

Minutes of the Meeting of the Cabinet – 13 November 2023

Present:

Leader
Deputy Leader/Corporate Finance
Children's Services
Economic Development and Innovation
Environment and Public Protection
Leisure and Community
Public Health and Wellbeing
Statutory Health and Adult Social Care
Sustainability, Climate Change, Planning and Housing

Councillor:

R Bowden
C Mitchell
S Hall
T Jennings
H Patel
T Higgins
M McLaughlin
P Warburton
J Henshaw

CAB89 Apologies

Councillor H Mundry - Highways, Transportation & Public Realm

CAB90 Code of Conduct – Declaration of Interest

Nil.

CAB91 Minutes

Decision: That the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet meeting held on 09 October 2023 were received and signed as a correct record by the Leader of the Council.

CAB92 Cabinet Decisions – Forward Plan

Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Law and Governance on the contents of the Cabinet Decisions - Forward Plan covering the period 1 December 2023 – 30 April 2024, with the following updates:

	Updated Items – 11 December 2023
NKD026/23	Non-Treasury Investment Report - Item Deferred to 12 February 2024 Meeting Reason for Deferral: Awaiting information for the report

Decision: The report was received and noted.

Reason for Decision: The report was submitted for information and comment.

Minutes issued on Thursday 12 October 2023. Call in expires midnight on Monday 20 November 2023. Decisions can be implemented from Tuesday 21 November 2023.

CAB93 Warrington Skills Commission Final Report of Findings and Recommendations

Cabinet received a report of Councillor T Jennings, Cabinet Member, Economic Development and Innovation and Councillor S Hall, Cabinet Member Children's Services, which sought Cabinet endorsement of the final report of key findings and recommendations of the Warrington Skills Commission. It also supported Council involvement in the partnership development of future workstreams to deliver the recommendations identified, to ensure future opportunities and challenges are managed, and to maximise economic growth for Warrington over the next 10 years.

Decisions: That Cabinet:

- (i) Endorsed the final report of key findings and recommendations of the Warrington Skills Commission 2023.
- (ii) Supported Council involvement in the partnership development of future workstreams to deliver the recommendations identified, to ensure future opportunities and challenges are managed, and to maximise economic growth for Warrington over the next 10 years.

Reason for Decision: The Council committed to a refreshed Skills Commission with partners in 2023, to further understand and support the skills and economic growth requirements of Warrington.

CAB94 Adoption of Warrington Local Plan 2021/22 - 2038/39 (Forward Plan No. 016/23)

Cabinet received a report of Councillor H Patel, Cabinet Member, Environment and Public Protection, which sought the approval of Cabinet for the actions necessary to progress The Warrington Local Plan 2021/22 – 2038/39 to adoption, in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended) and the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended).

Cabinet was requested to approve the Main Modifications to the Local Plan, as recommended by the independent Planning Inspectors, together with consequential amendments to the Policies Map, and Minor Modifications that do not materially affect the Plan.

Pursuant to Regulations 4(1) and 4(3) of the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000, the adoption of the Local Plan was a non-executive function which must be exercised by a full meeting of the Council. As such, Cabinet approval was requested for the Local Plan – incorporating the

Main Modifications, amendments to the Policies Map and Minor Modifications - to proceed to Full Council with a recommendation to formally adopt the Local Plan under Section 23 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended).

The schedule of Main Modifications was provided at Appendix 1, the schedule of amendments to the Policies Map at Appendix 2 and the schedule of Minor Modifications at Appendix 3. The updated Local Plan, incorporating the Main and Minor Modifications, was provided at Appendix 4.

(ADDENDUM TO AGENDA ITEM 5 (APPENDIX 2): ADOPTION OF WARRINGTON LOCAL PLAN 2021/22 – 2038/39 had been issued outlining:.

1.1 A minor error relating to the Manchester Airport Consulta on Zone (Policy INF6), as shown on the Local Plan Policies Map;

1.2 Following conversations with Manchester Airport Group, the hatched consulta on zone as shown in Appendix 2 and on the Local Plan Policies Map included in Appendix 4 of the original Cabinet Report, has been amended with 2 different hatching colours now being used to distinguish between the 90 metre in height consulta on zone and the 180 metre in height consulta on zone.

1.3 This has also resulted in corresponding changes to the Policies Map legend text, and the word “current” has also been added into the text of the legend at Manchester Airport Group’s request.

1.4 These minor changes, did not materially affect the policies within the Local Plan and are not material to the conclusions and recommendations of the Cabinet Report).

Decision: That Cabinet:

- (i) Recommended that Full Council approve the Main Modifications to the Local Plan proposed by the independent Inspectors, as set out in Appendix 1 to this report, for incorporation into the final version of the Local Plan.
- (ii) Recommended that Full Council approve the amendments to the Local Plan Policies Map, as set out in Appendix 2 to this report, for incorporation into the final Local Plan Policies Map.
- (iii) Recommended that Full Council approve the Minor Modifications to the Local Plan, as set out in Appendix 3 to this report, for incorporation into the final version of the Local Plan.
- (iv) Referred the final version of the Local Plan (provided in Appendix 4) – incorporating the Main Modifications, Amendments to the Policies Map and Minor Modifications – to Full Council with a recommendation to formally adopt the Warrington Local Plan 2021/22 – 2028/39 as the new Development Plan for Warrington, in accordance with Section 23 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended).

- (v) up to the point of consideration of the Local Plan at Full Council, authorised the Director of Growth, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment and Public Protection, to make any necessary further minor modifications to the draft Plan that do not materially alter the policies set out in the Plan and recommend any such changes to Full Council.

Reason for Decision: To ensure the Council has an up-to-date Local Plan which is effective in promoting and guiding Warrington's future growth in a sustainable manner and that the social and physical infrastructure necessary to support an increasing resident and working population is delivered.

CAB95 Direct Contract Award to Forum Housing and Room at the Inn for Supported Housing for people at Risk of Homelessness or Rough Sleeping (Forward Plan No. 029/23)

Cabinet received a report of Councillor M McLaughlin, Cabinet Member, Public Health and Wellbeing, which sought Cabinet approval to direct award a contract to i) Forum Housing and ii) Room at the Inn, for the delivery of Supported Housing for People at Risk of Homelessness or Rough Sleeping at Haven House (Forum Housing) and Museum St (Room at the Inn). The Direct Award of a new contract to i) Forum Housing for Haven House and ii) Room at the Inn for Museum Street would enable the continuation of the current Supported Housing Services from 1st January 2024 to 31st March 2025, with a maximum contract duration of 15 months.

Decision: That Cabinet:

- i. The Director Adult Social Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Members, Director of Law and Governance, to direct award the contract for supported accommodation for vulnerable adults at risk of homelessness from 1st January 2024 – 31st March 2025, with respect to
 - a) Forum Housing for Haven House with a full contract value of £310,042 and
 - b) Room at the Inn for Museum St with a full contract value of £357,537
- ii. Waive the competition requirements in the Contract Procedure Rules under CR27.
- iii. The Director Adult Social Services and Director of Law and Governance completed all necessary documents to give effect to all above recommendations.

Reason for Decision: The recommendation to direct award contract to Forum Housing and Room at the Inn, with respect to the funding secured from DLUHC Rough Sleeper Initiative 2022-25 will:

- Maintain the delivery of the 2 Supported Housing services ensuring individuals at risk of homelessness or rough sleeping continue to have access to safe accommodation and support.
- Ensure compliance with the councils Contract Procedure Rules.
- Enable the Council to fully, effectively and in a timely way utilise the funding awarded through the DLUHC Rough Sleeper Initiative 2022-2025.
- Ensure the Council is able to discharge its statutory duties with respect to the provision of suitable accommodation with support in line with its duties under the Homeless Reduction Act 2017.
- Ensure the Council complies with the Grant Conditions from DLUC with respect to the funding secured Rough Sleeper Initiative 2022-25

CAB96 Specialist Housing Programme – Lodge Lane (Forward Plan. 021/23)

CAB99 Refers.

CAB97 Dementia Day Care Service and Intermediate Care Service at Brampton Lodge (Forward Plan No. 022/23)

CAB100 Refers.

CAB98 Exclusion of the Public (including the press)

Decision: That members of the public (including the press) be excluded from the meeting by reason of the confidential nature of the following items of business to be transacted being within Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972 (Rule 10 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules) and the public interest in disclosing the information is outweighed by the need to keep the information confidential.

CAB99 Specialist Housing Programme – Lodge Lane (Forward Plan No. 021/23)

Cabinet received a report of Councillor J Henshaw, Cabinet Member, Sustainability, Climate Change, Planning and Housing and Councillor M McLaughlin, Cabinet Member, Public Health and Wellbeing, which set out the proposal to create a large multiple occupancy property, owned and managed by the Council to support homeless families who would otherwise be placed in emergency accommodation in hotels and bed & breakfast accommodation.

The scheme marked a continuation of the collaborative working partnership between the Growth Directorate and specialist teams within Families and Wellbeing that sought to improve and enhance the physical infrastructure for supported and specialised living within the Borough, including the pressures noted at the recent Homelessness Summit thereby reducing reliance upon the private sector for such facilities and easing revenue pressures.

The report set out how it was intended to reduce the potential impacts of another pandemic such as COVID-19 on those presenting as homeless to the Council, particularly families.

Decision: That Cabinet:

- i) Progressed with delivery of the purchase and conversion of Lodge Lane to deliver temporary accommodation subject to planning permission.
- ii) Approved the use of COMF funding and the allocation of capital monies for the completion of the conversion of Lodge Lane as set out in Section 5.13 of the Part 2 of the Specialist Housing Programme – Lodge Lane report.
- iii) Delegated to the Director of Growth, following consultation with the Lead Member for Sustainability and Climate Change, Housing and Planning, the Director of Law and Governance, Deputy Chief Executive & Director of Corporate Services and the Deputy Leader, responsibility for the final contract terms, based on the principles and costs set out in sections 4 and 5 of the Part 2 of the Specialist Housing Programme – Lodge Lane report.
- iv) Authorised the Director of Law and Governance (Monitoring Officer) to enter into the contract and finalise any related documents to complete the transaction in accordance with the above.

Reason for Decision: Members are requested to approve the proposals for the following reasons:

- i) To provide a better experience for homeless families, particularly to reduce the negative and detrimental effects on children and those who may be disproportionately affected by any pandemic or incident such as COVID-19 in order to discharge our obligation under the COMF funding which is intended to prevent or mitigate health inequalities or unequal impact on populations in future outbreaks.
- ii) To provide good, medium term, temporary accommodation for homeless families in well-run and appropriate facilities where any hygiene related measures in response to a pandemic or other disease outbreak could be well monitored and managed.
- iii) The current lack of accessible property provision will be addressed allowing the council to provide for a wider range of housing needs.

- iv) To discharge our statutory duties in providing appropriate accommodation for our most vulnerable residents by providing much needed additional, temporary housing to meet the councils statutory interim housing duties under the Housing Act 1996 (Part 7), the Homelessness Prevention Act 2002 and the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017.
- v) To reduce the reliance on hotel accommodation which is not considered suitable for children Under the Suitability of Accommodation Order 2003 (item 3 of Appendix 2 refers).
- vi) To increase the number of temporary accommodation units available in smaller HMO accommodation available for vulnerable single homeless adults and to prevent rough sleeping.
- vii) To reduce reliance upon the private sector for specialist accommodation, the additional provision of 21 bedrooms of accommodation will reduce costs currently directed to providing B&B accommodation, thereby reducing pressures on the Council's budgets.
- viii) To provide a further opportunity to decarbonize this property, in furtherance of the Council's Climate Emergency pledge and the corporate fuel poverty strategy.
- ix) To bring vacant or underused buildings into purposeful use.

CAB100 Dementia Day Care Service and Intermediate Care Service at Brampton Lodge (Forward Plan No. 022/23)

Cabinet received a report of Councillor P Warburton, Cabinet Member, Statutory Health and Adult Social Care, which was following a market test of day services and review of intermediate care services to sought approval:

- (i) for the direct award of a contract for a maximum of 12 months for the provision of Dementia Day Services to Anavo Care Ltd at Brampton Lodge (whilst a procurement exercise is undertaken).
- (ii) for the direct award of a contract for a period of 12 months from 1st December 2023 to 30th November 2024 the provision of Intermediate Care Beds to Anavo Care Ltd at Brampton Lodge (whilst a procurement exercise is undertaken).

The report set out the rationale for the proposed approaches and outlines the latest position in relation to the services commissioned. The direct awards will ensure continuity of existing arrangements for residents of Warrington when the existing contract terms end on 30th November 2023.



These contract award proposals are in line with the Council and system wide aims to enable more people to remain independent at home for as long as possible. The proposals also align with recommendations that have emerged from:

- (a) the review and reform of intermediate care services that has been undertaken over the last 3 years. Further information on this is contained within the Cabinet report titled "Proposal for the re-development of the Bewsey Old School site for the development of a new intermediate care facility" presented to Cabinet in June 2023; and
- (b) The review of older people day opportunities which is currently underway.

The proposal and recommendations also align with the strategy and developments associated with unpaid Carer support and alternatives to long term care.

Decision: That Cabinet:

- i. Agreed the waiver of the competition requirements in the Contract Procedure Rules of the Constitution; and
- ii. Delegated to the Director of Adult Social Care authority to direct award of the new contracts for:
 - (a) The provision of Dementia Day Services at Brampton Lodge to Anavo Care Ltd for a period of 6 months from 1st December 2023 to 30 May 2024 with the option to extend for a further 6 months to 30th November 2024 to allow time for a procurement exercise to be completed.
 - (b) The provision of Intermediate Care Services at Brampton Lodge to Anavo Care Ltd for a period of 6 months from 1st December 2023 to 30 May 2024 with the option to extend for a further 6 months to 30th November 2024 to allow time for a procurement exercise to be completed.
 - (c) Delegate to the Director of Law and Governance authority to enter into any legal documents to affect the delegations above.

Reason for Decision: The direct award of 12-month contracts for the Dementia Day Service and Intermediate Care Beds to Anavo Care Ltd will ensure continuity of existing arrangements for residents of Warrington when the existing contract terms end on 30th November 2023 whilst a procurement process is completed in compliance with the Public Contract Regulations 2015.

Agenda Item 2

Signed.....

Dated..... 11-12-2023

Minutes issued on Thursday 12 October 2023. Call in expires midnight on Monday 20 November 2023. Decisions can be implemented from Tuesday 21 November 2023.

