

Cabinet

Minutes of a Meeting of the Cabinet held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford on the **9th March 2017**.

Present:

Cllr. Clarkson (Chairman);

Cllr. Bell (Vice-Chairman);

Cllrs. Mrs Bell, Bennett, Mrs Blanford, Bradford, Clokie, Galpin, Knowles, Shorter.

Also Present:

Cllrs. Buchanan, Burgess, Chilton, Heyes, Hicks, Link, Michael, Ovenden, Wedgbury.

Chief Executive, Corporate Director (Law and Governance), Head of Finance, Head of HR, Communications and Technology, Head of Housing, Communications Officer, Senior Member Services Officer.

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Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Cabinet held on the 9th February 2017 be approved and confirmed as a correct record.

328 Renewing Existing Housing Assistance Policy and Adopting Fuel Poverty Strategy

The report advised that the Council was required to set out its policy on grant assistance for home owners and tenants in a Housing Renewal Policy and an updated policy was presented which removed obsolete clauses and clarified the grant funding available. In addition, the Council was required to have a fuel poverty strategy and the report recommended adopting the Kent Wide strategy called "Delivering Affordable Warmth – A Fuel Poverty Strategy for Kent."

The Portfolio Holder endorsed the recommendations in the report and said it was sensible to adopt the Kent Wide Fuel Poverty Strategy.

Resolved:

That (i) the renewed Housing Assistance Policy at Appendix 1 to the report be approved.

- (ii) **the Kent Wide Fuel Poverty Strategy – “A Fuel Poverty Strategy for Kent” at Appendix 2 to the report be adopted.**
- (iii) **an option for Relocation Grants, set at a maximum of £7,000 per case as an alternative to a disabled facilities grant, be included within the Housing Assistance Policy where it provides a more appropriate solution for a disabled applicant.**

329 The Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarm (England) Regulations 2015 – Statement of Principles

The report sought approval to implement a statement of principles under the Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarm (England) Regulations 2015 which would allow the Council to address fire safety and prevent incidents of carbon monoxide poisoning within the private rented sector. The Portfolio Holder advised that implementing the statement would allow the Council to issue fixed penalty notices of up to £5,000 for landlords who failed to provide smoke and carbon monoxide alarms within their rented properties in accordance with the Regulations. He advocated the importance of such alarms and urged all colleagues to consider the provision in their own homes.

In response to a question the Head of Housing advised that the Council had regular communications with landlords and the statement of principles would be widely publicised with them. Details of non-compliance and fines issued could be included within the quarterly Housing performance reports.

Resolved:

That the Statement of Principles at Appendix 2 to the report be approved.

330 Permanent Appointment of Chief Executive/Head of Paid Service

The Chief Executive left the Council Chamber during consideration of this report.

The report advised that the Appointments Committee had recommended that the Interim Chief Executive be made an offer of permanent appointment to the role of Chief Executive/Head of Paid Service. This would be considered at the Council meeting on the 20th April 2017. In accordance with Regulations and the Council's Constitution the report invited Cabinet Members to consider the matter.

The Chairman confirmed that on behalf of Cabinet he was happy to report that the Members individually and collectively had no objection to the making of said offer. Indeed the offer had their full support and backing.

Resolved:

That the Cabinet receive and note the recommendation of the Appointments Committee to Council that the current Interim Chief Executive be appointed

permanently to the Chief Executive/Head of Paid Service role and confirm that neither the Leader of the Council nor any Member of the Cabinet has any objection to the making of said offer, indeed the offer had their full support and backing.

331 Ashford Strategic Delivery Board – 27th January 2017

Resolved:

That the Notes of the Meeting of the Ashford Strategic Delivery Board held on the 27th January 2017 be received and noted.

332 Schedule of Key Decisions to be Taken

Resolved:

That the latest Schedule of Key Decisions as set out within the report be received and noted.

Queries concerning these Minutes? Please contact Danny Sheppard:
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