

HARBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETING

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

14th November 2022

commencing at 5.30pm

Present:

Councillors: Bateman, Dann, Hallam, King (Chair) and Whelband

Officers: E. Bird, L Elliott, S. Hamilton, V. Jessop, C Mason & C. Pattinson

INFORMATION EXCHANGE FROM PORTFOLIO HOLDERS

Finance

Councillor Hallam reported that work had commenced on the Council assets at 4 Roman Way and for the extension of the Market Harborough Cemetery. The ten week programme of works of the garage conversion at Ploughman's Yard, Market Harborough had commenced and will hopefully be available for accommodation in early 2023. The Frank Whittle aeroplane has been comprehensively cleaned and redecorated. Following a recent Cabinet Grants Sub-Committee meeting, Glen Parish has been awarded £70k as part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Grants for new play equipment for all ages, which also accommodates disabled users.

Corporate & Regulatory Services

Councillor Dann reported that the new Customer Service contract went live on the 26th October 2022 which was on time and on cost. Customers are now able to be helped either via face to face, pre-booked appointments on the phone, text, email or live chat.

Planning, Environment & Waste

Councillor Bateman expressed his congratulations to Tugby and Keythorpe, and East Langton Parishes in relation to their recent successful referendums for their Neighbourhood Plans. £235k of investment is being used to refurbish the toilets in Welland Park, Market Harborough in order to make them accessible to all and which will include a changing places facility, which should be completed in early 2023. As part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Grants, Gilmorton Church was awarded a grant of £70k for their project.

Councillor Bateman also reported that he recently attended a meeting at East Midlands airport looking at the future review of the flight paths envelope, which is part of an ongoing process.

Wellbeing, Communities & Housing

Councillor Whelband reported that at the recent Cabinet Sub-Committee Grants meeting, almost £630,000 was awarded in grants as part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Grants Fund to nine of good causes and projects across the District, including a Queen's Jubilee walk in the Kibworth ward. He also reported that he had recently visited the Harborough Leisure Centre as part of the 'jog-on' campaign, to re-cycle unwanted running shoes, which is also being run at Lutterworth Leisure Centre and the aim nationally is to save 1 million running shoes from going into landfill by sending these to developing countries.

Strategy

Councillor King reported that 18 individuals attended the Growing Enterprise programme, run by MBV, providing professional advice to assist people to grow and run a successful business and hosted by the Harborough Innovation Centre, which took place on the 31st October, 1st and 7th November.

The Market Harborough Jobs Fair took place on the 27th October with over 150 job seekers attending, and 83 job applications on the day received by employers.

TOPICAL ISSUES

Councillor King reported that Joules, a locally based clothing group, with headquarters in Market Harborough, had announced that morning that it was going into administration. Council Officers had contacted the company this morning to offer support.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were none.

DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Councillor King declared an interest in report 1 - Air Quality Update – Annual Status Report 2022 as he is a Member of Leicestershire County Council.

MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on the 10th October 2022 be approved as a correct record.

AIR QUALITY UPDATE – ANNUAL STATUS REPORT 2022

The Portfolio Holder introduced the report which updated Members on the outcome of the annual review of local air quality across the district and confirmed the 2021 Annual Status Report (ASR) to be submitted to Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), attached as Appendix A to the report.

It was noted that generally the air quality throughout the district is good. However, there are known issues in both Lutterworth and areas of Kibworth Beauchamp and Kibworth Harcourt along the A6 highway which cuts both villages, where exceedances of the annual average objective level for Nitrogen Dioxide have been identified. In 2020 the Council purchased a portable indicative air quality monitor called a Zephyr. During 2021 the Zephyr was installed in The Kibworths to monitor Nitrogen Dioxide and Particulate Matter (PM2.5 and PM10). The monitor did not record any exceedance of the air quality objectives for NO₂, PM2.5 or PM10 during the year.

Following a request regarding the location of the two diffusion tubes in Broughton Astley, it was AGREED that a diffusion tube would be re-located back to the Main Street in Broughton Astley.

The Regulatory Services Manager confirmed that despite the unusual previous two years and the associated effects on air quality, there would be no intention of reducing the level of monitoring undertaken within the District.

In response to a question relating to improvements to three junctions within the Air Quality Management Areas, the Regulatory Services Manager advised that information from the County Highways team has indicated that the improvements are dependent on detailed plans being drawn up and associated funding, which hasn't yet taken place.

RESOLVED that the 2022 Air Quality Annual Status Report (ASR) to be submitted to DEFRA as set out in Appendix A to the report be NOTED.

Reasons for Recommendations

The Local Authority has a statutory duty to submit an Air Quality Annual Status report to DEFRA and publish it in accordance with Part IV of the Environment Act 1995.

BAD DEBT WRITE OFFS (REVENUES AND BENEFITS)

The Portfolio Holder introduced the report which detailed the amounts that have been written off this financial year for the revenues and benefits service area in respect of National Non-Domestic Rates (Business Rates).

RESOLVED that the total amounts for National Non-Domestic Rates (Business Rates) £10,612.27 as listed in Appendix A to the report be written off.

Reasons for Recommendation

All reasonable steps to recover the debt have been taken, and therefore where write off is recommended it is the only course of action that is left available.

TO CONSIDER ANY MATTERS OF SPECIAL URGENCY

There were none.

The meeting ended at 5.54pm