

Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting

Location: Council Chamber, The Symington Building, Adam and Eve Street, Market Harborough, LE16 7AG



Date: 25 March 2024 commencing at 6.30pm

Present:

Councillors:	S. Galton (Chair)	Cabinet member for Planning
	J. Knight	Cabinet member for Wellbeing
	D. Woodiwiss	Cabinet member for the Environment & Climate Change

Officers:

- J. Richardson- Chief Executive
- L. Elliott – Deputy Chief Executive
- C. Mason – Section 151 Officer
- J. Young – Head of Legal, Interim Monitoring Officer
- C. Bland – Head of Financial Services
- R. Felts- Head of Customer Services & Community Partnerships
- E. Bird- Head of Regulatory Services
- K. Aitken- Business Planning Officer
- S. Baldwin –Interim Democratic Officer

1. Apologies for Absence

Councillors Knowles (The Leader), Graves and Beadle offered their apologies.

2. Declaration of Members' Interests

There were none.

3. Minutes

It was noted that in the minutes in Declarations of Interest that Councillor Woodiwiss was made a voluntary Director of Harborough Energy, this should have stated “long-term Director.”

The Minutes of the meeting held on 12 February 2024 were accepted as a true record.

4. 2023.24 Performance Report- Financial (Outturn) and Corporate Quarter 3 (Year ending 31 March 2024)

The Section 151 Officer introduced and explained the report. The Chair asked for clarification on the outcome should there be an underspend and the Section 151 Officer explained that if this were to happen, those funds would go into the general reserve. He also reminded the panel that there would be another report to follow prior to the end of the financial year.

It was therefore RESOLVED that; the report be noted.

5. Strategy for Housing and the Prevention of Homelessness and Rough Sleeping 2024-2029

Councillor Knight, Portfolio Holder for Wellbeing, introduced and summarised the report and the importance of it in the Harborough District with currently 876 people on the housing register awaiting accommodation.

The Head of Customer Services & Community Partnerships gave an overview of the Strategy including its key priorities and themes. She also explained that the team are now sufficiently staffed which is helpful in providing these services.

Councillor Knight thanked the Team for the hard-work they are undertaking in often, very sensitive circumstances to meet these issues.

It was therefore RESOLVED that Cabinet;

- 1. Adopt the Strategy for Housing and the Prevention of Homelessness and Rough Sleeping 2024-2029 as set out in Appendix A**
- 2. Note the key priorities around new housing supply to include an increase in the supply of new housing to facilitate the building of new homes suitable for those with health and disability needs and to meet the specific challenges of providing homes in rural locations.**
- 3. Note the key priorities around homelessness, including the ongoing prevention of homelessness, to deal with increasing numbers of people fleeing domestic abuse, continuing to tackle rough sleeping and to look to provide more suitable temporary accommodation in the district.**

6. Extension of Lightbulb Delegation and Collaboration Agreement in relation to the Lightbulb Programme for One Year

Councillor Knight, Portfolio Holder for Wellbeing introduced and summarised the report.

The Head of Regulatory Services explained a little about the Lightbulb Programme and collaboration with Blaby District Council, the work undertaken, the benefits of the programme and stated that HDC support this programme, and this is therefore a great opportunity to be able to extend the delegation and agreement for another year.

It was therefore **RESOLVED** that Cabinet:

- 1. Approves the extension of the current delegation and collaboration agreement with Blaby District Council for an initial one-year period, noting that in doing so, it:**
 - a. Enables further work to be undertaken by officers to review the delivery models of the Lightbulb Service and**
 - b. Notes that further report will be brought to Cabinet on the outcome of the review and for Cabinet to consider and approve any proposed future delivery of the service.**

7. Any Urgent Business

There were no urgent items to consider.

The meeting ended at 7.13pm.