matters, full details of which are set out in the Record of Decisions appended to these Minutes.

99.1 Co-operative Councils Innovation Network

99.2 Housing Strategy Delivery Plan

99.3 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 9,10,11 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 99d, 99e, 99f, 99g, 99h and 99i the press and public were formally excluded from the meeting.

99.4 Town Centre Regeneration Fund - Additional funding proposal for Torquay Town Centre regeneration opportunity

(Note: during this item Councillor Law lost connection and was unable to take part in the remainder of the meeting.)

99.5 New Investment Opportunities

There were no new investment opportunities to consider.

99.6 New Economic Growth Fund Opportunity 19/05/20(a)

(Note: during this item Councillor Long and David Thomas lost connection and were unable to take part in the remainder of the meeting.)

99.7 New Economic Growth Fund Opportunity 19/05/20(b)

99.8 New Economic Growth Fund Opportunity 19/05/20(c)

99.9 Update on Existing Investments

The Cabinet received an update on existing investments in particular the impact the COVID-19 pandemic was having on the Council's investment portfolio.

Chairman

Record of Decisions

Co-operative Councils Innovation Network

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 19 May 2020

Decision

That Torbay Council becomes a member of the Co-operative Councils Innovation Network.

Reason for the Decision

Joining the Network would provide further support to the Council as it works to become better engaged with its communities and moves towards its ambition of being an enabling Council.

Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on 2 June 2020 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

Information

The Co-operative Council's Innovation Network is a collaboration between local authorities who are committed to finding better ways of working for, and with, their local community. It is a non-party-political active hub for co-operative policy development, innovation and advocacy which is action-focused and a vehicle for helping councils translate co-operative policy and principles into practice.

Working as part of the Co-operative Councils Innovation Network will provide the Council with additional support including an initial peer review to develop an action plan. Membership also includes attendance at their annual conference and within the member and officer networks which operate at both a national and regional level.

Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision

The Council is currently in the process of developing a Community Engagement and Empowerment Strategy and a range of workstreams are already underway within the Council which aim to improve community engagement, enablement and empowerment. All of this work is being drawn together through the 'Our Community' project within the Council Redesign Programme.

There are a number of tools available to the Council as we move towards our goal of being an enabling authority. Membership of the Network would be a further tool and would help to increase our capacity to move forward.

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 May 2020

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

Record of Decisions

Housing Strategy Delivery Plan

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 19 May 2020

Decision

- (i) That Appendix 1 – Housing Strategy Delivery Plan 2020 – 2025 Version 1, be approved;
- (ii) That authority is delegated to the Assistant Director of Planning, Housing and Climate Change, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Tourism and Housing, to agree the final details of the Housing Strategy Delivery Plan, including in-year adjustments to help progress housing delivery;
- (iii) That, the Housing Strategy Delivery Plan will be formally reviewed on an annual basis, through an appropriate level of consultation, with updates agreed and a refreshed version published as necessary.

Reason for the Decision

The Housing Strategy was a high level document based around the priorities within the Partnership Agreement, the subsequent Housing Strategy Delivery Plan provides the details of how the Council will work on delivering the strategy in accordance with the Council's principles.

Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on 2 June 2020 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

Information

On 27 February 2020 the Council approved the Housing Strategy and recommended that the Director of Place be instructed to work with housing partners to develop a Housing Strategy Delivery Plan 2020-2025.

The proposed Housing Strategy Delivery Plan supports the delivery of the ambitions, aim and objectives of the Housing Strategy and has been developed in conjunction with our housing partners to ensure that the Plan is a collaborative document, with support from those responsible for all aspects of housing in Torbay.

Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision

The Housing Strategy Delivery Plan presented for consideration has been developed with housing partners.

No other option has been considered, whilst doing nothing is an option such a course of action would result in the Council being unable to deliver on the strategic direction set out in the Housing Strategy.

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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22 May 2020

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Leader of Torbay Council on behalf of the Cabinet

Record of Decisions

Town Centre Regeneration Fund Proposal - Additional funding proposal for Torquay Town Centre regeneration opportunity

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 19 May 2020

Decision

That the Town Centre Regeneration Fund Proposal – Additional funding proposal for Torquay Town Centre regeneration opportunity, as set out in the Exempt Cabinet Minute 99d, be approved.

(Note: the decisions in respect of Town Centre Regeneration Fund Proposal – Additional funding proposal for Torquay Town Centre regeneration opportunity are restricted due to exempt information contained within the decisions.)

Reason for the Decision

To ensure delivery of this project, the Council is asked to approve additional funding. Enabling the Council to commit to the contract with the contractor and proceed with delivery.

Continued delay will result in additional cost and uncertainty, and will risk the loss of contractor and the tenant/future occupier.

Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on 2 June 2020 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

Information

The Cabinet considered the submitted exempt report on the proposed additional funding for a Torquay Town Centre regeneration opportunity in line with the Council's approved Town Centre Regeneration Fund criteria. The additional funding would support regeneration within Torbay.

Councillor Long proposed and Councillor Morey 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

Three alternative options were set out in the submitted exempt report.

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 May 2020

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

Record of Decisions

Economic Growth Fund Opportunity 19/05/20(a)

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 19 May 2020

Decision

That the Economic Growth Fund Opportunity 19/05/20(a), as set out in the Exempt Cabinet Minute 99f, be approved.

Reason for the Decision

To enable the Council to provide financial support to a local organisation to assist with economic regeneration within Torbay.

Implementation

The decision in respect of Economic Growth Fund Opportunity 19/05/20(a) 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 15 May 2020.

Information

The Cabinet considered the submitted exempt report on the proposed financial assistance to a local organisation in line with the Council's approved Economic Growth Fund Criteria. The proposed financial assistance would support economic regeneration within Torbay.

Councillor Morey proposed and Councillor Long 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

The following alternative options were set out in the submitted report:

- Not to provide the financial support as requested.
- To provide financial support in a form that minimises the Council's exposure to risk.
- To provide financial support in a form that is acceptable to the organisation but does expose the Council to a greater level of financial risk.

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 May 2020

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

Record of Decisions

Economic Growth Fund Opportunity 20/05/20(b)

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 19 May 2020

Decision

That the Economic Growth Fund Opportunity 20/05/20(b), as set out in the Exempt Cabinet Minute 99g, be approved.

(Note: the decisions in respect of Economic Growth Fund Opportunity 20/05/20(b) are restricted due to exempt information contained within the decisions.)

Reason for the Decision

To enable the Council to acquire an asset to assist with economic regeneration within Torbay.

Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on 2 June 2020 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

Information

The Cabinet considered the submitted exempt report on the proposed acquisition of a local asset in line with the Council's approved Economic Growth Fund Criteria. The proposal would support economic regeneration within Torbay.

Councillor Steve Darling proposed and Councillor Carter 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.

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22 May 2020

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

Record of Decisions

Economic Growth Fund Opportunity 19/05/20(c)

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 19 May 2020

Decision

That the Economic Growth Fund Opportunity 19/05/20(c), as set out in the exempt Cabinet Minute 99h, be approved.

(Note: the decisions in respect of Economic Growth Fund Opportunity 19/05/20(c) are restricted due to exempt information contained within the decisions.)

Reason for the Decision

To enable the Council to allocate a sum of money from the Economic Growth Fund to a project that will assist with economic regeneration in Torbay.

Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on 2 June 2020 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

Information

The Cabinet considered the submitted exempt report on the proposed project. The project would support economic regeneration in Torbay and was in line with the Council's approved Economic Growth Fund Criteria.

Councillor Steve Darling proposed and Councillor Morey 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.

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Leader of Torbay Council on behalf of the Cabinet