

HARBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETING

held at
Council Chamber
The Symington Building
Adam and Eve Street
Market Harborough
LE16 7AG

5th July 2021

commencing at 5.30pm

Present:

Cllr King (Chair)

Councillors: Bateman, Dann, Hallam and Whelband

Officers: D. Atkinson, L. Elliott, S. Green, S. Hamilton, C. Mason, N. Proudfoot, J. Smith
and V. Wenham

INFORMATION EXCHANGE FROM PORTFOLIO HOLDERS

Planning, Environment & Waste

Councillor Bateman reported on the Green Bin subscription service. As at the 28th June 2020 there were 21,435 Green Bin subscriptions compared with 18,877 up to the 28th June 2021 and it was noted that the subscription service started slightly later this year than previously. The Cabinet noted the number of subscriptions were as had been anticipated. Councillor Bateman reiterated that the reason for increasing the price of the subscription service was to make the service to be cost neutral.

Councillor Bateman reported that the current income is £1.038 million and the full cost of the service is £1.147 million resulting in a shortfall of £109,000, however this is less than the non-subscribing residents were subsidising the service in previous years. It is anticipated that the level of subscriptions will increase during the summer months.

Corporate and Regulatory Services

Councillor Dann reported that at the recent Leicestershire Revenue and Benefits Partnership meeting on the 24th June, HDC assumed the Deputy Chairmanship position for the forthcoming municipal year. The Cabinet noted that collection rates for Council tax have been satisfactory, however business rates collections require some attention and this is being addressed by the Partnership.

Wellbeing, Communities & Housing

Councillor Whelband commented on the very encouraging figures in relation to the Green Bin Subscription service.

Strategy

Councillor King reported that on the 25th June he chaired the first meeting of the A5 Partnership and expressed his thanks to all of the HDC staff who were involved in the establishment and organisation of the meeting.

Councillor King also attended the outcome meeting of the CCG Consultation regarding the re-design of health services in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

TOPICAL ISSUES

Councillor King reported that on the 2nd July 2021, HDC had to take emergency action to close a house in multiple occupation (HMO) on St Mary's Road in Market Harborough because there were building safety concerns which had been identified by the Fire Service and therefore immediate action was required, resulting in the residents being re-housed.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were none.

MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 7th June 2021 be approved as a correct record.

DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

There were none.

REVIEW OF THE ADOPTED HARBOROUGH LOCAL PLAN

The Cabinet considered the report on the Local Plan Review and Update. The internal, officer review of the Local Plan demonstrated that the Local Plan remains up to date and continues to deliver sustainable development for Harborough District. However, the review identified that a recent significant increase in Leicester's housing need combined with the requirement to meet resultant unmet need within Leicester and Leicestershire through the Duty to Cooperate is likely to result in the need to update the Harborough Local Plan.

Beginning to prepare a new local plan has no effect on the existing adopted Local Plan (2011 - 2031) which remains up to date and continues to deliver sustainable development for the Harborough District.

RESOLVED that a new Local Plan is prepared as a full update to the adopted Harborough Local Plan (20211 – 2031).

Summary of Reasons

Given the time taken to prepare a local plan, it is recommended that the preparation of the new Local Plan is begun to ensure local planning policies remain up-to-date and able to direct development to sustainable locations and to protect the environment of the District.

LUTTERWORTH TOWN CENTRE MASTERPLAN

RESOLVED that that the report be deferred to a future meeting in order to address a number of concerns.

BUILDING CONTROL PARTNERSHIP PERFORMANCE UPDATE

The Cabinet considered the update report on the performance of the Building Control Partnership. The scope of the Building Control Service is primarily to process applications for Building Regulations approval, providing guidance and enforcing minimum building standards.

The Building Control Partnership initially formed with Blaby District Council has been in operation since 1 April 2018. This enabled the delivery of a more robust, resilient and competitive Building Control service that is able to operate more efficiently in an increasingly competitive environment.

Due to the continuing success of this initial partnership a further three Councils have now joined the partnership which comprise Oadby and Wigston Borough Council, Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council and Melton Borough Council.

After taking into account the negative effects of Covid 19, income levels remain stable and are in line with expectations for the last 12 months, which also includes the winter months when historically construction activities tend to slow down. This is being achieved even though the Service is continuing to operate with less staff than in previous years.

All staff members are routinely encouraged to proactively market the Building Control Service at every opportunity and marketing activities are continuing. Income targets for 20/21 were set at £24,071 per month. Despite the adverse effects of Covid 19, Harborough BC has still managed to bring in £22,978 per month, which is still the highest of all the Partner Councils.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) the ongoing positive performance of the Leicestershire Building Control Partnership be noted.
- (ii) the Leicestershire Building Control Partnership Governance Board continue to monitor and report on the performance of this Partnership in accordance with the agreed Terms and Conditions of the Partnership.

Summary of Reasons

To provide an update on the ongoing performance of Building Control operating within The Leicestershire Building Control Partnership.

TO CONSIDER MATTERS OF SPECIAL URGENCY

There were none.

The meeting ended at 5.50 p.m.