

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).

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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

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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.

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.**

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- 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.

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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.

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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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