

Cabinet

Tuesday 8 June 2021

PRESENT:

Councillor Kelly, in the Chair.

Councillor Nicholson, Vice Chair.

Councillors Mrs Bridgeman, Deacon, Downie, Drean, Mrs Pengelly and Riley.

Also in attendance: Tracey Lee (Chief Executive), Giles Perritt (Assistant Chief Executive), Anthony Payne (Strategic Director for Place), Alison Botham (Director of Children's Services), Ruth Harrell (Director of Public Health) and Jamie Sheldon (Senior Governance Advisor).

The meeting started at 4.00 pm and finished at 4.45 pm.

Note: The full discussion can be viewed on the webcast of the City Council meeting at www.plymouth.gov.uk. At a future meeting, the Council will consider the accuracy of these draft minutes, so they may be subject to change. Please check the minutes of that meeting to confirm whether these minutes have been amended.

128. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest made by Councillors, in accordance with the code of conduct.

129. **Minutes**

Cabinet agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 9 March 2021 were confirmed as a correct record.

130. **Questions from the Public**

Question 1 from Alan Ramage: Will each councillor consider setting up a Green Friend network for his or her ward? This would encourage all age community engagement with people's local environment. Perhaps Greens Minds could also offer appropriate support for a variety of activities. They would complement existing Parks and Woods Friends groups

Answer from Councillor Mrs Maddi Bridgeman: The Council is committed to supporting community engagement with the natural environment and have a range of activities that we are delivering. These include

Green Minds

- City Rewilding Network Virtual get togethers with toolkits to follow and development of an interactive map to link people up with what is going on.
- Schools engagement

Working with Pollenize to support schools to sow wildflower seeds next autumn - to identifying public sites as well as school grounds to help promote.

Take Action for Wildlife

Online and onsite events from end of May to include regular volunteering/training and citizen science activities.

Other activities

- We are looking to build on the Covid 'Good Neighbour Scheme' to see how we can support people who've been isolating to build in greenspace activity as they start to get out again – e.g. widening activities beyond shopping etc.
- We are building a programme of events and activities and support for groups who want to do more independently

We are promoting through our existing Friends Groups and networks, social media channels, PCC website and www.greenmindsplymouth.com

On a personal note, in my own Ward there are a group of regular volunteer litter pickers, I could not believe the difference they made and how clean and tidy the Ward was. I regularly join them and organise "Big Picks", this, for me, is the first step in community engagement. I would encourage all Councillors to follow suit and actively do this too. I am currently looking into "Environmental Ambassadors" to go into schools and educate children on recycling and green matters.

Question 2 from Howard Goffin: The Spending Review announced the National Home Building Fund (NHBF) therein the Brownfield Land Release Fund, including a £25m fund for self and custom build projects. Has PCC submitted a bid for the BLRF before the 2nd June deadline? If so, what authority-owned land has been identified?

Response from Councillor Mrs Vivien Pengelly: Yes, the City Council submitted an application for funding to the BLRF before the 2nd June deadline.

10 sites owned by the local authority and meeting the grant's eligibility criteria were identified:

- Broadland Green
- Register Office
- Victoria Place
- Windmill
- Elgin Crescent
- Bampfylde Way
- Seaton Barracks
- Western Approach
- Lancaster Gardens
- Clowance Street

131. **Chair's Urgent Business**

There were no Items on the Chair's urgent business.

132. **Leader's Announcements**

Councillor Kelly (Leader) had signed three Executive Decisions in line with the pledge to the public and manifesto commitments:

- a) The Garden Waste Collection service had been extended for a further month and the service would now operate until the end of November. The Council had removed the need for residents to register every year for this service. Households would still need to register to commence initially but going forward would be asked to inform the Council if and when they wished to cease the service or they moved house.

The Council had done this as it had been widely accepted that climate change had led to the extension of the growing season beyond historical norms. The Council had encouraged residents to home compost, but these changes would provide assistance in depositing green waste for a further month. This would not only lead to a reduction in excessive journeys to HWRCs but in turn would result in a reduction in carbon emissions through optimised service collection routes.

- b) The Council had removed the charges to dispose of soil, rubble and any other DIY materials for local residents at Chelson Meadow. The removal of these charges would encourage residents to bring waste to the HWRCs to be processed for recycling or to be reused. This would likely help to prevent an increase in fly-tipping by the small minority who had not been willing or not able to pay the existing fees.
- c) The Council had removed the £15 bin delivery charge for households requesting additional or replacement bins. We would still be encouraging the collection of bins once this had been reinstated following the suspension due to the coronavirus pandemic. We believe this would increase the recycling rates by removing this current barrier.

133. **Cabinet Member Updates**

Councillor Drean (Cabinet Member for Transport) announced that the manifesto commitment 57 had been adhered to and is complete. The commitment to not introduce a congestion charge during the administrations time in office had been successful and the administration will not introduce this measure.

The Council cannot solve the problems of congestion with punitive measures that penalise the motorist, there would be much better options in getting things done to improve how people could sustainably travel and get around the city. The Council need a positive, practical, attractive alternative to car journeys and walking and cycling were playing an increasingly important role moving forward, which would aligns with the Governments transport approach. This had already formed part of the Council's transport strategy which had been set out in Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Local Plan. Policies SPT 9 and 10 of the main plan had recognised the importance of sustainable growth through getting the most out of existing transport networks and providing the integration and transport models so people have different ways to travel.

This administration had other manifesto commitments that would be brought forward in the coming months, which would encourage and facilitate much greater use of public transport,

walking and cycling. The Council would work with bus operators to provide service and local routes that people want on the back of the National Bus Strategy.

Councillor Deacon advised that in relation to commitment 7 regarding swimming platforms, funding had been provided and would be in place in the summer of 2021.

134. **Corporate Plan 2021 - 25**

Councillor Nick Kelly (Leader) introduced the Corporate Plan 2021 -25 –

The new administration had been very ambitious for Plymouth and its residents, and this would be reflected in the revised Corporate Plan. Key elements of the plan would be retained, including the city vision, which had been recognised and shared by staff, members and partners.

The Leader had asked for feedback from the parties and from independent Members before the plan would be considered by the Council next week because they would like it to reflect all of our aspirations for the Council.

The Council's mission had changed to reflect the huge impact that the COVID-19 pandemic had on the city, and our clear ambition to build back better, and make Plymouth a great place to live, work and visit.

We had revised the values to reflect more strongly the belief that Plymouth residents should be at the heart of everything we would do, and that we would be responsible to them for delivering the Council's priorities and accountable for the impact of the actions taken.

The Leader hoped that the twin themes of unlocking the city's potential, and caring for people and communities gave a clear direction for our priorities, and we would make sure that there are specific plans with measurable targets to deliver on each of the priorities that are set out in the plan and that we would report on them regularly.

The Administration would be starting as we mean to go on, with the programme for the first 100 days, which would be the subject of a separate report on this Cabinet meetings agenda.

The revised Corporate Plan had been clear about how we would deliver for Plymouth. To be a successful city, we would need to ensure that the Council gets the basics right, and delivers the quality of day-to-day services that Plymouth residents deserve. It had been more important than ever for the Council to provide value for money and that would effectively manage issues such as potholes, weeds. Litter, graffiti, grass cutting and dog fouling

Councillor Nicholson (Deputy Leader) advised that it was essential that we evolved the Corporate Plan rather than tear it up. A lot of the points within the Corporate Plan had been agreed cross party and key city priorities had been reflected in the Plan. This updated plan emphasises the City's pledge to become a green city and have a green agenda. This would've been under more scrutiny over the last 18 months in order to deliver environmental change if it had not been for COVID. This report emphasises health and adult social care to seek to reduce the health inequalities, to help people feel safe and keep Children and Young people safe and protected and to be a Council for everyone.

It was agreed that Cabinet:

1. Endorses the priorities and issues summarised in this report, and agrees that they will form the basis of the revised Corporate Plan 2021-2025.
2. Agrees that the priorities adopted as part of the Council's recovery and renewal framework are reflected in the revised Corporate Plan and associated delivery plans.
3. Integrates the role of the Reset Board into its day to day business, ensuring that the Council's continuing response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic receives appropriate political leadership.

135. **Commitments: 100 Day Plan**

Councillor Nick Kelly (Leader) introduced the Corporate Plan 2021 -25 –

The 100 Day Plan had set out how the administration would accomplish 22 of the 86 commitments for the city within the first 100 days of the new administration. Three Executive Decisions had been signed, but alongside this the administration had reduced the costs of city councillors by removing some of the additional allowances and reducing the number of Cabinet positions. These changes had saved the taxpayer in excess of £45,000 per year.

This administration wanted to demonstrate the pace at which it would make improvements across a range of services that are important to residents, visitors and businesses. This administration would be very ambitious for Plymouth and had been acting straight away to deliver the commitments made at the election.

This administration would want to ensure the Council gets the basics right and delivers quality day-to-day services. Plymouth residents would be at the heart of everything we do and that means listening more to their views and had been starting to look at ways this can happen.

Plymouth has huge potential and this administration would ensure it gets the national recognition it needs and deserves, which would include support and investment for adult social care and schools.

There would be a lot to do but we are looking forward to working with officers, residents and our partners to deliver these commitments.

It was agreed that Cabinet:

1. Agrees and endorses the actions set out in Appendix A as a programme of activity in the first 100 days of the new Administration
2. Notes that where delegated decisions are required to implement actions, that these will be taken in accordance with the Council's constitution

136. **Capital and Revenue Outturn 2020 – 21**

Councillor Nick Kelly (Leader) introduced the Capital and Revenue Outturn 2020 – 21 -

The report outlines the provisional finance monitoring position of the Council for the year ending 31 March 2021.

Full details of the provisional outturn position for each directorate was set out in the body of the report. An executive summary setting out the key areas was included in Section A.

Brendan Arnold, Service Director for Finance presented the provisional outturn for 2021. The financial outturn report sets out financial positions for each council directorate. It not only sets out finance performance for last year but it also support Councils statutory responsibility to provide a set of accounts for external inspection by auditors. This was a provisional financial report and was not final, the figures are taken forward to the usual external audit process and may be subject to further adjustments.

Cabinet members would be aware of the financial challenges in Local Government, especially in Plymouth over the last financial year due to COVID-19 pandemic, despite these difficulties, there had been only a small overspend of £625,000 on business as usual activities which is on a gross budget of £514 million this is notable result under the circumstances and the budget variants equates to .12 of 1% against the total overall budget. Plymouth City Council had received a number of government grants throughout the year to support costs incurred and income loss due to the pandemic and in addition to support a range of public health interventions. Some grants had had been received in advance of need, the Council would be able to carry forward £14.8 million of grant to the new financial year to sue that to fund on-going costs of the pandemic in line with government guidelines.

As Cabinet members would be aware there would be financial challenges in the next few years and as part of this provisional outturn report, they have identified £3.5 million which would be carried over to assist in dealing with future budget pressures in future years.

It was agreed that Cabinet:

1. Note the provisional revenue outturn position as at 31 March 2021.
2. Note the Capital Outturn Report including the Capital Financing Requirement of £105.741m.
3. Reverse the September 2020 Cabinet decision to approve the creation of a COVID Reserve to fund the additional costs and lost income arising from the Pandemic.
4. Approve the carry forward of COVID-19 grants received in advance for draw down in 2021/22 in line with Government guidelines.
5. Approve the carry forward of a contingency sum of £3.526m.
6. Recommend the Report to Full Council.

137. Equalities Working Group

Councillor Kelly (Leader) proposed the establishment of an Equalities Working Group as a committee of the Cabinet to strengthen and broaden the leadership arrangements for the delivery of the Council's equalities objectives. This report sets out at Appendix A the draft terms of reference of the Working Group.

Councillor Mrs Pengelly, Cabinet Member for Homes and Communities reported that the diversity of our city was one of our greatest strengths and assets, and want Plymouth to be recognised as welcoming, safe, international city with a vibrant cultural offer. The equalities working group would be a subcommittee of Cabinet and would seek to:

- Support and input into the development of the Council's ambition to reach the 'Excellence' level of the Equality Framework for Local Government
- Work with the corporate equalities and diversity group to ensure that there was effective and appropriate Member input into and collaboration with its work
- Work to ensure that we deliver services to all our diverse communities in a way that eliminates discrimination, advances equality of opportunity and fosters good relations
- Celebrate diversity and ensure that Plymouth was a friendly, welcoming city through support for community events and celebrations

It was agreed that Cabinet:

1. Endorse the establishment of the Equalities Working Group as a committee of the Cabinet.
2. Notes the draft terms of reference at Appendix A.

138. Cabinet Appointments 2021 - 22

Councillor Kelly, (Leader) reported that following approval at the Annual General Meeting of the Council on 21 May 2021, Cabinet are recommended to confirm the appointments contained within the report for the 2021/22 municipal year.

Councillor Nicholson moved an amendment in relation to Item 8 Plymouth and South Devon Local Partnership board. As this was a development Board it would seem more appropriate for the Cabinet Member for Homes and Communities, Councillor Mrs Pengelly to join Councillor Nicholson on the Board.

Councillor Mrs Pengelly moved forward an amendment in relation to the Corporate Parenting Group, Councillor James has resigned from this post and has been replaced by Councillor Collins.

It was agreed that Cabinet confirm the appointments contained within the report for the 2021/22 municipal year and for clarity cabinet ensure the Joint Committees and Advisory Groups of Cabinet are as set out with the amendments.