

Record of Cabinet decisions

Tuesday, 19 October 2010

3.00pm to 4.05pm

Date of publication: 21 October 2010

Subject to call-in these decisions will be effective from 29 October 2010

Present:	Councillor Rodney Chambers	Leader of the Council
	Councillor Alan Jarrett	Portfolio Holder for Finance and Deputy Leader
	Councillor Janice Bamber	Portfolio Holder for Customer First and Corporate Services
	Councillor Jane Chitty	Portfolio Holder for Strategic Development and Economic Growth
	Councillor Howard Doe	Portfolio Holder for Housing and Community Services
	Councillor Phil Filmer	Portfolio Holder for Front Line Services
	Councillor Tom Mason	Portfolio Holder for Adult Services
	Councillor Mike O'Brien	Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Enforcement
	Councillor Les Wicks	Portfolio Holder for Children's Services
	Councillor David Wildey	Portfolio Holder for Children's Social Care

In Attendance: Neil Davies, Chief Executive
Rose Collinson, Director of Children and Adults
Robin Cooper, Director of Regeneration, Community and Culture
Richard Hicks, Assistant Director, Customer First, Leisure, Culture, Democracy and Governance
Julie Keith, Head of Democratic Services
Anthony Law, Cabinet Coordinator
Mick Hayward, Chief Finance Officer
Deborah Upton, Assistant Director, Housing and Corporate Services/Monitoring Officer

Apologies for absence

There were none.

Record of decisions

The record of the meeting held on 28 September 2010 was agreed and signed by the Leader as correct.

Declarations of interest

There were none.

Local Development Framework: Draft Core Strategy (Policy Framework)

This report set out details of the first draft of a new Core Strategy and proposed that this pre-publication version be approved for public consultation, which would end in December 2010.

It was noted that the Council was required by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 to prepare and subsequently keep under review a Local Development Framework for Medway. This consisted of a portfolio of documents that included a Core Strategy, which set out an overall vision and strategy for the area up to 2028 and addressed the strategic issues facing it.

Members were advised as to the content of the Core Strategy, the consultation undertaken and the next steps leading up to the final adoption of the Core Strategy in 2012.

Copies of the draft Core Strategy had been circulated separately from the main agenda, together with two schedules of representations received on the Issues and Options report and a Sustainability Appraisal.

The role of the Local Development Framework Cabinet Advisory Group was noted and Members were advised that the Regeneration, Community and Culture Overview and Scrutiny Committee had considered this report on 29 September 2010. Details of the comments and questions raised at the Overview and Scrutiny meeting, along with the officer responses, was set out in the report.

Decision number:

Decision:

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| 167/2010 | The Cabinet agreed that the ‘pre-publication’ draft Core Strategy be published for public consultation purposes under Regulation 25 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004 as amended, subject to any necessary changes of a minor typographical nature being agreed by the Director for Regeneration, Community and Culture in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Strategic Development and Economic Growth. |
| 168/2010 | The Cabinet agreed that the Schedule of Responses to the Issues and Options report be approved for publication alongside the draft Core Strategy. |
| 169/2010 | The Cabinet agreed that the Sustainability Appraisal of the pre-publication draft Core Strategy be approved for publication. |

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Reasons:

To comply with the requirements of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and ensure that there is an up to date spatial planning framework for the area.

Medway Renaissance - Post March 2011

This report considered the cessation of funding by the Homes and Communities Agency from 31 March 2011 and sought authorisation to commence formal consultation with staff on the closure of the Medway Renaissance Unit as no future funding had been identified.

Members considered the various schemes that the Medway Renaissance Unit had helped deliver or significantly progress since its establishment. Whilst noting the contribution that the unit had made to regeneration in Medway without any guarantee of funding it was necessary to consult on closing the unit from 31 March 2011.

The proposed timetable for consultation with staff and trade unions was attached at Appendix 1 to the report and a diversity impact assessment screening form was attached at Appendix 2.

Decision number:

Decision:

170/2010

The Cabinet authorised the Director of Regeneration, Community and Culture to undertake consultation with staff and trade unions on the proposal to close the Medway Renaissance Unit from 31 March 2011.

171/2010

The Cabinet recommended that Council authorise the Director of Regeneration, Community and Culture:

- (i) to consider and determine all consultation responses received in respect of the affected posts within the Medway Renaissance Unit and the post identified within the Business Support Department;**
- (ii) to determine the residual functions from the Medway Renaissance Unit.**

Reasons:

To respond to the cessation of funding from the Homes and Communities Agency.

Amherst Hill Design Brief

This report set out the outcome of consultation on the proposals for the Amherst Hill Design Brief.

The Amherst Hill Design Brief had been produced by Medway Council to satisfy the Local Plan requirement that a detailed design brief must guide the development of the Amherst Hill site in a manner appropriate to its setting adjacent to Fort Amherst and its prominent location.

Cabinet had approved a six-week programme of consultation on 29 June 2010 and details of the comments received along with the proposed Council response to them were set out in Appendix 1 to the report. It was proposed that the draft Design Brief be amended to reflect points that resulted from the consultation.

The Regeneration, Community and Culture Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered this report on 29 September 2010 and its comments were set out in section 7 of the report.

A Diversity Impact Assessment had been completed, as set out in Appendix 2 to the report, and it was noted that it had not been necessary to carry out a full impact assessment.

Decision number:

Decision:

172/2010 **The Cabinet agreed to adopt the Amherst Hill Design Brief as a Supplementary Planning Document and agreed that the design brief be amended in accordance with the consultation responses set out in Appendix 1 to the report.**

173/2010 **The Cabinet agreed to delegate authority to the Director for Regeneration, Community and Culture, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Strategic Development and Economic Growth, to approve minor changes to the Amherst Hill Design Brief to improve its clarity and consistency, prior to its formal publication.**

Reasons:

Adoption of the Design Brief as a Supplementary Planning Document will provide the council with a clear policy framework to guide the development of the site and to provide guidance to developers on the site capacity and development quality expected. It will provide landowners and developers with greater certainty as to what is expected by the Local Planning Authority.

The Interface Land Development Framework

This report set out the outcome of consultation on the proposals for the Supplementary Planning Document for the Interface Land, Chatham Maritime.

The Supplementary Planning Document would guide future development for the Interface Land, which forms the last mainly undeveloped site in the former Royal Navy Dockyard, providing a legal planning framework for the development of the area and bringing together the Council's aspiration for the Interface Land to both national and Council planning policy.

It was noted that a four-week programme of public consultation on the development framework for the Interface Lands area of Chatham Historic Dockyard had been completed and the results were set at Appendix 1 to the report.

It was noted that the Regeneration, Community and Culture Overview and Scrutiny Committee had considered this report on 29 September 2010 and the comments and recommendation was set out in section 7 of the report.

A Diversity Impact Assessment had been completed, as set out in Appendix 3 to the report, and it was noted that it had not been necessary to carry out a full impact assessment.

Decision number:

174/2010 **The Cabinet agreed to adopt the Interface Lands Development Framework as a supplementary planning document.**

Reasons:

To ensure there is an up-to-date planning framework for this important part of Chatham Historic Dockyard that will guide investment and planning decisions.

Medway Housing Design Standards Supplementary Planning Document and Building for Life Implementation

This report set out details of the proposed Medway Housing Design Standards Supplementary Planning Document and Building for Life assessment tool.

It was reported that the proposed Medway Housing Design Standards Supplementary Planning Document would provide developers, landowners and their advisors with clear advice on minimum layout and space standards that would be expected in the design of new housing and the conversion of existing properties. Compliance will be a consideration in the consideration of planning applications.

Members were advised that Building for Life has been developed by CABE (Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment), and the Home Builders

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Federation. The score derived from the Building for Life assessment tool would be used as a basis for judging the quality of submissions for residential planning permission in Medway.

Cabinet approval was sought to consult with developers, designers and planning agents on both the draft Medway Housing Design Standards and the adoption of the Building for Life document in Medway.

It was noted that the Regeneration, Community and Culture Overview and Scrutiny Committee had considered and recommended the Building for Life assessment tool on 29 September 2010.

Decision number: ***Decision:***

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| 175/2010 | The Cabinet approved statutory consultation on the draft Medway Housing Design Standards commencing 1 November 2010. |
| 176/2010 | The Cabinet agreed to consultation with developers, designers and planning agents on the implementation of the Building for Life assessment tool for judging the quality of submissions for residential planning permission in Medway. |

Reasons:

To allow progress towards adoption of the draft Medway Housing Design Standards as an Supplementary Planning Document and to support implementation of the Building for Life assessment tool.

Housing Strategy Annual Review

This report reviewed and assessed progress with the delivery of the Housing Strategy, which had been originally agreed by Cabinet on 5 August 2008.

The report detailed the five strategic aims contained with the Housing Strategy and performance against the priority actions:

- Maximising the supply of suitable and affordable housing and meeting housing need
- enabling vulnerable people to live independent lives
- improving the quality and energy efficiency of homes
- developing sustainable communities and promoting neighbourhood renewal
- promoting better and fair access to housing services.

It was noted that there had been significant progress across the strategic aims, with a total of 30 actions having been completed and 37 being on target to be delivered by August 2011.

**Decision
number:**

Decision:

The Cabinet noted the progress against the aims of the Housing Strategy.

Reasons:

The Housing Strategy and its Action Plan sets the strategic direction for Housing Services in Medway, contributing to the Council's core values and strategic priorities and giving context for the attraction and investment of resources.

Recruitment Freeze

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

Appendix 1 to the report provided details of the posts and included supporting Portfolio Holder comments.

**Decision
number:**

Decision:

177/2010

The Cabinet agreed to unfreeze the following posts, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, to enable officers to commence the recruitment process:

Business Support

- a) Senior Service Improvement Officer
- b) Administration Assistant (Housing Services)
- c) Data Entry Clerk (Housing Services)

Children and Adults

- d) Support Services Assistant (Fostering Service).

Reasons:

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

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Gateway 1 Options Appraisal: Preferred Supplier List for Temporary Staff

This report set out the options appraisal for the establishment of a preferred supplier list for temporary staff to ensure effective use of council resources and to put in place a monitoring regime for use of temporary staff.

The report had been considered by the Procurement Board on 29 September 2010 and its views were set out in paragraph 10 of the report.

Decision number:

178/2010 **The Cabinet agreed the tendering exercise for a preferred supplier list for temporary staff on occasions where the in-house temporary staff pool cannot meet demand.**

Reasons:

This arrangement will enable the Council to better manage the spend on external agencies, ensure the quality of temporary staff and better safeguard the authority on employment issues.

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Leader of the Council

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Date

Wayne Hemingway/Anthony Law, Cabinet Coordinators

Telephone: 01634 332509/332008
Email: democratic.services@medway.gov.uk