

Record of Cabinet decisions

Tuesday, 8 April 2025

7.00pm to 7.48pm

Date of publication: 10 April 2025

Subject to call-in these decisions will be effective from 22 April 2025
The record of decisions is subject to approval at the next meeting of the Cabinet

Present:	Councillor Vince Maple	Leader of the Council
	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 Nina Gurung	Portfolio Holder for Heritage, Culture and Leisure
	Councillor Alex Paterson	Portfolio Holder for Community Safety, Highways and Enforcement
	Councillor Louwella Prenter	Portfolio Holder for Housing and Homelessness
	Councillor Adam Price	Portfolio Holder for Children's Services (including statutory responsibility)
	Councillor Zoë Van Dyke	Portfolio Holder for Business Management

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

Apologies for absence

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Mahil. The Leader advised that Councillor Gurung was unavoidably delayed and would arrive a little later.

Record of decisions

The record of the meeting held on 11 March 2025, was agreed by the Cabinet and signed by the Leader as a correct record.

Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Other Significant Interests

The Leader advised the Cabinet, and the Assistant Director, Legal and Governance confirmed that, with regard to Agenda item 7 'Shared Prosperity Fund 2025/26', Members' varying interests in local community groups did not amount to disclosable pecuniary or significant interests in relation to the report.

Disclosable pecuniary interests

There were none.

Other significant interests (OSIs)

There were none.

Other interests

There were none.

Temporary Accommodation Acquisition Programme - Delegated Authority for Bulk Purchases

Background:

The report sought delegated authority for the purchasing of large blocks of accommodation as part of the Temporary Accommodation Acquisition Programme. The purchase of these properties would provide a large proportion of the Temporary Accommodation Acquisition Programme target of 150 homes, reduce budget pressures and further assist the Council in delivering its services to address demand relating to homelessness and temporary accommodation.

The Cabinet had previously recommended that £41,925,000 be added to the Capital Programme for the purchasing of temporary accommodation as well as taking on leases of properties for use as temporary accommodation and the set-up of an internal lettings department which had been approved by Full Council on 24 January 2024.

An Exempt Appendix to the report set out further information about the sites proposed for purchase.

***Decision
number:***

Decision:

55/2025

The Cabinet agreed to delegate authority to the Director of Place and Chief Operating Officer, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Homelessness to purchase bulk properties (Site A and Site B as set out in the Exempt Appendix 1 to the report) for use as temporary accommodation, subject to these being made within the existing budget agreed by Full Council on

24 January 2024.

Reasons:

This enables the service to purchase bulk properties (large blocks of accommodation) for temporary accommodation purposes, using the capital addition already agreed by Full Council as set out above.

The acquisition of Site A and Site B (as set out in the Exempt Appendix 1 to the report) would provide a large proportion of the Temporary Accommodation Acquisition Programme target of 150 homes, reduce budget pressures and further assist the Council in delivering its services to address demand relating to homelessness and temporary accommodation.

The current demand and cost for temporary accommodation is significant and has already been identified as an identified budget pressure. This delegation will allow for negotiations to be finalised and the acquisition of these properties to be secured in a timely manner, without this in place there is a risk these acquisition opportunities will be lost.

Appropriation of 1-3 Saxton House

Background:

The report sought Cabinet approval to regularise the appropriation of 1-3 Saxton House from the Council's Housing Revenue Account (HRA) to the General Fund, for use as temporary accommodation. This was due to the property being initially purchased by the Council's Housing Revenue Account (HRA) but subsequently transferred to the General Fund for use as temporary accommodation.

**Decision
number:**

Decision:

56/2025

The Cabinet instructed officers to appropriate 1-3 Saxton House from the Council's Housing Revenue Account (HRA) to the General Fund.

Reasons:

This will enable the service to account for the property in the annual asset valuations for the General Fund.

In addition, this will further assist the Council in delivering its services to address demand relating to homelessness and temporary accommodation.

Cabinet, 8 April 2025

[Councillor Gurung entered the room and took part in the meeting from this point forward.]

Direct Award to Deliver the One Public Estates Brownfield Land Release Fund Works

Background:

The report provided the Cabinet with the details of options relating to the delivery of the One Public Estates (OPE) Brownfield Land Release Fund (BLRF) enabling works Contract, with subsequent information relating to directly awarding a contract thereafter. Following a successful grant bid, £471,625 had been approved to undertake site enabling works at the Upper Mount car park site to facilitate a residential scheme of 21 homes. The enabling works entailed reducing site levels, installation of retaining walls and utility works.

The report proposed that Medway Development Company (MDC) be contracted to deliver these works to bring forward the site. MDC would be appointed in the capacity of Project Manager and Contractor.

In line with rule 15.11 of Chapter 4, Part 5 of the Constitution, call-in can be waived where any delay likely to be caused by the call-in process would seriously prejudice the Council's or the public's interests. In this case, the deadline from One Public Estate grant was for the Council to be in contract for the projects that form LRF 2.3 by 31 March 2025. The Council had been granted a slight extension to this deadline. Therefore, on this occasion it was proposed that the call-in period should be waived to prevent further delay. The Chairperson of the Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee had agreed that the decisions proposed were reasonable in all the circumstances and to them being treated as a matter of urgency and to waive call-in.

Decision number:

Decision:

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| 57/2025 | The Cabinet agreed the preferred option of a direct award to Medway Development Company (MDC) for the project management and undertaking of site enabling works at the Upper Mount car park site to facilitate a residential scheme of 21 homes, in order to meet the criteria and timescales of the grant funder. |
| 58/2025 | The Cabinet agreed that decision 57/2025 above was considered urgent and therefore should not be subject to call in. |

Reasons:

The appointment of Medway Development Company (MDC) as Project Manager and Contractor to deliver the enabling works for the OPE BLRF, will ensure the project is completed and the grant funding is utilised.

Shared Prosperity Fund 2025/26

Background:

The report provided the Cabinet with an update on what had been achieved to date with the delivery programme, and sought approval for the 2025/26 programme of spend for the Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF).

The Government had launched the £2.6 billion UK Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) including Multiply and Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) in mid-April 2022. Medway had been allocated £1.855 million SPF, £1.458 million of Multiply funding and £400,000 of REPF. SPF succeeded EU structural funds. The Council's Investment Plan (IP) to access SPF was approved in December 2022, and delivery of SPF Year 1 2022/23 had focussed on Council led projects to ensure completion given the programme delivery window of 3 months. Delivery of UKSPF Year 2 2023/2024 was complete. Delivery of UKSPF Year 3 was currently underway supporting external partners to deliver projects that contributed to the development of Pride in Place. Prior to the SPF Year 3's end, the Government had announced an extension to SPF to cover 2025/2026, which included Medway receiving an additional allocation of £606,754.

The Cabinet noted that given the closure of Multiply and the Government's intention not to continue funding to support Multiply past 2024/2025, it was proposed that Medway UKSPF Year 4 would support a provision to continue some level of service for the work Multiply supported across the region. The level of provision would be significantly lower given that Multiply received £504,000 of funding for 2024/2025 and the value SPF would be able to support for the continuation of a Multiply style provision was £50,000. However, despite the reduced funding this would ensure some level of service could be provided to those that required it, and some level of benefit could be realised.

The Cabinet welcomed the report and celebrated the success of the programme thus far, congratulating all involved.

Decision number:

Decision:

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|----------------|---|
| 59/2025 | The Cabinet approved the proposed Shared Prosperity Fund Year 4 2025/26 programme as set out within the report. |
| 60/2025 | The Cabinet agreed to delegate authority to the Director of Place, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Economic and Social Regeneration and Inward Investment, to deliver the Shared Prosperity Fund Year 4 2025/26 programme of projects. |

Reasons:

Approval of the 2025/26 programme is in support of Medway's regeneration priorities and will enable Medway to access the SPF allocation. Delivery of this programme will significantly benefit Medway's residents, communities and businesses.

Procurement Strategy 2021 - 2025: 2025 Update Report

Background:

The report provided the Cabinet with an update on the progress made against the 2021-2025 Procurement Strategy and sought agreement to the approach for the 2025/2026 financial year.

The report had previously been considered by the Business Support and Digital Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 27 March 2025 and the Cabinet thanked the Committee for its comments which were set out in the supplementary agenda.

Decision number:

Decision:

The Cabinet noted the comments of the Business Support and Digital Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as set out in the supplementary agenda.

The Cabinet noted the achievements of the fourth year of the 2021-2025 Procurement Strategy as outlined in in Appendix 1 to the report.

61/2025 The Cabinet agreed to the cessation of the 2021-2025 Procurement Strategy, with officers maintaining performance to the same level as to date whilst a new strategy is implemented.

62/2025 The Cabinet agreed to the development of a new Procurement Strategy in the 25/26 financial year derived from the objectives within the National Procurement Strategy (NPPS).

Reasons:

This will ensure the strategic objectives achieved to date continue to be delivered and will allow officers to focus on adopting the NPPS at the earliest opportunity, which is aligned to the new legislation.

Treasury Management Report: Quarter 3

Background:

The report provided the Cabinet with an overview of treasury management activity for 2024/25 Quarter 3, for information.

The report had previously been considered by the Audit Committee on 20 March 2025, which was responsible for approving the quarterly treasury reports, and the Cabinet thanked the Committee for its comments which were set out in section 11 of the report.

Cabinet, 8 April 2025

***Decision
number:***

Decision:

The Cabinet noted the comments of the Audit Committee, as set out in section 11 to the report.

The Cabinet noted the 2024/25 Quarter 3 treasury management report.

Reasons:

In accordance with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance Accountancy's (CIPFA) Code of Practice for Treasury Management, there should be a report on treasury every quarter.

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Leader of the Council

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Date

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