

Record of Cabinet decisions

Tuesday, 24 October 2017

3.00pm to 3.55pm

Date of publication: 25 October 2017

**Subject to call-in these decisions will be effective from 2 November 2017
The record of decisions is subject to approval at the next meeting of the Cabinet**

Present:	Councillor Alan Jarrett	Leader of the Council
	Councillor Howard Doe	Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Housing and Community Services
	Councillor Rodney Chambers, OBE	Portfolio Holder for Inward Investment, Strategic Regeneration and Partnerships
	Councillor Jane Chitty	Portfolio Holder for Planning, Economic Growth and Regulation
	Councillor Phil Filmer	Portfolio Holder for Front Line Services
	Councillor Adrian Gulvin	Portfolio Holder for Resources
	Councillor Martin Potter	Portfolio Holder for Educational Attainment and Improvement
	Councillor Rupert Turpin	Portfolio Holder for Business Management

In Attendance: Neil Davies, Chief Executive
Richard Hicks, Director Regeneration, Culture, Environment and Transformation and Deputy Chief Executive
Perry Holmes, Chief Legal Officer/Monitoring Officer
Julie Keith, Head of Democratic Services
Jade Milnes, Democratic Services Officer
Ian Sutherland, Director of Children and Adults Services
Phil Watts, Chief Finance Officer

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor David Brake (Adults' Services) and Councillor Andrew Mackness (Children's Services – Lead Member).

Record of decisions

The record of the meeting held on 26 September 2017 was agreed and signed by the Leader as a correct record.

Declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests and other interests

Disclosable pecuniary interests

There were none.

Other interests

There were none.

Response to DCLG Consultation "Planning for the Right Homes in the Right Places"

Background:

This report set out Medway Council's proposed response to the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) consultation "Planning for the right homes in the right places".

The report articulated the Council's concerns and foreseeable implications in relation to the proposed changes to the Planning System. In particular, the report drew attention to the suggested introduction of a standard method for calculating Local Authorities' housing need and a statement of common ground over the housing market area, as well as proposed changes to planning application fees and the approach to viability assessments.

The Portfolio Holder for Planning, Economic Growth and Regulation proposed some amendments to the recommendations, set out in Section 8, of the report to strengthen the Cabinet's opposition to the proposals from DCLG which would increase the number of houses to be delivered within Medway to unacceptable and undeliverable levels.

Decision number: ***Decision:***

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|-----------------|---|
| 114/2017 | The Cabinet agreed that this report be sent to the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) as Medway Council's formal response to concerns about the proposals contained in the consultation. |
| 115/2017 | The Cabinet agreed that the response to the direct questions in the consultation, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be finalised by the Director, Regeneration, Culture, Environment and Transformation and Deputy Chief Executive in consultation with the Portfolio Holders for Planning, Economic Growth and Regulation and Inward Investment, Strategic Regeneration and Partnerships. |
| 116/2017 | The Cabinet instructed officers to work with other Kent Authorities and Kent Planning Officer Groups (KPOG) to |

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promote joint responses expressing similar concerns to those set out in the report and Appendix 1 to the report.

- 117/2017** The Cabinet strongly requested that the three Medway MPs seek a meeting with the Secretary of State on behalf of Medway to express clearly the concerns of Medway and other Kent Authorities about the proposals in this consultation.
- 118/2017** The Cabinet instructed the Leader and Chief Executive to raise the concerns of Medway at their various Kent and Medway Group meetings and to promote similar joint responses to the consultation.
- 119/2017** The Cabinet recognised the need for housing, but cannot and will not support the Government proposals which increase the number of houses to be delivered within Medway to unacceptable and undeliverable levels.

Reasons:

Medway Council is concerned about the recommendations contained within the consultation and specifically the standard methodology for calculating housing need. The consequences of the recommendations within the consultation are set out in the body of the report and in the responses to the questions in Appendix 1 to the report.

The standard methodology recommended produces a housing target for Medway and other Kent Authorities that is not only unachievable but would have serious and unacceptable implications for infrastructure and the valued and nationally and internationally protected landscape within Medway.

The Interface Land Development Brief

Background:

This report presented the draft Interface Land Development Brief for consultation, as set out in Appendix A to the report. The Development Brief would update the Interface Land Development Framework Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) approved by Cabinet on 19 October 2010 (decision no. 174/2010 refers).

The report explained that the draft Development Brief responded to changing economic and planning circumstances and would enable the development of the sites, located in the former Naval Base in Chatham to be brought forward.

A Diversity Impact Assessment had been carried out on the proposals, as set out in Appendix B to the report.

**Decision
number:**

Decision:

120/2017

The Cabinet agreed to a programme of public consultation as set in section 3.2 of the report on the Interface Land Development Brief at Appendix A to the report.

121/2017

The Cabinet agreed:

- a) To delegate authority to the Director Regeneration, Culture, Environment and Transformation and Deputy Chief Executive, in consultation with the Portfolio Holders for Planning, Economic Growth and Regulation and Inward Investment, Strategic Regeneration and Partnerships to consider the outcome of the public consultation and agree the final version of the Interface Land Development Brief should no material issues be raised during the public consultation.
- b) That should material issues be raised during the public consultation, Cabinet will consider the outcome of the public consultation and agree the final version of the Interface Land Development Brief.

Reasons:

The updated Development Brief has been produced in light of the changing economic and planning circumstances and will provide developers and investors with clear guidance in relation to the development potential for the area.

Medway Commercial Group Limited 2017/2018 Six Monthly Report

Background:

This report provided details of Medway Commercial Group Limited's (MCG) achievements and performance over the preceding six months, and its plans for future growth and development.

In particular, the report stated that MCG was on target to achieve its agreed accumulated savings for the next two financial years, with a predicted surplus of £254,000 for this financial year (2017/18). In addition there had been key successes in relation to Telecare Services, business development relationships and the integration of TUPE transfers from Schools Traded Services, Governor Services and the Human Resources Team.

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Decision number: **Decision:**

The Cabinet noted the achievements and performance of Medway Commercial Group Limited (MCG) for the first six months of 2017/18, as detailed in the report.

Reasons:

When Cabinet agreed to establish the Local Authority Trading Company (LATC) it was also agreed that regular monitoring reports would be provided to Cabinet.

Recruitment Freeze

Background:

This report presented information on vacancies that officers had requested approval to commence recruitment for, following the process agreed by the Cabinet on 7 January 2003 (decision number 9/2003).

Details of the posts were set out within Appendix 1 to the report.

Decision number: **Decision:**

122/2017 The Cabinet agreed to unfreeze the following posts, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

Business Support Department

- a) Locum Childcare Lawyer**
- b) Locum Adults Lawyer**
- c) Senior Valuation Surveyor x2**

Reasons:

The posts presented to Cabinet would support the efficient running of the Council.

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Leader of the Council

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Date

Wayne Hemingway/Jade Milnes, Democratic Services Officers

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