

Record of Cabinet decisions

Tuesday, 24 August 2021

3.00pm to 4.01pm

Date of publication: 25 August 2021

**Subject to call-in these decisions will be effective from 3 September 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 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	
	In Attendance:	Bhupinder Gill, Assistant Director, Legal and Governance	
		Neil Davies, Chief Executive	
	Jon Pitt, Democratic Services Officer		

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Doe and from Councillor Rupert Turpin.

Record of decisions

The record of the meeting held on 3 August 2021 was agreed by the Cabinet and signed by the Leader as a correct record.

Cabinet, 24 August 2021

Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Other Significant Interests

Disclosable pecuniary interests

There were none.

Other significant interests (OSIs)

Councillor Adrian Gulvin declared an OSI in agenda item 7 (Capital Budget Monitoring 2021/2022 - Round 1) and agenda item 8 (Council Plan Monitoring and Risk Register Review - Quarter 1 2021/2022) because he is a Director of Medway Development Company (MDC) Ltd. Councillor Gulvin relied on a dispensation granted by the Councillor Conduct Committee to enable him to take part in the discussion and votes on items 7 and 8.

Other interests

There were none.

Community Renewal Fund

This agenda item was withdrawn.

Outcomes of Consultation for the Proposal to Amend the Medway Council Education Travel Assistance Policy

Background:

This report set out the outcomes of the consultation period on the Council's proposal to amend the Medway Council Education Travel Assistance Policy following a recommendation from the School Transport and Curriculum Appeals Committee (STCAC).

The report advised that as a result of a number of transport appeals to the Committee from parents whose children had acquired a place at a grammar school on an independent admission appeal, but who had not passed the Medway Test, the Committee had recommended that the Cabinet be asked to consider whether an amendment be made to the policy so that pupils who secured a place at a Medway Grammar School on appeal should also be classed as grammar ability under the Education Travel Assistance Policy and therefore entitled to travel assistance under the same criteria. The report set out the proposed amendment to the Education Travel Assistance Policy.

A diversity impact assessment had been undertaken and was attached at Appendix 2 to the report. This had concluded that there would be no negative impacts as a result of the proposed change to the Policy.

Cabinet, 24 August 2021

Decision number: **Decision:**

94/2021 **The Cabinet approved the proposed amendment to the Medway Council Education Travel Assistance Policy, as set out in section 3.1 to the report.**

Reasons:

Amending the Travel Assistance Policy will mean that pupils attending a Medway grammar school will be treated the same when they apply for travel assistance whether they gained a place under the Medway Test assessment or following an independent admission appeal.

Revenue Budget Monitoring 2021/2022 - Round 1

Background:

This report presented the results of the first round of the Council's revenue budget monitoring process for 2021/2022. The report set out that at its meeting on 18 February 2021, Full Council had set a total budget requirement of £351.862million for 2021/2022. Since approval of the budget, additional grant funding relating to the Covid-19 pandemic had been received, primarily to deliver the Restart Grants scheme to support Medway's businesses. These additions had taken the Round 1 budget requirement to a total of £361.995million. The forecast outturn for 2021/2022 currently represented a pressure of £8.457 million.

Decision number: **Decision:**

The Cabinet noted the results of the first round of revenue budget monitoring for 2021/2022.

Reasons:

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

Capital Budget Monitoring 2021/2022 - Round 1

Background:

This report presented the results of the first round of the Council's capital budget monitoring process for 2021/2022. The report explained that this forecasted an underspend of £3.372million. The report provided details of a proposed virement, as set out in section 5 of the report.

Cabinet, 24 August 2021

**Decision
number:**

Decision:

The Cabinet noted the results of the first round of capital budget monitoring for 2021/22.

95/2021

The Cabinet approved the virement of £384,542 from the Integrated Transport Scheme (9T989) to the Medway City Estate Connectivity scheme (9T625) to assist with the funding of a new slip road to assist with traffic flow from the Medway City Estate, as set out in paragraph 5.2 to the report.

Reasons:

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

Council Plan Performance Monitoring and Risk Register Review - Quarter 1 2021/2022

Background:

This report provided details of how the Council had performed during quarter 1 in 2021/22 against the Council's three priorities and the actions being taken to improve performance. The report also presented the quarter 1 review of strategic risks.

There were 48 Council Plan measures for 2021/22, of which it was currently possible to report on 37 as 11 measures were not available this quarter. In summary, 28 out of the 37 measures reported on met or exceeded target, two were slightly below target and seven were significantly below target.

The report was due to be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committees during September and October 2021.

**Decision
number:**

Decision:

The Cabinet noted the Q1 2021/22 performance against the measures used to monitor progress against the Council's priorities.

96/2021

The Cabinet agreed the Strategic Risk Register, as set out at Appendix 5 to the report.

Reasons:

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

Cabinet, 24 August 2021

Kyndi – Six Monthly Progress Report

Background:

This report provided the Cabinet with a review of Kyndi's performance, for the first quarter of the 2021/2022 financial year. It was accompanied by an update on the company's achievements and financial performance prepared by the Chief Executive at Kyndi.

The report highlighted that although Kyndi had not yet posted final accounts for the 2020/2021 financial year, it had forecast a pre-tax profit of circa £327,000. More detailed financial projections for 2021/2022 were set out in the accompanying appendix to this report.

***Decision
number:***

Decision:

The Cabinet noted the latest update report prepared by Kyndi for the period 01/04/2021 to 30/06/2021.

Reasons:

When Cabinet agreed to establish Kyndi (previously known as MCG) it was agreed that regular monitoring reports would be provided to Cabinet.

Future High Street Fund - Property Acquisition

Background:

This report set out a proposal to acquire property in Chatham Town Centre using money from the Future High Street Fund (FHSF), which if approved, would utilise vacant brownfield sites in Chatham Town Centre and increase the provision of much needed residential and commercial space.

The report noted that the Chatham Future High Street Fund was part of the Council's Capital Programme and that Full Council had added the full element of the Future High Street Fund, £9,497,720, to the Capital Programme on 18 February 2021.

The exempt appendix to the report set out the specific details of the proposed property acquisition. It was noted that the final decision would be dependent on the development of a sound business case.

***Decision
number:***

Decision:

97/2021

The Cabinet agreed to delegate authority to the Director of Place and Deputy Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader, Portfolio Holder for Resources, Portfolio Holder for Planning, Economic Growth and Regulation and Portfolio

Cabinet, 24 August 2021

Holder for Inward Investment, Strategic Regeneration and Partnerships to:

- i) Acquire property in Chatham Town Centre, that is not yet in Medway's ownership, as set out in Exempt Appendix 1, on the best terms reasonably obtainable, which will be subject to a detailed viability report.**
- ii) Dispose of or let on the best terms reasonably obtainable, any property acquired or that has had works undertaken using FHSF money, to Medway Development Company or others to enable the sites to be developed, sold and / or let.**

Reasons:

To facilitate the continued development and improvements within Chatham Town Centre.

Medway and Kent Framework for Independent Fostering - Gateway 1 Procurement

Background:

The Cabinet agreed to accept this report as urgent due to the existing IFA contract ending on 31 January 2022 (with an additional 2-month extension in place to bring in line with financial year), and the procurement timeline for mobilisation of a new contract from 1 April 2022, timely decisions were required to the options outlined in the report. This would ensure that the Council's governance processes and timelines were also adhered without delays in the contract award.

This report requested Cabinet agreement to commence the procurement of the Medway and Kent Independent Fostering Framework. The report had been considered by the Procurement Board on 18 August 2021, with the Board having approved the commissioning, subject to the agreement of the Cabinet.

The exempt appendix to the report set out financial analysis in respect of this procurement project.

Decision number:

Decision:

98/2021

The Cabinet approved Option 1, as set out in section 5.3 to the report, to approve the commissioning of the Medway and Kent Framework for Independent Fostering.

Reasons:

Procurement of the Medway and Kent Framework for Independent Fostering is essential to continuously ensure value for money through the placement process

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and to meet the Council's statutory responsibility.

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Leader of the Council

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Date

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