

Cabinet

A meeting of Cabinet was held on Thursday, 14th September, 2017.

Present: Cllr Robert Cook (Chair), Cllr Jim Beall, Cllr Nigel Cooke, Cllr Mrs Ann McCoy, Cllr Steve Nelson, Cllr Michael Smith and Cllr Norma Wilburn.

Officers: Neil Schneider (CE), Beccy Brown, Ged Morton (HR&L), Garry Cummings (F&BS), Martin Gray, Dianne McConnell (CHS), Reuben Kench (CL&E), Richard McGuckin (EG&D), Jamie McCann (CS), Margaret Waggott, Peter Bell (DCE) .

Also in attendance: Cllr Gillian Corr, Cllr Lisa Grainge, Cllr Lynn Hall, Mr Chris Hammill (Head Teacher of Our Lady and St.Bede Catholic Academy), Simon White (Head Teacher of Egglecliffe School and Sixth Form College), Maura Regan (Carmel Multi Academy Trust), Members of the Public.

Apologies: None.

CAB Declarations of Interest **49/17**

Councillor Norma Wilburn declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 6 – School Performance 2016 – 2017 as she was a Board Member of Stockton Riverside College and had a grandchild at Rosebrook School.

Councillor Steve Nelson declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 6 – School Performance 2016 – 2017 as he was a Governor at Frederick Natrass School and had grandchildren at Northshore School.

Councillor Mike Smith declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 6 – School Performance 2016 – 2017 as he was a Governor at a school named within the report.

Councillor Bob Cook declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 6 – School Performance 2016 – 2017 as he was a Governor at Billingham South School and had grandchildren at Northfield School.

Councillor Gillian Corr declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 6 – School Performance 2016 – 2017 as he was a Governor at Myton Park Primary School.

Councillor Jim Beall declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 6 – School Performance 2016 – 2017 as he was the Chair of Governors at Rosebrook School and had a grandchild at named school within the report.

Councillor Gillian Corr declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 7 – An Investment Strategy for Schools, SEN and Early Years as she was a Councillor that represented that area.

Councillor Mike Smith declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 8 – Major Incident Plan as he was a member of the Emergency Planning Joint Committee.

Councillor Jim Beall declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 12 – Minutes of Various Bodies as he was a Board Member of

TSAB.

Councillor Nigel Cooke declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 13 – as he was a Board Member of Tees Music Alliance.

Councillor Steve Nelson declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in respect of agenda item 14 – Stockton-on-Tees Local Plan as he was a Director Thirteen Group. Councillor Steve Nelson withdrew from the meeting and left the room during consideration of the item.

**CAB
50/17** **Minutes**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meetings held on 12 July and 20 July 2017.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings held on 12 July and 20 July 2017 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

**CAB
51/17** **Children's Services Progress Update: Quarter 1 (April – June) – 2017/18**

Consideration was given to a report that provided a summary of performance across Children's Services. It was based on the Children's Strategy priorities agreed by Cabinet in June 2017. The strategy, agreed by Cabinet in June 2017, set out the key priorities for Children's services, and the key performance indicators associated with delivery.

The update report was in the following parts:

- a. Update on our 2017/18 priorities
- b. Update on other actions and progress against the wider strategy, including key performance measures.

RESOLVED that the report be noted, and in particular the achievements around:-

1. The performance of schools.
2. The impact of the recruitment campaign for experienced social workers.
3. The continued excellent performance of residential care homes in Stockton.

**CAB
52/17** **School Performance 2016 - 2017**

Consideration was given to a report that presented a headline summary analysis of performance in the academic year 2016-2017 against all the key stages for all providers in the Borough.

There was a strong trajectory of improvement evident in performance of pupils in the primary phase. All maintained schools received strong inspection outcomes retaining their high standards. This reflected the impact of the work of the Education Improvement Service in monitoring, challenging, intervening and supporting the sector. It was also of note that disadvantaged pupils had

performed well which had been a particular targeted area of work for the service.

Outcomes at secondary nationally were problematic due to changes in performance measures but the majority of schools in Stockton had fared very well. Improvements in secondary schools were being reflected in Ofsted outcomes which had been very pleasing in Stockton with significant gains which buck the national trends. The number of Stockton pupils attending good or better schools had increased to 91.6%. A few academies remained a cause for concern.

Results at Post 16 were strong with the school sixth forms and colleges performing well against the new examinations. Performance at the two Stockton colleges continued to improve year on year.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The standards and achievement across the Borough be noted.
2. The strong performance in Stockton schools be noted. In particular, the performance in the primary phase of disadvantaged pupils which had been a particular area of work for the service and the marked increase this year in Stockton secondary schools judged good by Ofsted which is up 45% to 89%.
3. The concerns around the performance of some Stockton secondary academies be noted and continue to be tracked.

**CAB
53/17**

An Investment Strategy for Schools, SEN and Early Years

Consideration was given to a report on the Investment Strategy for Schools, SEN and Early Years.

A report was presented to Cabinet in October 2016 which outlined a proposed strategy for investing in Schools, Early Years and SEN. This was following notification that the Council would be allocated £31m in 2018/19 and the strategy particularly gave consideration to capacity requirements. The Council had subsequently been notified of a further funding allocation of £6m which would be received in 2019/20.

The report developed the strategy and recommended proposals for a range of schools and establishments and included investments in a number of academies and diocesan schools.

The overall proposed allocations were summarised as follows:

Northfield School - £5.7m
All Saints - £3m
Our Lady and St Bedes - £5m
Egglescliffe - £8m
Conyers - £1m
Early Years - £2m
SEN - £2m
Skills Academy - £1.2m

Ian Ramsey / Outwood Bishopsgarth - £2.5m
Potential Primary Development / PRU - £6.6m
Total - £37m

Letters thanking the Council for its time, investment, continued commitment and support had been received from local schools. Representatives from some of the schools were in attendance at the meeting and expressed their gratitude for the Council's proactive and inclusive approach to education within the Borough.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The allocation of £37m of school capital funding be approved to support:

- a. Expansion and development of Northfield School, Our Lady and St Bedes Academy, Ian Ramsey, Outwood Academy Bishopsgarth, All Saints Academy and Eggescliffe School.
- b. Early years provision
- c. SEN developments
- d. The potential to build on the good judgement of the Bishopton PRU
- e. The potential for improvement and expansions as part of regeneration schemes.

2. The final allocation of £600k early years provision and £2.6m SEN Provision be delegated to the Director of Children's Services in consultation with Leader of the Council and the Director of Finance and Business Services.

**CAB
54/17** **Major Incident Plan**

Consideration was given to a report on the Major Incident Plan.

Under the Civil Contingencies Act the Council had a responsibility to prepare and maintain a Major Incident Plan. The Council were supported by the Joint Authority's arrangement which was known as the Emergency Planning Unit who provided specialist advice and support in the preparation and maintenance of the plan.

Under the legislation the Council was duty bound to maintain a frequent view of the Plan to ensure its currency and to ensure that the human resources associated with it remained current within the organisation.

A copy of the Major Incident Plan was attached to the report.

RESOLVED that the updated Major Incident Plan be approved.

**CAB
55/17** **Finance Update & Medium Term Financial Plan – June 2017**

Consideration was given to a report on the financial performance and position at the end of the first quarter of the 2017/18 financial year and updated the Medium Term Financial Plan accordingly.

A table within the report detailed the projected budget outturn position for each directorate in 2017/18, based on information to 30th June 2017.

The Capital budget for 2012/20 was attached to the report and summarised within the report.

The Department for Education announced grant funding to make capital investments in provision for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities; £206,435 2018/19, £206,435 2019/20 and £206,435 2020/21 had been added to the capital programme.

A S106 highway works at junction Low Lane and Thornaby Road £106,087 funded by the Developer had been added to the capital programme.

£6,350,000 Prudential Borrowing had been added to the capital programme to construct a crematorium including gardens of remembrance as per 20th April 2017 Cabinet report.

An additional £11,390,400 had been added to the capital programme to support the restoration of the Globe as per 20th July 2017 Cabinet report.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) and the current level of General Fund balances be noted.
2. The revised Capital Programme attached at Appendix A to the report be noted.

CAB
56/17 **Electoral Update**

Consideration was given to a report that provided feedback from the TVCA Mayoral Election in May 2017 and the UK Parliamentary Elections in June 2017 and an update on Electoral Registration and emerging issues.

The elections team were placed under significant pressure between September 2016 and June 2017 taking the lead in the first TVCA Mayoral Election in May followed by the snap General Election in June. This work took place alongside four by-elections, the elections for the MYP, the Annual Canvass, postal vote refresh exercise and a Household Notification Exercise during February.

The statutory election period for the Parliamentary election was underway before the polls for the Mayoral Election had been held. The risks associated with concurrent planning and administration of the polls under different legislation and Guidance was not be under estimated. The scale of the work, on the main elections alone was highlighted within the report.

Future elections included:-

- May 2019 - District and Parish elections
- May 2020 - PCC and TVCA Mayoral elections
- May 2022 – Parliamentary Elections across three different boundaries

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

CAB 57/17 Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman Complaints – The Local Authority Report for Stockton 2016/17

Consideration was given to a report that provided the details of the Ombudsman's annual review letter for the Council for 2016/17.

The Ombudsman had published the annual summary of statistics on the complaints and enquiries received about the Council and the decisions made in that respect for the year ended 31 March 2017.

It was positive to note that, whilst of course all complaints were considered very seriously and all recommendations and learning were adopted, there had been no formal public interest reports issued during the year and only three decisions upheld following detailed investigation by the LGO.

A copy of the 2017 review letter and statistics tables were attached to the report. A copy of the 2016 statistics table was also attached to the report for comparison purposes.

The number of decisions made by the Ombudsman in 2016/17 reduced slightly (from 45 to 41). The number of detailed investigations undertaken decreased significantly from 20 (in 2015/16) to 10 in 2016/17, and the number of complaints upheld also decreased significantly from 12 to 3.

The 3 upheld complaints were remedied by the Council following the Ombudsman's involvement.

Also attached to the report was a press release from the Local Government Ombudsman providing details about the Ombudsman's annual review of Local Government complaints for 2016/17. This provided a national context for Stockton's complaint and enquiry statistics.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The report be noted which sets out that no formal public interest reports have been received and three Ombudsman decisions were upheld for the year 2016/17.
2. It be noted that effective procedures remain in place to ensure that all learning from Ombudsman findings takes place.

CAB 58/17 Minutes of Various Bodies

Consideration was given to a report on the minutes of various bodies.

In accordance with the Council's Constitution or previous practice the minutes of the meeting of the bodies indicated below were submitted to members for consideration:-

SSP – 16 May 2017
TSAB – 26 April 2017
TVCA - Cabinet – 13 June 2017

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings detailed in the appendices be approved / received as appropriate.

**CAB
59/17** **Town Centres Update**

Consideration was given to a report on the progress of regeneration, economic development and infrastructure projects across the Borough's town centres. The report contained details of major projects in Stockton town centre, progress on initiatives to support retail and business growth, economic development projects and business support along with details of works in Yarm, Norton, Billingham and Thornaby, town centres.

It also sought approval to draw down funding which had been previously allocated in the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan to support the ongoing site assembly, property acquisition and infrastructure enhancements where appropriate to facilitate continued regeneration and growth.

The Medium Term Financial Plan report to Cabinet and Council in February 2017 approved funding to support the delivery of the Growth Plan and the Council's ambitions for developing the Borough.

Members were reminded that a report on the Globe was approved in July 2017 with a proportion of the funding. The Council would continue to invest in the area and take opportunities which often require flexibility and responsiveness. The recent purchase of Belasis Business Park where Council Urgency Powers had to be used was a prime example. Further investment in site assembly, property acquisition and infrastructure enhancements was identified within the report. This would require £3.975m of the previously agreed funding to be drawn down.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The continued positive impact and contribution to borough wide economic growth of infrastructure and economic development projects across town centres be noted.
2. The production promotional literature for Stockton Town Centre be noted.
3. £3.975m be drawn down from funds allocated for infrastructure and investment in the Borough in the 2017/18 Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) to support further investment, infrastructure enhancement and property acquisition to facilitate the ongoing regeneration of the Borough's town centres as set out in paragraphs 41-50 of the report.

**CAB
60/17** **Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012
Local Plan Regulation 19 Consultation**

Publication Draft Stockton-on-Tees Local Plan, Policies Map, Supporting Documents and Evidence Base

Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (2017) and Five Year Deliverable Supply Assessment

Consideration was given to a report on the work undertaken since the last report to Cabinet in November 2016: the preparation of the Publication draft version of the Plan - supporting documents and new evidence base. The report sought agreement to undertake and delegation of certain aspects of the processes required to enable the next stage of progress towards adoption.

Furthermore, the report gave an explanation of the updated Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (2017) which formed an evidence base to the Publication draft STLP and met the requirements of the NPPF, and the Council's updated position on five year housing supply.

In June 2016, Cabinet agreed to the production of a new Stockton on Tees Local Plan (STLP) and supporting documents to replace the existing policy documents and supersede the previous approach of the production of the Regeneration and Environment Local Plan.

Consideration was given to the Regulation 18 Consultation version of the draft STLP and supporting documents in November 2016. Following Council approval of the same, the documents were published for public consultation for the period 21 November 2016 to 20 January 2017.

Taking into consideration the representations received at Regulation 18 and new evidence, particularly around housing, the natural environment, infrastructure and landscape, the Publication draft version of the new Local Plan, Sustainability Appraisal and Policies Map had been prepared for consultation. Alongside this, and as previously referred to in the report of November 2016, a Consultation Statement and Infrastructure Strategy and Schedule (including Transport Assessment) had also been produced. The Publication draft version of the STLP was available on agenda and the Members Common Room.

The report also contained a short explanation of the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (2017) and Five Year Deliverable Supply Assessment. The full version of those documents was available on agenda and in the Member's Library in the Common Room. A short Glossary of Terms used in this report was attached to the report.

The next step was approval of Full Council to the content and progress of the Local Plan to Regulation 19 consultation and submission for Examination. Thereafter, all documents would be made available for a period of public scrutiny (Regulation 19) scheduled to commence on Monday, 25 September and closing on Monday, 6 November 2017.

Following the Regulation 19 consultation, the Submission version of the Local Plan, Policies Map together with all supporting documents and any representations that had been received, would be submitted to the Secretary of

State for Examination by an independent Inspector. It was expected that this process would begin in Winter 2017/18.

To enable the proper functioning of the independent Examination, a Programme Officer would be appointed to organise the Examination under the direction and guidance of the independent Inspector.

The public element of the Examination would probably take place in Spring / Summer 2018, the timetable of which would be determined by the Planning Inspectorate. The usual format for examination was a series of public hearing sessions, which allowed interested parties to participate in proceedings.

Once the examination process was complete, the Inspector would present the findings to the Council in the form of a report. Assuming that the STLP was found sound, it would then be adopted by Full Council. It was envisaged that adoption would take place by the end of 2018.

RECOMMENDED to Council that:-

- 1. The comments from Planning Committee (attached at Appendix 1 of the report) on the Publication Draft version of the Local Plan, Policies Map and Sustainability Appraisal be noted.**
- 2. The content of and consultation on the Publication Draft Local Plan, Policies Map, Sustainability Appraisal and Habitat Regulation Assessment be endorsed and recommended to Council for approval.**
- 3. Minor changes to the Publication Draft of the Stockton on Tees Local Plan and Policies Map and associated documents prior to public consultation (as the Publication Draft version of the Plan) be delegated to the Director of Economic Growth and Development in consultation with Chair of Planning Committee and Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing.**
- 4. Any minor changes to the Publication Draft version of the Local Plan following publicity under Regulation 19 to produce the Submission draft version of the STLP, and for Submission to begin the formal Examination in Public process be delegated to the Director of Economic Growth and Development in consultation with Chair of Planning Committee and Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing.**
- 5. A letter be sent, from the Leader of the Council to the relevant Minister requesting that an Examination date be expedited following submission of the Local Plan.**
- 6. The position of the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment 2017, housing projections and five year supply as set out at paragraphs 26, 27 and 28 of the report be noted.**