

Cabinet

Minutes of a Meeting of the Cabinet held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford on the **8th March 2018**.

Present:

Cllr. Clarkson (Chairman);
Cllr. Bell (Vice-Chairman);

Cllrs. Mrs Bell, Bennett, Bradford, Clokie, Galpin, Pickering, Shorter, White.

Apology:

Cllr. Link.

Also Present:

Cllrs. Buchanan, Burgess, Hicks, Howard-Smith, Krause, Ovenden, Sims, Mrs Webb, Wedgbury

Chief Executive, Director of Law and Governance, Director of Place and Space, Head of Corporate Policy, Economic Development and Communications, Head of HR and Customer Services, Head of Culture, Interim Head of Finance, Facility Development Manager, Human Resources Manager, Communications and Marketing Manager, Senior Communications Officer, Communications Apprentice, Senior Member Services Officer.

364 Declarations of Interest

Councillor	Interest	Minute No.
Buchanan	Made a Voluntary Announcement that he was a regular user of the Stour Centre Gym.	367
Wedgbury	Made a Voluntary Announcement that he was a regular user of the Stour Centre Gym.	367

365 Minutes

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Cabinet held on the 8th February 2018 be approved and confirmed as a correct record.

366 Pay Policy Statement – Annual Review

The Portfolio Holder introduced the report which advised that as required by the Localism Act 2011, the Council published an Annual Pay Policy Statement. The report reviewed the current Statement, ensuring it was up to date and reflected the Council's approach to pay. The Council also took the annual review as an opportunity to review the rates of the Ashford Living Wage Allowance and the Ashford Apprentice Wage Allowance. The report therefore provided recommendations on rates for the 2018/19 allowances.

Resolved:

- That**
- (i) the updated Pay Policy Statement be approved.**
 - (ii) the Ashford Living Wage Allowance be increased to £8.35 for 2018/19.**
 - (iii) the Ashford Apprentice Wage Allowance be maintained at 15 pence per hour over the National Minimum Wage rate applicable to the age of the apprentice.**

367 Leisure Procurement Exercise

The Portfolio Holder for Housing introduced the report as he had been the Member who had chaired the Group dealing with the joint leisure procurement with Ashford Leisure Trust (ALT). The report updated Members on progress and provided key documentation that defined the scope and nature of the competitive procurement process. This aimed at having a new leisure operator in place by May 2019. A further report would be provided once detailed submissions had been received from preferred operators and legal agreements had been drafted between the Council and ALT. This was all to allow investment and any legal approvals to be considered and agreed by Members.

The Portfolio Holder for Culture confirmed that whilst the Portfolio Holder for Housing had been overseeing this matter in a different role, he was well aware of the proposals and fully supported them.

Recommended:

- That**
- (i) the proposed leisure procurement exercise (as defined in Appendices A and B of the report) be endorsed to enable ALT to contract a new leisure operator, in agreement with the Council.**
 - (ii) appropriate Officers be authorised to prepare all documentation required to progress the exercise including lease arrangements between ALT and the Council.**
 - (iii) Detailed Solutions from appropriately selected operators and final legal documents between the Council and ALT be presented to a future Cabinet meeting for investment consideration and agreement.**

368 Economic Regeneration and Investment Board – 25th January 2018

The Leader advised of a change of date of the next meeting from the 21st March to 22nd March 2018. This was because Ashford Borough Council had been shortlisted for two awards at the prestigious LGC Council of the Year Awards, and associated events would be now taking place on 21st March.

Resolved:

That the notes of the meeting of the Economic Regeneration and Investment Board held on the 25th January 2018 be received and noted.

369 Ashford Strategic Delivery Board – 26th January 2018

Resolved:

That the notes of the meeting of the Ashford Strategic Delivery Board held on the 26th January 2018 be received and noted.

370 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.

371 Exclusion of the Public

Resolved:

That pursuant to Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item, namely Request for Flexible Retirement, as it is likely in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings that if members of the public were present there would be disclosure of exempt information hereinafter specified by reference to Paragraphs 1 and 2 of Schedule 12A of the Act, where in the circumstances the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

372 Request for Flexible Retirement

The report sought approval to a flexible retirement request which had been submitted by the post holder referred to in the report and outlined the operational and cost implications.

Recommended:

- That**
- (i) the operational measures associated with the flexible retirement request be noted.**
 - (ii) the costs associated with the flexible retirement request, as set out within the report, be approved.**