

MINUTES OF: THE CABINET

Date of Meeting: Tuesday 16th July 2024

**Present: Councillor A Barnes (Chair)
Councillors McInnes and Walmsley**

**Rob Huntington, Chief Executive
David Smurthwaite, Director of Economic Development
Damon Lawrenson, Interim Director of Resources
Clare Birtwistle, Head of Legal (Monitoring Officer)
Clare Law, Head of People and Policy
Kimberly Haworth, Head of Finance
Andy Taylor, Head of Environmental Services**

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Lythgoe and M Smith.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meetings held on 5th and 19th June 2024 were agreed as a correct record.

3. URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

There were no urgent items.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor McInnes declared a non-pecuniary interest in item E1 as she was a member of the Friends of Whitaker Park group.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no public questions.

6. UPDATE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

An update was provided from the 24th June 2024 Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting. Thanks was expressed to the Chair of the Committee.

7. PRODUCTIVITY PLAN 2024/25

The Lead Member for Economic Development outlined the report which asked Cabinet to endorse the Council's Productivity Plan for 2024/25.

Cabinet were invited to comment on the report:

- The report was succinct which was welcomed.
- A lot of useful information would be fed into central Government.
- Members to receive a regular update on the plan, at least every twelve months.

Resolved:

1. Cabinet endorsed the Council's Productivity Plan for 2024/25.

Reason for Decision:

The Plan was a mandatory requirement.

Alternative Options Considered:

None.

8. VALLEY PLAN ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24

The Leader of the Council outlined the report, which asked Cabinet to consider and note the annual report and associated achievements for 2023/24.

Cabinet were invited to comment on the report:

- The Head of People and Policy was thanked for preparing the report.
- The level of work undertaken by the Economic Development team was good to see.
- Stubbylee Park had been awarded the Green Flag again.
- 16,000 trees had been planted across the borough.
- It was good to see the plans for the forthcoming year.
- Financial challenges remained but the achievements were clear to see.
- The refurbished tennis courts were worthy of mention.

Resolved:

1. Cabinet considered and noted the Council's Annual Valley Plan Report 2023-24 and associated achievements for 2023-24.

Reason for Decision:

The Valley Plan Annual Report 2023-2024 is a tool used to summarise the Council's key achievements and progress in relation to the priorities outlined within the Valley Plan.

Alternative Options Considered:

None.

9. FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT Q4 2023/24 - OUTTURN

The Lead Member for Resources outlined the report which asked Cabinet to note the content of the Q4 Financial Monitoring Report.

Cabinet were invited to comment on the report:

- The Finance Team were thanked for all their hard work.
- The National Non-Domestic Rate (NNDR) position appeared to be a one off and was not expected to be the same this year.
- Need to be working the budget and forecasting was necessary.
- It was suggested that the Council writes to the new Deputy Prime Minister to request the 3 year deal and to also take it forward with our new MP. This would make for a better and stronger position for future planning.
- There remained some challenges on the collection of NNDR.
- Imposition of weekly food waste collection – arrangements had progressed too far to do a complete U-turn. This would be reviewed and there was more discussion to be had.

Resolved:

1. Cabinet noted the content of the Q4 Financial Monitoring Report.

Reason for Decision:

To note the 2023/24 Outturn monitoring report.

Alternative Options Considered:

None.

10. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT Q4 2023/24

The Leader of the Council outlined the report which asked Cabinet to consider and note the Council’s performance during Quarter 4 of 2023-24 as detailed in the report and Appendix 1.

Cabinet members were invited to comment on the report:

- The Overview & Scrutiny Committee would review the Performance Management report in detail. Cabinet were keen to receive an executive summary in future.

Resolved:

1. Cabinet considered and noted the Council’s performance during Quarter 4 of 2023-24.

Reason for Decision:

Monitoring the Council’s performance would enable Cabinet to identify and consider any service actions, projects, performance measures or corporate risks requiring further action.

Alternative Options Considered:

None.

The meeting concluded at 7.01pm

_____ CHAIR _____ DATE