

Record of Cabinet decisions

Tuesday, 5 September 2023

7.00pm to 8.01pm

Date of publication: 7 September 2023

**Subject to call-in these decisions will be effective from 15 September 2023
The record of decisions is subject to approval at the next meeting of the Cabinet**

Present:	Councillor Teresa Murray	Deputy Leader of the Council
	Councillor Tracy Coombs	Portfolio Holder for Education
	Councillor Simon Curry	Portfolio Holder for Climate Change and Strategic Regeneration
	Councillor Lauren Edwards	Portfolio Holder for Economic and Social Regeneration and Inward Investment
	Councillor Naushabah Khan	Portfolio Holder for Housing and Property
	Councillor Tristan Osborne	Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Enforcement
	Councillor Zoë Van Dyke	Portfolio Holder for Business Management

In Attendance: Richard Hicks, Chief Executive
Adam Bryan, Director of Place
Lee-Anne Farach, Director of People and Deputy Chief Executive
Bhupinder Gill, Assistant Director, Legal and Governance
Phil Watts, Chief Operating Officer
Teri Reynolds, Democratic Services Officer

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mahil, Maple and Price.

Record of decisions

The record of the meeting held on 8 August 2023 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.

Medway Local Plan - Regulation 18 Consultation

Background:

This report outlined the proposed consultation on the emerging Local Plan. The consultation would focus on the vision and strategic objectives for Medway's growth up to 2040, and provided options for how and where development should be planned to provide for Medway's growing and changing communities.

It was proposed that the consultation would run between 18 September and 31 October 2023 and the Planning Service had been working closely with the corporate Communications Team in drafting an engagement and publicity programme. During discussion, every stakeholder was encouraged to engage in the process and it was suggested that the Portfolio Holder for Education work with schools to help raise awareness amongst young people and support them with engagement in the consultation.

An error had been spotted in Appendix 1 in relation to the green belt boundary at Map 4, and therefore Cabinet was also asked to delegate authority to enable this to be corrected along with any other minor amendments and clarifications required, ahead of publication.

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

Decision number:

140/2023

141/2023

Decision:

The Cabinet approved the publication of the Local Plan Regulation 18 consultation document, as set out at Appendix 1, for consultation.

The Cabinet agreed to delegate authority to the Director of Place, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Climate Change and Strategic Regeneration, to correct the error in Appendix 1, in relation to the Green Belt boundary at Map 4 and to

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make any other minor amendments and clarifications required ahead of publication.

Reasons:

To provide for community and stakeholder input to the preparation of the new Medway Local Plan.

Star Hill to Sun Pier Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan - Request to go to Public Consultation

Background:

This report requested Cabinet approval for public consultation on the draft Star Hill to Sun Pier Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan. The Appraisal considered the historic character and significance of the Conservation Area, and through the Management Plan introduced means for its future conservation and enhancement. As part of the Management Plan, four potential areas for extension to the Conservation Area had been identified.

Alongside the Appraisal, a Development Framework (for the same area) was also being produced to help shape the form and type of future development in the Area. It was intended that the two documents would be consulted upon in tandem.

The public consultation would take place for a minimum 6-week period between October and November 2023.

Decision number:

142/2023

Decision:

The Cabinet approved the commencement of public consultation on the draft Star Hill to Sun Pier Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan, given the significant potential benefits outlined in the report.

Reasons:

The proposed public consultation for the draft Conservation Area Appraisal will meet the requirements of Section 71(2) and (3) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 which requires a public consultation and consideration of any comments received and will assist in the adoption of the Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan.

Star Hill to Sun Pier Conservation Area Significance Led Development Framework Supplementary Planning Document - Request to go to Public Consultation

Background:

This report outlined details of the work undertaken to date to assemble the High Street Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ) Development Framework, attached at Appendix 1 to the report and sought approval for its public consultation, in coordination with the Star Hill to Sun Pier Conservation Area Appraisal.

The HSHAZ programme, funded by the Government, aimed to transform high streets into thriving town centres through the power of heritage, by delivering physical improvements and cultural activities to regenerate historic high streets and/or town centres. One of its workstreams was the creation of a significance led Development Framework for this Conservation Area (known locally as 'Chatham Intra' or 'Old High Street Intra') to guide future development in a way that would protect the character and significance of the Conservation Area, whilst enabling sensitive sustainable growth and regeneration.

This Development Framework was intended to be adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), which would provide additional guidance to Local Plan policy and would be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.

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

Decision number:

143/2023

Decision:

The Cabinet approved commencement of public consultation on the draft Star Hill to Sun Pier Development Framework Supplementary Planning Document.

Reasons:

To allow for a public consultation on the draft Framework which will enable the adoption of a more robust document.

To meet the requirements of the Statement of Community Involvement.

To meet the agreed outputs of the High Street Heritage Action Zone Programme.

Safer Healthier Streets Programme - Red Routes and Moving Traffic Enforcement

Background:

This report provided details of the Red Routes initiative, including results of recent informal public consultation (detailed at Appendix A to the report) and sought approval to progress to formal consultation and subsequently implement Red Routes where appropriate. It also provided an update on the Moving Traffic Enforcement initiative and sought approval of the proposed enforcement plan.

The report stated that the proposals supported key priorities within the Medway Council Strategy, the Local Transport Plan and the Medway Air Quality Action Plan. A Diversity Impact Assessment had been undertaken and was attached at Appendix C to the report.

Decision number:

Decision:

The Cabinet noted the results of the consultation as set out in the report and Appendix A.

144/2023

The Cabinet agreed to progressing the following red routes locations, with additional design changes as outlined below and in paragraph 4.7 of the report, to statutory consultation, and subject to the statutory process agreed to delegate authority to the Director of Place, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Climate Change and Strategic Regeneration, to proceed with necessary infrastructure work and implementation:

- **Corporation Street between The Esplanade continuing onto Star Hill with additional loading bay at the rear of 147-149 Corporation Street;**
- **Star Hill between Corporation Street and New Road/City Way with outside additional loading bay outside 33-39 Star Hill;**
- **Best Street between Union Street and Railway Street;**
- **The Brook between The Brook Theatre, Whiffens Avenue, and the junction of New Road (including Union Street);**
- **A2 Rainham High Street between Maidstone Road and High Dewar Road with additional loading bays Outside Nationwide Building Society, Outside the Lukehurst furniture shop and between 46-47 High Street.**

145/2023

The Cabinet agreed to progressing the moving traffic enforcement to the 8 locations outlined below and in

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paragraph 4.9 of the report and subject to the statutory process, agreed to delegate authority to the Director of Place, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Climate Change and Strategic Regeneration to proceed with necessary infrastructure work and implementation:

- **Gillingham High Street;**
- **Rochester High Street;**
- **Rock Avenue junction with A2, Rainham;**
- **A2 Watling Street, Gillingham, at the junctions with Ash Tree Lane and Canterbury Street;**
- **A2 High Street, Rainham;**
- **Gibraltar Hill junction with A230 Maidstone Road;**
- **Cuxton Road, High Street junction with Gun Lane, Strood;**
- **Whittaker Street/High Street, Chatham.**

Reasons:

The Red Route initiative, within the Safer Healthier Programme, meets several key strategic polices and action plans set out by the Council. The implementation of the recommendations enables effective enforcement of indiscriminate parking which will help to reduce congestion and delays on essential bus routes and improve road safety and air quality.

The Moving Traffic Enforcement initiative, within the Safer Healthier Programme, meets several key strategic polices and action plans set out by the Council. The implementation of the recommendations will create a more reliable and safer road network.

Disabled Facilities Grant and Financial Assistance Policy 2023

Background:

This report set out the Council's intention to provide discretionary interventions alongside the Council's statutory duty to promote independent living and wellbeing within safer, healthier homes.

The Better Care Fund (BCF) enabled the Council to support the wider prevention agenda of housing, social care and health and this policy would allow for the flexible use of the BCF to support households that would not normally be eligible for assistance to maintain their independence in their home.

Section 8 of the report provided information about the consultation that had been undertaken and amendments that had been made to the policy as a result of the feedback received.

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

Decision number:

Decision:

146/2023

The Cabinet approved the draft Disabled Facilities Grant and Financial Assistance Policy 2023.

Reasons:

Adopting a new policy will provide more flexibility to the way that the funding is used, allowing for more people to be supported to maintain their independence in their home to avoid the requirement to move home or live in unsuitable accommodation.

Household Support Fund: 2023/24 Full Year Allocation and Free School Meals - Amendment

Background:

This report set out proposals to amend the use of the Household Support Fund (HSF) for the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024 to ensure the grant was disbursed in full to Medway's residents.

On 4 April 2023, the Cabinet agreed plans for the Household Support Fund for 2023/2024, part of which had included the provision of grants to residents. However, uptake of that provision had reduced, and a higher proportion of those applying had been unable to demonstrate hardship to be eligible for an award. Consequently, the spend overall for the Council's total allocation was lower than anticipated and amendments to the arrangements were necessary, in order to ensure the Council disbursed its allocation in full to the residents of Medway.

Decision number:

Decision:

147/2023

The Cabinet agreed the proposals set out in section 5 of the report as the Council's approach to delivering the Household Support Fund and to delegate authority to the Chief Operating Officer, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to finalise and implement these proposals.

148/2023

The Cabinet agreed to delegate authority to the Chief Operating Officer, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to submit a revised Delivery Plan for Medway to the Department for Work and Pensions in line with the Cabinet decision on this report.

149/2023

The Cabinet agreed to delegate authority to the Director of Public Health, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to disburse £150,000 to

members of the Medway Food Partnership.

150/2023

The Cabinet agreed to delegate authority to the Chief Operating Officer, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to determine how to disburse any residual balance should it become clear that the activity in this report would not utilise the allocation in full.

Reasons:

Given the lack of cost to the local taxpayer it is appropriate for the Council to introduce these measures to support our most vulnerable residents.

Treasury Management Outturn Annual Report

Background:

This report provided an overview of treasury management activity during 2022/23. It stated that overall, the Interest and Financing budget made a surplus of £5,921,000 over its targeted budget of £12,315,000.

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. A reduction of £5,489,000 had therefore been applied to the charge originally calculated for 2022/23 and no adjustments would be required for future years.

The report was previously considered by the Audit Committee on 1 August 2023, the comments of which were set out in section 12 of the report. During discussion, reference was made to the importance of Member training and opportunities for its provision, particularly for Audit Committee Members, would be discussed with officers.

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 Operating 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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