

COUNCIL

11 OCTOBER 2018

LEADER'S REPORT

Councillor Alan Jarrett, Leader of the Council, will give a report on key developments since the last ordinary Council meeting on 19 July 2018.

He will include:

- Innovation Park Medway
- Stroke Services
- Festivals
- Decisions made by the Cabinet on 7 August 2018, 4 September 2018 and 25 September 2018.

Record of Cabinet decisions

Tuesday, 7 August 2018

3.00pm to 4.20pm

Date of publication: 8 August 2018

**Subject to call-in these decisions will be effective from 16 August 2018
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 Andrew Mackness	Portfolio Holder for Children's Services - Lead Member (statutory responsibility, including education)	
	Councillor Martin Potter	Portfolio Holder for Educational Attainment and Improvement	

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
James Williams, Director of Public Health

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors David Brake (Adults' Services) and Rupert Turpin (Business Management).

Cabinet, 7 August 2018

Record of decisions

The record of the meeting held on 10 July 2018 was agreed and signed by the Leader as a correct record.

Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Other Significant Interests

Disclosable pecuniary interests

There were none.

Other significant interests (OSIs)

In relation to agenda item 7 (Britton Farm – Update) Councillors Doe and Gulvin declared an interest as Directors of the Medway Development Company and relied on a dispensation granted by the Councillor Conduct Committee to enable them to take part in the discussion and vote on this item.

Other interests

Councillor Jarrett referred to agenda item 10 (Land to the East of Northdane Way, Lordswood) and advised that although he had expressed previous views on the matter, he had re-examined the relevant issues with a clear and open mind.

Placing Objects on the Highway Policy Review

Background:

This report provided a review of the pilot scheme undertaken in Chatham High Street which applied the Placing Objects on the Highway Policy, agreed by the Cabinet in March 2016. The Policy intended to regulate the placing of tables and chairs, A-boards and shop front displays on the highway. The full review of the pilot was set out at sections 3 of the report. The report advised that residents, traders and the Kent Fire and Rescue Service gave positive feedback on the pilot.

The Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee had considered the outcome of the pilot on 23 January 2018 and its comments and recommendations were set out at section 4 of the report.

A Diversity Impact Assessment (DIA) had been completed on the proposal to make the scheme permanent in Chatham and was set out at Appendix 3 to the report.

Decision number: **Decision:**

The Cabinet noted the comments and recommendations of the Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as set out in section 4 of the report.

Cabinet, 7 August 2018

The Cabinet noted the outcome of the review of the trial in Chatham High Street, as set out in section 3 of the report and Appendix 1 to the report.

- 100/2018 The Cabinet agreed to apply the Placing Objects on the Highway Policy in Chatham High Street, as set out in Appendix 2 to the report, on a permanent basis.
- 101/2018 The Cabinet instructed officers to:
- a) explore options to reduce the costs of the scheme, as identified in paragraph 9.2 of the report;
 - b) monitor the implementation of the scheme;
 - c) investigate the viability of expanding the scheme across Medway and; to report back the outcomes to the Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet.

Reasons:

The pilot scheme has been a success in Chatham, improving the visual environment of the high street, allowing the Council to better manage objects placed by shops on the high street, improving access for emergency vehicles, and removing trip hazards. Making the scheme permanent will retain the success of this scheme for the long term and allow officers to investigate scheme improvements as part of the implementation process, including steps to make the scheme more cost neutral.

There may be scope to replicate the successes in Chatham in other areas and high streets in Medway. However, this will be subject to officers investigating the viability of scheme expansion and reporting back once any investigation has been conducted.

Procurement Strategy

Background:

This report provided an update on progress made against the Procurement Strategy 2016-21. The report explained that the Strategy had 22 objectives across five key strands, these were:

- Supporting the local economy
- Reducing red tape
- Improved services, better outcomes
- Intelligent spending
- Sustainable procurement.

The report also proposed that of the original 22 objectives, 4 be replaced with revised objectives and an additional objective be added. It was explained that the

Cabinet, 7 August 2018

revised objectives developed the strategic target of those they had replaced and the additional objective developed the work the Category Management team had conducted regarding Social Value.

Details on the progress made against the Procurement Strategy 2016-21 and the proposed changes were set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

The comments of the Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee were set out in section 5 of the report.

Decision number: ***Decision:***

102/2018 **The Cabinet noted the progress made against the Procurement Strategy 2016-21 and agreed the suggested changes to the Procurement Strategy 2016-21 detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.**

Reasons:

The updated Strategy will include amended and new objectives which will develop upon the strategic targets of those they replace.

Land to the East of Northdane Way, Lordswood

Background:

This report provided information concerning a proposed residential development of land at Gibraltar Farm and requested the Cabinet to consider options for the adjacent Council owned land which would provide access to the proposed development. It was explained that should the Cabinet be minded to dispose of the land or grant rights over it, the Council would obtain a significant capital receipt.

The report stated that the value of the Council owned land would be subject to negotiation with the current landowner, but would be based on the Council receiving 1/3 of the increase in value between the value of the land as farm land and the value of the land for residential development, with planning permission for 450 units.

The Council would also, as part of the negotiation, secure its ability to receive further payments in the situation where the Council had allowed access to the Gibraltar Farm site and further development sites were accessed from that site.

An exempt appendix provided details of the valuation provided by the current landowner.

During discussion of this matter Cabinet Members considered the pressure to deliver additional housing across Medway and the benefit of a capital receipt arising from a decision to dispose of this Council owned land in the context of the overall financial position facing the Council. Cabinet Members also considered a range of factors supporting the option of taking positive action not to dispose of the land. In this

Cabinet, 7 August 2018

regard reference was made to the importance of sustainable development and in particular adequate infrastructure.

Decision number: **Decision:**

103/2018 **The Cabinet agreed to take action not to dispose of the land to the East of Northdane Way, Lordswood as shown hatched black in the Plan set out at Appendix 1 of the report.**

Note: In accordance with Council Rule 12.6, Councillors Doe, Rodney Chambers OBE, Chitty, Jarrett, Mackness and Potter requested that their vote for decision 103/2018 be recorded in the record of decisions.

In accordance with Council Rule 12.6, Councillors Filmer and Gulvin requested that their vote against decision 103/2018 be recorded in the record of decisions.

104/2018 **The Cabinet confirmed the position that it will continue to use its best endeavours to protect the Capstone Valley from any form of development and will not facilitate or sell any land in the Capstone Valley or at the head of the Capstone Valley south of Hempstead for development.**

Reasons:

This decision reflects the local community concern about the proposed development, the fact that ahead of Planning Inspectorate intervention the Planning Committee had refused planning permission for the development, the impact on infrastructure if the development were to go ahead and the Council's long held view that the Capstone Valley should be protected from development.

Britton Farm - Update

Background:

This report provided an update on the future use of the Britton Farm supermarket premises, Gillingham, following the departure of the food retailer, Budgens.

The report explained that the Cabinet, at its meeting on 7 February 2017, granted delegated authority to the Chief Legal Officer in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Resources to let the premises on the best terms reasonably obtainable (decision no. 14/2017 refers). The report set out the history of marketing the site and advised that the Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust (KMPT) had indicated its interest in co-locating to the premises from other operational buildings in Medway.

Cabinet, 7 August 2018

On 26 June KMPT's Finance Board approved the proposed letting of a re-configured Britton Farm shop unit, subject to entering into a lease and approving the final design. The report stated that the lease could be completed by exercising the existing delegated authority.

The report also explained that on 19 July 2018 the Council agreed an addition to the Capital Programme of £850,000. This funding would be utilised to re-model the Britton Farm supermarket premises to allow it to be let as new office accommodation for KMPT.

The proposed lease would repay the costs in addition to a rental figure over a 10 year period.

Decision number: **Decision:**

105/2018 **The Cabinet approved the commencement of this project with the addition to the capital programme of £850,000 to fund the re-modelling of the Britton Farm supermarket premises to allow it be let as new office accommodation for the Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust (KMPT).**

106/2018 **The Cabinet approved the Medway Development Company adding the residential site to its work programme to be brought forward through the agreed shareholder approval process.**

Reasons:

To provide a positive intervention on Gillingham High Street with re-use of a vacant building and to bring forward a new residential site.

Revenue Budget Monitoring 2018/19 - Quarter 1

Background:

This report detailed the revenue budget forecasts as at the end of June 2018. The report noted that, after management action, the forecast outturn for 2018/19 was a potential overspend of £4.861million, with an expectation that this figure would be reduced further as the financial year progressed.

The report set out an explanation of the pressures being faced and the corrective management action proposed by directorate management teams.

Decision number: **Decision:**

The Cabinet noted the result of the first round of revenue monitoring for 2018/19.

Cabinet, 7 August 2018

Reasons:

Cabinet has the responsibility to ensure effective budgetary control to contain expenditure within the approved limits set by Council.

Capital Budget Monitoring 2018/19 - Quarter 1

Background

This report presented the capital monitoring information for the first quarter of the financial year, including outturn forecasts and reference to new schemes and virements. The approved capital programme for 2018/19 was £226.8m, which included £93.7m carried forward from 2017/18.

Decision number: **Decision:**

The Cabinet noted the noted the spending forecasts summarised at Table 1 of the report.

Reasons

Cabinet has the responsibility to ensure effective budgetary control to contain expenditure within the approved limits set by Council.

Recruitment Freeze

Background:

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

Details of the posts were set out within Appendix 1 to the report and the addendum report which was tabled at the meeting.

Decision number: **Decision:**

107/2018 The Cabinet agreed to unfreeze the following posts, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report:

Business Support Department

a) Lawyer, Property, Place Team, Legal Services

Children and Adults

b) Youth Offending Team Officer (Maternity Cover)

Regeneration, Culture, Environment and Transformation

c) Head of HR

Cabinet, 7 August 2018

Reasons:

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

Gateway 1 Procurement Commencement: Medway Integrated Community Equipment Service

Background:

This report sought approval to commence the procurement of a new Medway Integrated Community Equipment Service (MICES) contract following review and discussion at Procurement Board on 4 July 2018. The report explained that the aims of the contract were to provide and support service users with the appropriate equipment that meets therapeutic, rehabilitation, mobility, and independence needs.

The report noted that the initial term of the current contract was due to expire in June 2019 and although there was an option to extend for a further two years, this could not be taken up as the Contracting Authorities were obligated to start a new procurement process as a result of the contract variation. The new integrated community equipment service would cover a period of 3+1+1 at a projected cost of £2.4m per annum.

An Exempt Appendix provided details of the financial analysis in respect of procurement of this service.

Decision number:

108/2018 **The Cabinet approved the commencement of a procurement process to commission a 5 year contract for the delivery of an integrated community equipment service in compliance to the Public Contract Regulations.**

Reasons:

The procurement of a 5 year contract for the delivery of an integrated community equipment service will support the purpose of the service - to loan, obtain, deliver, install and maintain a personalised community equipment service to the people of Medway. The contract is an investment in preventative treatment, and promoting independence at home and in the community. The preferred option will support the delivery of an improved community equipment service and address the following:

- Controlled Budget – delivering a financially constrained service
- Ongoing Development – a service supported by continued innovation
- High Quality – enhanced service for the people of Medway
- Prescriber Ownership – practitioner engagement to improve delivery
- Robust Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) – meeting current community equipment demands.

Cabinet, 7 August 2018

Gateway 5 Report: Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Repairs and Maintenance Contract

Background:

This report provided a review of the progress of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) repairs and maintenance contract currently delivered through the supplier Mears Group Plc and was set out at paragraph 5.1 to the report.

The report noted that the current contract had been in operation since the 1 September 2014. It was initially awarded for a five-year period and included a 5 year extension period, subject to satisfactory performance and agreement of both parties.

The Procurement Board considered this report on 4 July 2018 and supported the recommendations set out in the report.

An Exempt Appendix provided details of the financial analysis in respect of procurement of this service.

Decision number:

109/2018

Decision:

The Cabinet approved the extension of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Repairs and Maintenance contract with Mears Group PLC with effect from 1 September 2019 for a further 5 years.

Reasons:

Approval of the contract extension would provide value for money for the Council.

Excellent performance continues when benchmarked with other similar sized housing organisations.

The Housing Management Team complete quarterly benchmarking with Housemark and comparisons to similar organisations with a stock size of 1,000 to 5,000 properties.

At the end of the last quarter, performance was in the top quartile for the following areas:

- Percentage of rent lost through dwellings being vacant
- Average re-let time in days (standard re-lets)
- Percentage of units re-let during the period
- Percentage of repairs completed at first visit
- Appointments kept as a percentage of appointments made
- Satisfaction with repairs.

Cabinet, 7 August 2018

At year end for 2016/17 performance was in the top quartile for the following areas:

- Percentage of calls answered
- Percentage of rent lost through dwellings being vacant
- Average re-let time in days (standard re-lets)
- Average re-let time in days (major works units, including time spent in works)
- Average re-let time in days (all re-lets, including time spent in works)
- Percentage of properties vacant and available to let
- Percentage of repairs completed at first visit
- Satisfaction with repairs service.

The Council has a statutory duty as a stock retained authority to maintain its stock in a safe and repaired condition.

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Leader of the Council

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Date

Jade Milnes, Democratic Services Officer

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Record of Cabinet decisions

Tuesday, 4 September 2018

3.00pm to 3.39pm

Date of publication: 5 September 2018

**Subject to call-in these decisions will be effective from 13 September 2018
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 David Brake	Portfolio Holder for Adults' 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 Adrian Gulvin	Portfolio Holder for Resources
	Councillor Andrew Mackness	Portfolio Holder for Children's Services - Lead Member (statutory responsibility, including education)
	Councillor Martin Potter	Portfolio Holder for Educational Attainment and Improvement
	Councillor Rupert Turpin	Portfolio Holder for Business Management

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

Apologies for absence

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Phil Filmer (Front Line Services).

Cabinet, 4 September 2018

Record of decisions

The record of the meeting held on 7 August 2018 was agreed and signed by the Leader as a correct record.

Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Other Significant Interests

Disclosable pecuniary interests

There were none.

Other significant interests (OSIs)

Councillor Mackness declared an OSI in agenda item 5 (Proposed Use of Part of the Cornwallis Avenue Site for School Provision) because he is the Chairman of Medway Commercial Group and relied on a dispensation agreed by the Councillor Conduct Committee to enable him to take part in the discussion and vote on this item.

Other interests

There were none.

Innovation Park Medway Masterplan Public Consultation

Background:

This report provided details of the draft Innovation Park Medway Masterplan, the aim of which would be to facilitate a high quality, flexible scheme to encourage a wide range of high-value technology, engineering, manufacturing and knowledge-intensive businesses on an area of land currently in use by Rochester Airport Ltd, as well as covering land leased to BAE, and Woolmans Wood Caravan Site which was privately owned.

The report stated that the Masterplan sought to address the objective of opening up potential to deliver high value businesses attracted by strategic connectivity and an innovative environment. Therefore, the Masterplan presented a framework that would give certainty on the major place making features whilst allowing development plots to retain flexibility in order to allow agile responses to market interest.

The report stated that public consultation would be undertaken over a six week period from 17 September to 28 October 2018 subject to both Cabinet approval and Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council's approval, given that the site crossed the boundary with Tonbridge and Malling. The report also stated that a Diversity Impact Assessment would be carried out during the consultation stage.

Cabinet, 4 September 2018

**Decision
number:**

Decision:

- 110/2018** **The Cabinet approved option 1 (consultation on the proposed masterplan) as set out in section 3 of this report and to report back the outcome of consultation to Cabinet in December 2018.**
- 111/2018** **The Cabinet agreed to delegate authority to the Director Regeneration, Culture, Environment and Transformation and Deputy Chief Executive, to approve any necessary minor amendments to the draft masterplan, in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holders, prior to consultation.**

Reasons:

Public consultation on the masterplan is necessary in order to adopt the masterplan, allowing high quality development to come forward at Innovation Park Medway.

Proposed Use of Part of the Cornwallis Avenue Site for School Provision

Background:

This report provided details of a proposal to lease land at Cornwallis Avenue, Gillingham, to Medway Commercial Group (MCG) for the purpose of developing education facilities to meet pressure on school places. The report provided details of the previous and current uses of the site noting that whilst the current Local Plan designation for the land was CF8 (Cemetery Extension), the proposal in the Local Plan which was out to consultation but not due for adoption until 2020, was that part of the site be allocated for cemetery use and part educational use.

The report provided details of likely demand for both burial spaces and educational provision, noting that use of the Cornwallis Avenue site would facilitate meeting these pressures and the Council's statutory duties in respect of school sufficiency. The report also stated that a Diversity Impact Assessment would be provided with future reports on specific proposals for the educational use of the land.

**Decision
number:**

Decision:

- 112/2018** **The Cabinet approved the leasing of the proposed 1.5ha education land at Cornwallis Avenue (as shown hatched black on the plan set out in Appendix 1 to the report) to Medway Commercial Group in a format approved by the Chief Legal Officer for a period of no more than 125 years in order to secure the delivery of educational and associated uses subject to appropriate planning approvals.**

Cabinet, 4 September 2018

113/2018 **The Cabinet agreed to delegate authority to the Chief Legal Officer in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Resources to complete the lease and any other necessary agreements of part of the site at Cornwallis Avenue as shown hatched black on the plan set out in Appendix 1 to the report for the provision of educational and associated uses.**

Reasons:

To ensure that sufficient land is available for additional education provision to meet expected demand from across all sectors of the place planning system, which will help to ensure that the Council meets its statutory duty to provide sufficient school places.

Future Operation of Medway Sport Centre Cafes

Background:

This report provided details of a proposal to outsource the cafes at Medway Park and Strood sports centres to an external provider. Between 2013-2017 the cafes at Medway Park and Strood sports centres had been operated by Medway Norse at which point Medway Norse gave notice that they no longer wished to operate these cafes. Therefore, both cafes had been transferred to the Council on 1 September 2017, including an agreed TUPE of affected staff, pending the Council finding a new external supplier.

The report stated that the preferred option was to outsource the cafes because it was considered that this would provide the best customer service, whilst reducing budgetary expenditure and providing income certainty.

Decision number: ***Decision:***

114/2018 **The Cabinet approved the outsourcing of the cafes at Medway Park and Strood Sports Centres and for an external provider to be identified and engaged through the Council's procurement process.**

Reasons:

The outsourcing of the cafes to a dedicated external provider will provide better customer service, while providing income certainty and reducing service expenditure.

Cabinet, 4 September 2018

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.

<i>Decision number:</i>	<i>Decision:</i>
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115/2018	The Cabinet agreed to unfreeze the following posts, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.
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Business Support Department

- a) Civic & Ceremonial Officers x 2**
- b) Accounting Technician Control Team**

Children and Adults

- c) Principal Educational Psychologist**
- d) Virtual Head Teacher.**

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, Principal Democratic Services Officer

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Record of Cabinet decisions

Tuesday, 25 September 2018

3.00pm to 4.04pm

Date of publication: 26 September 2018

**Subject to call-in these decisions will be effective from 4 October 2018
The record of decisions is subject to approval at the next meeting of the Cabinet**

Present:	Councillor Howard Doe	Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Housing and Community Services
	Councillor David Brake	Portfolio Holder for Adults' Services
	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 Andrew Mackness	Portfolio Holder for Children's Services - Lead Member (statutory responsibility, including education)
	Councillor Martin Potter	Portfolio Holder for Educational Attainment and Improvement
	Councillor Rupert Turpin	Portfolio Holder for Business Management
In Attendance:	Richard Hicks, Director Regeneration, Culture, Environment and Transformation and Deputy Chief Executive	
	Wayne Hemingway, Principal Democratic Services Officer	
	Perry Holmes, Chief Legal Officer/Monitoring Officer	
	Julie Keith, Head of Democratic Services	
	Ian Sutherland, Director of Children and Adults Services	
	Phil Watts, Chief Finance Officer	
	James Williams, Director of Public Health	

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Alan Jarrett (Leader of the Council) and Rodney Chambers OBE (Inward Investment, Strategic Regeneration and Partnerships).

Cabinet, 25 September 2018

Record of decisions

The record of the meeting held on 4 September 2018 was agreed and signed by the Deputy Leader as a correct record.

Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Other Significant Interests

Disclosable pecuniary interests

There were none.

Other significant interests (OSIs)

Councillor Doe declared an OSI in agenda item 4 (Medium Term Financial Strategy 2018-2023) because he is the Chairman of Medway Development Company and he relied on a dispensation agreed by the Councillor Conduct Committee to enable him to take part in the discussion and vote on this item.

Councillor Gulvin declared an OSI in agenda item 4 (Medium Term Financial Strategy 2018-2023) because he is a Director of Medway Development Group and he relied on a dispensation agreed by the Councillor Conduct Committee to enable him to take part in the discussion and vote on this item.

Councillor Mackness declared an OSI in agenda item 4 (Medium Term Financial Strategy 2018-2023) because he is the Chairman of Medway Commercial Group and he relied on a dispensation agreed by the Councillor Conduct Committee to enable him to take part in the discussion and vote on this item.

Councillor Turpin declared an OSI in agenda item 4 (Medium Term Financial Strategy 2018-2023) because he is a Director of Medway Norse and he relied on a dispensation agreed by the Councillor Conduct Committee to enable him to take part in the discussion and vote on this item.

Other interests

There were none.

Deputy Leader's Announcement - Hyper Acute Stroke Units

The Deputy Leader referred to the recent announcement by the NHS in Kent and Medway of a preferred option for three new specialist "Hyper Acute Stroke Units" (HASUs) to be located alongside Acute Stroke Units at Darent Valley Hospital in Dartford, Maidstone Hospital and William Harvey Hospital in Ashford (Option B). He expressed concern that the preferred option did not include provision at Medway Maritime Hospital despite its inclusion in three of the five options put forward and noting Medway's large and growing population, its growing industries and the levels of deprivation and health inequalities in Medway.

The Deputy Leader also expressed concern as to the lack of transparency on how the preferred option had been selected and stated that the Council had submitted a

Cabinet, 25 September 2018

Freedom of Information request for the documentation that had been used by the NHS in Kent and Medway in selecting the preferred option. He stated that the Council would fight this decision with the support of local MPs.

Cabinet Members spoke in support of the Deputy Leader's comments and it was noted that the Portfolio Holder for Adults' Services had submitted a Motion on the matter for debate at Full Council on 11 October 2018.

Medium Term Financial Strategy 2018-2023

Background:

This report introduced the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2018 -2023. The report made forward projections concerning the Council's budget requirement and the resources available to deliver its corporate priorities and objectives included within the Council Plan.

The report provided details of the financial challenges facing the Council over the next 5 years and the Council's strategy for delivering a balanced budget in the context of a reducing resource base.

The report stated that the Council faced a forecast deficit in 2019/20 of around £3.2million, increasing to £16.3million by 2022/23 and it would seek to address this through the accompanying Medium Term Financial Strategy, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report. Notwithstanding the service pressures impacting on the Council's budget requirement and the significant financial constraints imposed through Government grant reductions, the report stated that it must remain the Council's main strategic aim to achieve a sustainable budget without recourse to reserves.

The report set out the timetable for the Medium Term Financial Strategy and budget setting and it was noted that business and service planning would run concurrently.

Diversity Impact Assessments would be undertaken and reported to Members as part of the budget and service planning process.

Decision number:

Decision:

116/2018

The Cabinet agreed the underlying aims of the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS).

The Cabinet noted the forecast level of overall funding over the medium term and the projected budget deficit identified in the MTFS.

117/2018

The Cabinet agreed to bring forward proposals, through the financial planning process, to address this deficit.

Cabinet, 25 September 2018

Reasons:

The Medium Term Financial Strategy is important in providing the framework underpinning the budget setting process and is presented to Cabinet in accordance with the timetable set out within the Constitution.

Annual Review of the School Place Planning Strategy 2018/2022

Background:

This report provided details on the progress made against the School Place Planning Strategy, highlighted areas of emerging need and set out initial recommendations for consideration to ensure that a sufficient supply of good quality school places would be maintained.

The report stated that with regards to primary provision, no significant action was proposed at this time as the additional capacity built into the system should ensure demand would be met for the foreseeable future. Forecasts would continue to be monitored twice each year, together with weekly birth numbers and inward migration, and the position would be assessed accordingly.

The report stated that with regards to secondary provision, sufficient capacity existed to 2018 owing to spare capacity in older year groups and it was likely that 2019 intakes could be absorbed into the spare capacity too. From this point additional capacity would be necessary to avoid a widespread oversubscription of places and the report set out a number of proposals in response to this.

Diversity Impact Assessments would be undertaken on individual proposals brought forward as a result of actions arising from this report.

Decision number: **Decision:**

The Cabinet noted the continued excellent progress made against the School Organisation Plan and School Place Planning Strategy frameworks, which have ensured that the Council meets its duty and sufficient school places are available to meet the increasing demand.

118/2018

The Cabinet agreed to authorise officers to undertake feasibility studies to provide additional grammar school places, subject to funding being available in the future, at one or more of the following schools:

- **Holcombe Grammar School (phase 2);**
- **Chatham Grammar School for Girls;**
- **Rochester Grammar School;**
- **Fort Pitt Grammar School; and**
- **Provision on the Hoo Peninsula.**

Cabinet, 25 September 2018

- 119/2018** **The Cabinet agreed to authorise officers to undertake the feasibility and detailed costing of an additional one form of entry at Hundred of Hoo Academy Primary Phase.**
- 120/2018** **The Cabinet agreed to authorise officers to undertake further feasibility studies as necessary to ensure that forward planning is in place to meet demand as and where it emerges.**
- 121/2018** **The Cabinet noted the ongoing work being undertaken to ensure sufficient SEND provision is available within Medway and supported the submission of a free school bid and the exploration into the provision of residential accommodation for pupils with SEND within Medway.**

Reasons:

To ensure that the Council meets its statutory duty to ensure sufficient good quality school places are available.

While the actions highlighted in section 3.12.2 of the report will provide additional grammar school places, there may be a need to provide further places to accommodate increasing pupil numbers.

As noted in section 3.6 of the report, there is expected to be a need for additional primary places in the Peninsula West planning area. The Hundred of Hoo Academy was designed with core facilities for two forms of entry in readiness for this need.

By supporting the SEND Free School bid as set out in section 3.15.5 of the report and the continuation of the work being undertaken to assess the required provision including residential provision, the Cabinet is ensuring that the Council is aligning with the SEND Strategy which prioritises that children with SEND should be educated alongside their peers within their local community.

Innovation Park Medway Growing Places Fund (GPF) Project - Addition to the Capital Programme

Background:

This report provided details of the Innovation Park Medway Growing Places Fund (GPF) project, which would allow essential enabling works to be completed on the southern site of the Innovation Park. Completion of these works would de-risk the site for potential occupiers and would as a result bring forward development.

The report stated that the funding would allow the following works to be completed: access road with shared footpath; cycle route; lighting and signage; utility ducting/service strip; fencing around the site boundary (as required); and demolition of the disused rifle range.

Cabinet, 25 September 2018

A final Business Case had been submitted to the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) at the end of April 2018. Following review by the Independent Technical Evaluator the Business Case was presented to SELEP Accountability Board, which approved the funding award on 14 September 2018.

Decision number: **Decision:**

122/2018 **The Cabinet agreed to recommend to Full Council on 11 October 2018 the addition of £650,000 for the Innovation Park Medway - southern site enabling works project, as set out in section 2 of the report, to the Capital Programme.**

Reasons:

Additions to the Capital Programme are a matter for Full Council.

Treasury Management Strategy Mid-Year Review Report 2018/19

Background:

This report presented the mid-year review of the Treasury Management Strategy 2018/2019, which had been approved by Full Council alongside the Capital and Revenue Budgets on 22 February 2018. This report would also be considered by the Audit Committee on 27 September 2018 prior to final consideration at Full Council on 11 October 2018.

The report included an economic update for the first part of 2018/2019; a review of the Treasury Management Strategy Statement; Annual Investment Strategy; the Council's Investment Portfolio and Borrowing Strategy for 2018/2019; a review of any debt rescheduling undertaken during 2018/2019 and compliance with Treasury and Prudential Limits for 2018/2019.

Decision number: **Decision:**

The Cabinet noted the contents of the report and congratulated staff on their performance including, in particular, their success in achieving a significantly higher weighted average rate of return on the Council's investment portfolio in comparison to other local authorities, as set out in paragraph 5.7.4 of the report and referred these comments to the Audit Committee.

Reasons:

In accordance with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance Accountancy's (CIPFA) Code of Practice for Treasury Management, there should be a review of the strategy at least half yearly.

Cabinet, 25 September 2018

Council Plan Performance Monitoring Report - Quarter 1 2018/19

Background:

This report provided details of how the Council had performed during quarter 1 in 2018/19 against the Council's three priorities. There were 43 Council Plan measures for 2018/19, of which it was currently possible to report on 37. In terms of the remaining measures, 1 (Digital Take Up) was data only and 5 measures (net additional homes, excess weight 4-5 years and 10-11 years, carer satisfaction and Medway's economy) would not be available until later in the year.

In summary, 27 out of 37 measures had met or exceeded target, 3 were slightly below target and 7 were significantly below target.

It was noted that this report would be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committees during October 2018.

Cabinet Members highlighted a number of key issues during discussion.

Decision number: **Decision:**

The Cabinet noted the quarter 1 performance of the measures of success used to monitor progress against the Council's priorities.

Reasons:

Regular monitoring of performance by management and Members is best practice and ensures achievement of corporate objectives.

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Leader of the Council

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Date

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