

Record of Cabinet decisions

Tuesday, 5 July 2022

3.00pm to 4.04pm

Date of publication: 6 July 2022

**Subject to call-in these decisions will be effective from 14 July 2022
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 Gary Hackwell	Portfolio Holder for Business Management
In Attendance:	Richard Hicks, Director of Place and Deputy Chief Executive Vicky Nutley, Interim Head of Legal Services Jon Pitt, Democratic Services Officer	

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Filmer, Mrs Josie Iles and Potter.

Record of decisions

The record of the meeting held on 7 June 2022 was agreed by the Cabinet and signed by the Deputy Leader as correct.

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Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Other Significant Interests

Disclosable pecuniary interests

There were none.

Other significant interests (OSIs)

There were none.

Other interests

There were none.

IPM Southern Site Development

Background:

This report asked the Cabinet to agree and recommend to Full Council the borrowing of £12million against future capital receipts and to undertake the detailed design and build for a building (£8million) and car park (£4million) on the Southern Site of the Innovation Park Medway (IPM). The Cabinet was also requested to delegate authority to oversee the design and build of the building and car park.

The report advised that IPM had been awarded a total of circa £10.3m external funding from the Government's Local Growth Fund (LGF) and Growing Places Fund (GPF) through the Southeast Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) for the enabling infrastructure on the IPM site, in addition to the Council borrowing against future business rates.

The report stated that the IPM was a priority project for Medway Council, which would provide over 60,000sqm of high-quality innovative business space on an area of land mainly within Medway Council ownership. The Delivery and Investment Plan, agreed by Cabinet in June 2019 had set out the approach to the delivery of the site.

Decision number:

Decision:

83/2022

The Cabinet agreed to recommend to Full Council the borrowing of £12million to be added to the Capital Programme for the design and build of S1.1 and S1.2 (as set out in Appendix 1 to the report) to accommodate the anchor tenant (as set out in option 3.1.2 of the report).

84/2022

The Cabinet agreed to delegate authority to the Director of Place and Deputy Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holders for Inward Investment, Strategic Regeneration and Partnerships as well as Planning,

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Economic Growth and Regulation to oversee the design and build of the building and car park (as set out in option 3.1.2 of the report).

Reasons:

Medway will be kick starting development and pave the way for other developers to come forward. We are also retaining Medway businesses within Medway and allowing them to grow.

Climate Change Action Plan Refresh and Carbon Emissions Update Report

Background:

This report set out that in June 2021, Cabinet had approved the Council's first Climate Change Action Plan. The publication of the Action Plan had supported the Council's declaration of a climate change emergency in 2019 and acknowledged the role of the Council, along with its partners and communities, in achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2050. The Action Plan included a commitment to report annually on the Council's carbon emissions.

The report set out the progress made so far against the Climate Change Action Plan and provided an update on government policies which supported climate action; revisions to the Action Plan; the Council's annual carbon emissions for 2020/21 and progress against the First Carbon Budget and; an overview of priorities for the next year.

The report was accompanied by a Diversity Impact Assessment at Appendix 7 to the report.

Decision number:

85/2022

Decision:

The Cabinet agreed to adopt the refreshed Climate Change Action Plan as set out at Appendix 4 to the report.

The Cabinet noted the Annual Carbon Emissions Report as set out at Appendix 6 to the report.

Reasons:

To support and uphold the Climate Emergency declaration and continued action against the net zero carbon targets.

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Housing Delivery Test Action Plan

Background:

This report provided details of the Council's fourth Housing Delivery Test (HDT) Action Plan. It had been prepared in response to the publication of the Housing Delivery Test results published in January 2022.

The report stated that despite record high rates of housing delivery in Medway in 2019/20 and 2020/21, at 1,130 and 1,082 new homes, respectively, development in recent years had not met the defined levels of housing need. The Action Plan considered the factors influencing housebuilding in Medway and actions that the Council could take to promote and 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:

86/2022

Decision:

The Cabinet approved the publication of the Medway Housing Delivery Test Action Plan, 2022, as set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

Reasons:

Publication of the Medway HDT Action Plan, 2022, will enable the Council to meet requirements set by Government.

Additions to the Capital Programme for the Redevelopment of Debenhams

Background:

This report requested Cabinet to recommend Full Council to agree an addition to the Capital Programme, to facilitate the redevelopment of the former Debenhams site.

The report advised that the regeneration of the former Debenhams building provided a valuable opportunity to proactively diversify the high street, providing an active frontage and residential development in the heart of Chatham. The redevelopment of Debenhams would unlock a key strategic site in Chatham high street. It would enable a currently vacant brownfield site to be brought back into use and increase the provision of much needed residential and diversification of commercial space. It was proposed that residential development be delivered above the ground floor commercial space.

An exempt appendix to the report set out details of the costs of the redevelopment of the Debenhams building.

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***Decision
number:***

87/2022

Decision:

The Cabinet agreed to recommend Full Council to approve the addition of £17,878,916 from short-term borrowing (to be repaid from future capital receipts generated by the site) to the Capital Programme for the redevelopment of the former Debenhams site.

Reasons:

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

Medway Norse Update

Background:

This report provided details of the Quarter 4 review of the performance of the Joint Venture from the perspective of the Council client for the 2021/22 financial year. It was accompanied by an update on the Joint Venture's achievements and financial performance prepared by the Partnership Director at Medway Norse. The report provided a breakdown of performance for each service area covered by Medway Norse.

The report also set out a proposal to transfer the cleaning function, relating to Council-run sports centres, from the Sport, Leisure, Tourism and Heritage service to Medway Norse.

***Decision
number:***

88/2022

Decision:

The Cabinet noted the contents of the report and of Appendix 1 and approved the transfer of the cleaning function, relating to Council-run sports centres, from the Sport, Leisure, Tourism and Heritage service to Medway Norse, as set out at paragraph 10 of the report.

Reasons:

When the Cabinet agreed to establish the joint venture company it was also agreed that regular monitoring reports would be provided to Cabinet.

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Leader of the Council

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Date

Jon Pitt, Democratic Services Officer/Teri Reynolds, Democratic Services Officer

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