

Cabinet

Minutes of a Meeting of the Cabinet held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford on the **14th June 2018**.

Present:

Cllr. Clarkson (Chairman);

Cllrs. Bennett, Bradford, Clokie, Galpin, Pickering, Shorter.

Apologies:

Cllrs. Bell, Mrs Bell, Buchanan, Link, White.

Also Present:

Cllrs. Burgess, Chilton, Hicks, Suddards, Waters, Mrs Webb.

Chief Executive, Director of Law and Governance, Director of Finance and Economy, Head of Legal and Democracy, Head of Finance, Senior Policy and Scrutiny Officer, Communications Officer, Member Services Manager (Operational).

35 Declarations of Interest

Councillor	Interest	Minute No.
Clarkson	Made a Voluntary Announcement as a Director of A Better Choice for Property Ltd	41

36 Minutes

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Cabinet held on the 10th May 2018 be approved and confirmed as a correct record.

37 Leader's Announcements

The Leader said he was sure all would be aware of the Fields of Battle, Lands of Peace photographic exhibition currently on display in the Memorial Gardens until the end of June. He said this was an extremely impressive and moving installation and commended it to all present. He also wanted to congratulate the Officers from Aspire and the wider Council who had made the Gardens look so stunning for the exhibition. The Council had already received a number of accolades from those who had attended.

38 Overview and Scrutiny Recommendations to Cabinet – Commercial Investment

The Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee introduced the report which presented recommendations from the Committee's examination of the Council's approach to commercial investment. He said the Committee had analysed the issue in great detail and had arrived at some good recommendations.

The Leader said that at this stage the Cabinet was minded to note the three recommendations for further examination, but not to adopt them at this stage. If they could be implemented they would be, but they wanted to be cognisant of all potential implications and costs before doing so. He undertook to report back to the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in due course.

Resolved:

That the recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted for further examination of implications and costs, before consideration is given to whether they can be adopted.

39 Ashford Borough Council Performance – Quarter 4 2017/18

The report updated Members and the public on the performance of the Council against its Corporate Plan during Quarter 4 2017/18. This included information on what the Cabinet had achieved through its decision making, key performance data, and consideration of the wider Borough picture which impacted upon the Council's work. The Portfolio Holder drew attention to the fact that the Council's approach to the monitoring of its performance against this plan had been revised and accordingly summary highlights from the online Performance Dashboard for each of the Council's Corporate Plan areas were included in the report. He encouraged all Members and indeed the public to interrogate the data and advise if there was anything else they would like to see in the reports. He also wanted to acknowledge the amount of work that the Council's Senior Policy and Scrutiny Officer had put in to developing and improving these reports.

Resolved:

That (i) the Council's performance against the Corporate Plan in Quarter 4 of 2017/18 be noted.

(ii) the new performance framework outlined in the report be approved.

40 Financial Outturn

The Portfolio Holder introduced the report which presented the outturn revenue position for the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account. It also presented the Capital Outturn for capital works and how these had been financed, reserve transfers and a Treasury Management update. He drew particular attention to the sections on business rates and treasury management and wanted to compliment the Council's Treasury

Management team for the work they undertook to maximise each pound for the residents of the Borough. He also advised that recommendation (iv) within the report had been included in error from a previous report and should be deleted.

Resolved:

- That (i) the financial outturn for 2017/18 be noted.
- (ii) carried forward requests for New Homes Bonus in year underspends shown at Appendix A to the report, and Member Grant underspends to fund the centenary events, be approved.
- (iii) the Annual Treasury Management position be noted.

41 Trading and Enterprise Board – 8th May 2018

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Trading and Enterprise Board held on the 8th May 2018 be approved and adopted.

42 Economic Regeneration and Investment Board – 25th April 2018

Resolved:

That the Notes of the Meeting of the Economic Regeneration and Investment Board held on the 25th April 2018 be received and noted.

43 Ashford Strategic Delivery Board – 27th April 2018

Resolved:

That the Notes of the Meeting of the Ashford Strategic Delivery Board held on the 27th April 2018 be received and noted.

44 Local Plan and Planning Policy Task Group – 27th April 2018

Resolved:

That the Notes of the Meeting of the Local Plan and Planning Policy Task Group held on the 27th April 2018 be received and noted.

45 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.

46 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, 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 Paragraph 3 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.

47 Phase 1 Commercial Quarter Office Development – Variation to Council Lease Back Arrangement

The report advised of an amendment to the Council's Agreement for Lease with Ashford Commercial Quarter Limited, undertaken under the Chief Executive's urgency powers.

Resolved:

That the report be received and noted.