

Cabinet

Minutes of a Meeting of the Cabinet held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford on the **11th October 2018**.

Present:

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

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

Apology:

Cllr. Galpin

Also Present:

Cllrs. Barrett, Buchanan, Burgess, Hicks, Koowaree, Link, Ovenden, Mrs Webb.

Chief Executive, Director of Law and Governance, Director of Finance and Economy, Head of Legal and Democracy, Head of Planning and Development, Head of Corporate Property and Projects, Head of HR and Customer Services, Principal Solicitor (Strategic Development), Electoral Services Manager, Human Resources Manager, Communications and Marketing Manager, Member Services Manager (Operational).

186 Minutes

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Cabinet held on the 13th September 2018 be approved and confirmed as a correct record.

187 Leader's Announcements

The Leader said he did want to make a brief mention of the Snowdogs Discover Ashford project which was currently ongoing. He said he had been both delighted and pleasantly surprised at the affect it had had on the town with positive comments coming in from far and wide. He said he had received some complaints that the Snowdogs were being 'vandalised' by children sitting on them, but he actually thought that was a marvellous thing! The Leader wanted to say well done to everyone involved with bringing the project to Ashford.

188 Review of Personnel Policies – Social Media Policy and Managing Restructures, Redundancy and Organisational Change

The Portfolio Holder introduced the report which advised that as part of a wider programme of personnel policy reviews, the Cabinet was asked to consider and advise upon two new personnel policies, which materially altered the existing policies. The proposed new policy documents were the Managing Redundancy, Restructure and Organisational Change Policy and the Social Media Policy, replacing policy documents R2 – Managing Redundancy and Organisation Change and S8 – Social Media Policy in the current Conditions of Service. He advised of a slight amendment to the Social Media Policy in that after discussion with the report authors, a time period of three months rather than ‘several months’ was proposed to section 3.11 - deleting inactive accounts.

Resolved:

- That (i) the Managing Redundancy, Restructure and Organisational Change Policy be approved.**
- (ii) subject to an amendment at section 3.11 stating a time period of three months rather than ‘several months’, the Social Media Policy be approved.**

189 Honorary Ambassador of Ashford Award Scheme

The Leader introduced the report which advised of his request that the Council consider establishing an Honorary Ambassador of Ashford Award Scheme. It further proposed that the first recipient of the award would be Liliana Țuroiu, President of the Romanian Cultural Institute, in recognition of her work in commissioning a statue of Queen Marie of Romania to be located at the new Elwick Place development. The report also sought approval for the future consideration and determination of such awards to be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Civic Honours and Awards Board.

Members considered such an award scheme was an appropriate bridge between the existing Civic Awards and the award of Freedom of the Borough, in order to recognise individuals or organisations who were working with the Council to promote Ashford to a wider audience. It was therefore considered that Liliana Țuroiu would be a fitting recipient of the first such award.

Recommended:

- That (i) an Honorary Ambassador of Ashford Award Scheme be established as outlined within the report.**
- (ii) the first recipient of the Award be Liliana Țuroiu, President of the Romanian Cultural Institute, to reflect the work undertaken to commission a statue of Queen Marie of Romania to be located in the new Elwick Place development.**

- (iii) the consideration and determination of future recipients of the Award be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Ashford Borough Council Civic Honours and Awards Board.

190 Joint Transportation Board – 11th September 2018

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Joint Transportation Board held on the 11th September 2018 be received and noted.

191 Trading and Enterprise Board – 8th October 2018

The Leader directed Members attention to the tabled paper which contained some minor amendments to the recommendations. For completeness the amended recommendations are outlined below.

Recommended:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Trading and Enterprise Board held on the 8th October 2018 be approved and adopted, subject to the following amendments:

Minute 184 – Recommendation (ii) (a)

(ii) the existing governance arrangements be amended as follows: -

a). Acquisitions up to £10m (total scheme cost) supported by a business plan (including returns and risks) be approved by the Director of Finance and Economy in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance and IT and the Portfolio Holder for one of Corporate Property or Housing.

Minute 185 – Recommendation (ii)

(ii) the release of the funds from the existing loan facilities agreement up to limit set out in the exempt report (allowing a small contingency based upon the figures identified in Appendix A to the report) be agreed subject to:

(a) the completion of due diligence and release of the drawdown of the funding for the first stage of the project, including the purchase of the site, up to a value of £10m, be delegated to the Director of Finance and Economy in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance and IT.

(b) the further release of funding be dependent on a further report to the Trading and Enterprise Board, including more details on the scheme, its planning application and the construction contract.

192 Local Plan and Planning Policy Task Group – 31st August 2018

Resolved:

That the Notes of the Meeting of the Local Plan and Planning Policy Task Group held on the 31st August 2018 be received and noted.

193 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.

194 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.

195 Proposed Disposal of Land (Part Phase 2) at Elwick Place

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and IT introduced the confidential report which set out a proposal and recommendation to dispose of Council owned land on Elwick Place Phase 2.

Resolved:

- That**
- (i) the disposal of land at Elwick Place Phase 2 on terms and conditions that protect the Council's interests be agreed as set out in the report and for the best consideration reasonably obtainable.**
 - (ii) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Economic Regeneration and Investment Board, to negotiate and conclude the detailed terms of the disposal to the party offering the best consideration reasonably obtainable, including to approve a risk assessment in relation to the impact of Government leasehold reforms on the structure of the disposal.**

- (iii) the apportionment of the capital receipts arising from the disposal between the Council and the Developer as outlined within the report be agreed in principle, and authority be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Economic Regeneration and Investment Board, to negotiate and conclude the precise treatment of costs incurred by the Developer and the Council.**
- (iv) the Head of Legal and Democracy, in consultation with the Chief Executive and the Head of Corporate Property and Projects, be authorised to negotiate and conclude all necessary legal agreements in line with the above.**

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