

Record of Cabinet decisions

Tuesday, 13 July 2021

3.00pm to 4.50pm

Date of publication: 14 July 2021

**Subject to call-in these decisions will be effective from 22 July 2021
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 Phil Filmer	Portfolio Holder for Front Line Services
	Councillor Adrian Gulvin	Portfolio Holder for Resources
	Councillor Mrs Josie Iles	Portfolio Holder for Children's Services – Lead Member (statutory responsibility)
	Councillor Martin Potter	Portfolio Holder for Education and Schools
	Councillor Rupert Turpin	Portfolio Holder for Business Management
In Attendance:	Neil Davies, Chief Executive	
	Bhupinder Gill, Assistant Director, Legal and Governance	
	Teri Reynolds, Democratic Services Officer	

Apologies for absence

There were none.

Record of decisions

The record of the meeting held on 8 June 2021 and of the urgent decision taken by the Leader on 28 June 2021 were agreed by the Cabinet and signed by the Leader as correct records.

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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 items 4 (Adult Social Care Strategy), 11 (Housing Delivery Test Action Plan) and 13 (Treasury Management Outturn Annual Report 2020-21) because he is the Chairman and Director of Kyndi and 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 these items.

Councillor Gulvin declared an OSI in agenda items 11 (Housing Delivery Test Action Plan) and 13 (Treasury Management Outturn Annual Report 2020-21) because he is a Director 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 these items.

Councillor Turpin declared an OSI in agenda item 4 (Adult Social Care Strategy) and 13 (Treasury Management Outturn Annual Report 2020-21), because he is a Director of Kyndi Limited and he relied on a dispensation agreed by the Councillor Conduct Committee to enable him to take part in the discussion and vote on these items.

Other interests

There were none.

Adult Social Care Strategy

Background:

This report provided details of the Adult Social Care Strategy which set out the objectives and focus for Medway Adult Social Care over the next 4 years. It aimed to ensure that residents would be safeguarded and also to improve outcomes for Service Users, while ensuring that the service achieved the best value for the Council.

The report stated that the primary aim of the strategy was to prevent and reduce social need by providing effective support so that citizens maintained their independence. Wherever possible and appropriate citizens would be supported with eligible social care needs to remain in or return to their own home, so that they could maintain important relationships with family, friends, and continue to actively be a part of their own community.

This report was considered by the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 15 June 2021 and its comments were set out in section 6 of

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the report.

A Diversity Impact Assessment had been undertaken on the Strategy, details of which were set out in Appendix 3 to the report.

Decision number: **Decision:**

The Cabinet noted the comments of the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee set out at section 6 to the report.

77/2021 The Cabinet agreed to delegate authority to the Director of People – Children and Adults, to in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Adults’ Services, make the minor amendments set out at section 7 to the report.

78/2021 Subject to the amendments set out in decision no. 77/2021 being agreed, the Cabinet approved the Medway Adult Social Care Strategy.

Reasons:

Approval of the Strategy will enable the Council to articulate our vision for social care and support in Medway and set the strategic direction which will underpin a programme of improvement for adult social care over the period 2021 – 2025.

Medway Early Help Strategy

Background:

This report provided details of the Medway Early Help Strategy 2021 – 2024, which set out Medway’s early help offer to support potentially vulnerable children, young people and their families as soon as a problem started to emerge. The purpose of early help was to prevent issues and problems from escalating by building resilience and this would be achieved through prompt and targeted interventions to families by those who know them best. The report also stated that the Strategy would reflect a partnership approach to deliver effective early help to children and families. The partnership worked together at all levels to ensure that the approach and services would best support children and families in Medway.

This report was considered by the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 9 June 2021 and the Health and Wellbeing Board on 17 June and their comments were set out in sections 7 and 8 of the report respectively.

A Diversity Impact Assessment had been undertaken on the Strategy, details of which were set out in Appendix 3 to the report.

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Decision number:

Decision:

The Cabinet noted the comments of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Health and Wellbeing Board, as set out in sections 7 and 8 of the report.

79/2021

The Cabinet approved the Medway Early Help Strategy, as set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

Reasons:

The purpose of early help is to prevent issues and problems from escalating by building resilience, through prompt and targeted interventions to families by those who know them best. It is a shared responsibility and approving the strategy will help to embed a cultural change across the partnership to ensure that early help is everyone's responsibility; providing a single vision, joint priorities and services which are delivered in harmony to ensure the best possible outcomes.

Medway Parenting Support Strategy

Background:

This report provided details of the Medway Parenting Support Strategy which set out a clear vision to work in partnership with parents and carers to continue to improve experiences and outcomes for children, young people and families across Medway. The Strategy had been developed and co-produced with parents, carers and partner organisations across Medway. It gave a broad overview of what the Council aimed to achieve in Medway over the next ten years, based on consultations, national and local policy and national directives.

The report also stated that this Strategy would support and sit alongside the Medway Children's Services Action Plan, the proposed Medway Early Help Strategy and other key local strategy and policy documents.

The report was considered by the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 9 June 2021 and the Health and Wellbeing Board on 17 June 2021 and their comments were set out in sections 8 and 9 of the report respectively.

A Diversity Impact Assessment had been undertaken on the Strategy, details of which were set out in Appendix 2 to the report.

Decision number:

Decision:

The Cabinet noted the comments made by the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as set out at section 8 to the report and noted the comments of the Health and Wellbeing Board, as set out at section 9

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to the report.

80/2021 **The Cabinet approved the Medway Parenting Support Strategy, as set out at Appendix 1 to the report.**

Reasons:

The Strategy builds upon the work and recommendations of the Early Help (Parenting) Task Group. It will help to embed a cultural change to parenting support throughout Medway for a sustained period of time and to develop a whole system approach to parenting support that underpins the delivery of positive outcomes.

Youth Justice Plan - Refresh 2021- 2022

Background:

This report provided details of the annual update of the Youth Justice Plan, which would set out how youth justice would be delivered locally within available resources.

The report stated that the Plan had been refreshed from last year and co-produced with the Youth Justice Partnership (YJP) and influenced by national research and evidence of effective practice and had taken examples across National Partnerships.

The report had been considered by the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 9 June 2021 and its comments were set out in section 6 of the report.

A Diversity Impact Assessment had been undertaken on the Strategy, details of which were set out in Appendix 2 to the report.

Decision **Decision:**
number:

The Cabinet noted the comments from the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as set out at section 6 of the report.

81/2021 **The Cabinet agreed to recommend Full Council to approve the Medway Youth Justice Partnership Strategic Plan 2020 – 2023 attached at Appendix 1 to the report, including its accompanying delivery plan (attached at Appendix A to the Strategic Plan).**

Reasons:

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998, requires Local Authorities to have a Youth Justice Plan, which is updated annually to set out how youth justice will be delivered locally within available resources.

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Splashes Sports Centre Replacement

Background:

This report provided details of a proposal to build a new family-friendly sports centre in Rainham, on the site of the existing Splashes sports centre. The report stated that on 8 June 2021, to enable the demolition of Splashes Leisure Centre and remove the risks of building collapse, vandalism / anti-social behaviour and ongoing maintenance costs, the Cabinet approved the demolition of the existing Splashes Leisure Centre building to allow for a future Leisure facility on that site (decision number 56/2021).

The report stated that it was the authority's explicit intention to develop a brand new, state-of-the-art facility on this site and the next stage of the project would focus on the new development at the site and bring greater cost certainty for the Council, enabling the procurement of the main building works. Once this greater cost certainty had been achieved a report would be taken to Cabinet and then to Full Council seeking an addition to the capital budget for development of the new Splashes facility.

Decision number: **Decision:**

82/2021 The Cabinet agreed to instruct officers to proceed with the appointment of architects and a project team to develop detailed proposals for a new family-friendly Splashes sports centre in Rainham, on the site of, and of similar scale, to the existing centre using the Splashes Replacement funding available within the Capital Programme.

Reasons:

The new centre will provide important modern, family-friendly sports and physical activity facilities in the east of Medway, complementing other Council sports facilities.

Approval of the recommendation will enable procurement to proceed with the appointment of an architect and project team to develop detailed proposals and to bring the Council greater cost-certainty prior to the start of development.

Land to the East of Northdane Way, Lordswood

Background:

This report provided details of the proposed residential development of land at Gibraltar Farm and a revised offer from the owner's agent for the Council to dispose of/grant rights over Council owned land, that could provide access to the proposed development. The report sought Cabinet's decision on options to delegate authority for officers to dispose of or grant rights over Council owned land to allow the completion of the proposed development or not.

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An Exempt Appendix set out details of the revised offer for the Council to dispose of/or grant rights over its land, as shown by area hatched black on the plan at Appendix 1 to the report.

Decision number: **Decision:**

83/2021 **The Cabinet agreed option A (to take no action) as set out in section 3 of the report.**

Reasons:

To reflect local community concern about the proposed development.

School Organisation Proposals 2021

Background:

The Cabinet agreed to accept this report as urgent to enable consideration of the matter at the earliest opportunity to enable the Council to meet its statutory obligations as soon as possible.

This report provided details of a number of projects at schools across Medway to provide necessary additional capacity to ensure that the supply of good quality school places was maintained. Approval was sought for the projects and their addition to the Education Capital Programme.

It was added that the Cabinet had previously approved an expansion to Sir Joseph Williamson Mathematical School, which had been undertaken through a three phased programme and the final stage of that was now to be undertaken, which would create an additional science laboratory.

Decision number: **Decision:**

84/2021 **The Cabinet approved the following projects as set out in section 3 of the report together with reference to section 7.3 of the report:**

- 1) Hundred of Hoo Academy Primary expansion from 1FE to 2FE (see sections 3.2 to 3.5).**
- 2) Hundred of Hoo Academy Secondary expansion of dining and changing facilities (see sections 3.6 to 3.9).**
- 3) The Robert Napier School refurbishment and creation of two science laboratories (see sections**

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3.10 to 3.14).

- 4) Greenacre Boys School addition of classroom space (see sections 3.15 to 3.19).

85/2021 **The Cabinet approved the project to expand St Nicholas CE Infant School as set out in sections 3.20 to 3.29 and section 7.5 of the report and recommended to Full Council that this project is added to the 2023/24 Capital Programme.**

Reasons:

By approving the projects, the Cabinet will be ensuring that the Council meets its statutory duty to ensure sufficient good quality school places and appropriate learning environments are available.

Housing Delivery Test Action Plan

Background:

This report provided details of the Council's third Housing Delivery Test (HDT) Action Plan. It had been prepared in response to the publication of the Housing Delivery Test results in January 2021.

The report stated that despite record high rates of housebuilding in Medway in 2019/20, with 1,130 new homes built, development in recent years had not met the defined levels of housing needed. The Action Plan considered the factors influencing housebuilding in Medway, and actions that the Council could promote to boost the delivery of new homes.

The report also stated that the new Medway Local Plan was highlighted in the HDT Action Plan as a critical means of boosting housebuilding in Medway. The publication of the draft Local Plan would be informed by a comprehensive Sustainability Appraisal.

Decision number: **Decision:**

86/2021 **The Cabinet approved the publication of the Medway Housing Delivery Test Action Plan, 2021, as set out at Appendix 1 to the report.**

Reasons:

Cabinet is requested to approve the publication of the Medway HDT Action Plan, 2021, to meet requirements set by Government.

Housing Infrastructure Fund: New Routes to Good Growth - Deed of Variation to Grant Determination Agreement

Background:

This report provided details of a proposal to enter into a Deed of Variation to amend the Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) Grant Determination Agreement (GDA). Delegated Authority to sign the GDA was granted, by Cabinet on 7 April 2020 [Decision No. 47/2020 refers]. The current proposed Deed of Variation encompassed changes to specific wording within the contract required by Homes England (HE), as well as changes to milestones within the GDA requested by the Council.

The report also sought delegated authority for any further Deeds of Variation required of a similar nature, to the Director of Place and Deputy Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council, Chief Finance Officer and Assistant Director Legal and Governance, for a period of 12 months. Similar Deeds of Variation within this timeframe would include any further changes to milestones necessary for the programme and any further administrative changes to wording within the GDA that may be required by HE.

An Exempt Appendix set out proposed changes to the Housing Infrastructure Fund Grant Determination Agreement.

Decision number: ***Decision:***

87/2021 **The Cabinet agreed to enter into the Deed of Variation to accept the proposed changes required by Homes England, and the revised milestones proposed by the Council.**

88/2021 **The Cabinet agreed to delegate authority to the Director of Place and Deputy Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, Chief Finance Officer and Assistant Director Legal and Governance to make the relevant changes, should any similar Deeds of Variation be required.**

Reasons:

Option 2 could result in the loss of £170m of capital funding, which is considered vital in supporting Medway's future regeneration and delivering against Local Plan targets. Option 1 continues to demonstrate commitment to delivery of the £170 m HIF programme.

Delegation of authority for any similar future Deeds of Variation to the Director of Place and Deputy Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, Chief Finance Officer and Assistant Director Legal and Governance, within the next 12 months, would ensure timely changes can be made with HE and will not cause delay to monthly HIF grant draw down claims.

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Treasury Management Outturn Annual Report 2020/21

Background:

This report provided an overview of treasury management activity during 2020/21.

The report stated that overall, the Interest and Financing budget made a surplus over its targeted budget of £4,640,000. The underspend on the minimum revenue provision (MRP) followed a report by Link Asset Services which concluded that provision in previous years had been too high so just £1 had been charged as MRP in 2020/21 to redress the balance.

The report would also be considered by the Audit Committee on 28 July 2021.

Decision number:

Decision:

The Cabinet noted the treasury management outturn annual report.

Reasons:

Section 7.1 (e) of the Council's Financial Rules state that the Chief Finance Officer shall report to Cabinet and the Audit Committee not later than September on treasury management activities in the previous year.

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Leader of the Council

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Date

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