

CABINET MEETING

Meeting: 31 October 2023

At: 6.00 pm

PRESENT

Councillor Mark Hunter (Leader of the Council) (Chair) in the chair; Councillor Mark Roberts (Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Climate Change & Environment) (Vice-Chair); Councillors Grace Baynham (Cabinet Member for Parks, Highways & Transport Services), Keith Holloway (Cabinet Member for Health & Adult Social Care), Jilly Julian (Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources), Colin MacAlister (Cabinet Member for Economy, Regeneration & Housing), Wendy Meikle (Cabinet Member for Children, Families & Education) and Frankie Singleton (Cabinet Member for Communities, Culture & Sport).

1. MINUTES

The Minutes (copies of which had been circulated) of the meeting held on 19 September 2023 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors and officers were invited to declare any interests they had in any of the items on the agenda for the meeting.

The following interest was declared:-

Personal Interest

Councillor

Interest

Jilly Julian

Agenda Item 5 – ‘Care Leavers and Protected Characteristics’ as a trustee at Signpost Stockport for Carers

3. URGENT DECISIONS

No urgent decisions were reported.

4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Members of the public were invited to submit questions to the Cabinet on any matters within its powers and duties, subject to the exclusions set out in the Code of Practice.

No public questions were submitted.

Key Decisions

5. CARE LEAVERS AND PROTECTED CHARACTERISTICS (CF&E3)

The Cabinet Member for Children, Families & Education (Councillor Wendy Meikle) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) detailing a proposal for the

Council to treat those individuals with care experience as if it were a protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010.

RESOLVED - (1) That approval be given to Care Leavers / Care Experience being treated by the council as a Protected Characteristic.

(2) That it be noted that once approved by Cabinet, officers will work with the Care Leavers Forum to produce an action plan for the implementation of this change which will be presented to Cabinet in Spring 2024.

6. GREEK STREET AND STOCKHOLM BRIDGES (PH&T3)

The Cabinet Member for Parks, Highways & Transport Services (Councillor Grace Baynham) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) detailing the work undertaken to date to develop the design for the replacement Greek Street and Stockholm Road Bridges; a summary overview of highway network considerations following the closure of the bridge during Network Rail's bridge renewal and replacement works; and a proposed way forward and timescales for the works.

The following comments were made/ issues raised:-

- It was noted that the scale of the proposed works meant that it was likely that there would be some disruption to traffic, however officers were working to put in place as much mitigation as possible to minimise this.
- The proposal to include passive provision for Metrolink within the proposed design of the new bridges was welcomed.

RESOLVED - (1) That the Director of Place Management be authorised to continue to work with Network Rail and TfGM on the proposed replacement of the Greek Street Bridge on basis of the proposal detailed at Section 3.2 of the report including authority to develop and consult on a new highway layout over the Greek Street bridge.

(2) That the Director of Place Management be authorised to work with Network Rail and TfGM to develop the design for the Stockholm Road bridge within on the basis of the 'Option 2' proposal detailed at Section 3.5 of the report.

(3) That the Director of Place Management be requested work with Network Rail and their contractor to manage and mitigate the highway and rail impacts of the bridge replacements during construction as detailed in Section 5 of the report.

(4) That approval be given to the development, consultation and submission of the associated package of highway, cycle, and pedestrian improvements as part of CRSTS process following appropriate engagement and approvals from the Central Stockport Area Committee and Cabinet Member for Parks, Highways and Transport Services.

(5) That approval be given to the use of £1.9m of CRSTS strategic maintenance funding to pay the council's required contribution to the replacement of both structures and the £4.1m contribution of CRSTS funding towards the enhancements at Stockholm Road bridge.

7. THIRD ANNUAL FLOOD RESILIENCE REPORT AND HIGHWAY DRAINAGE ASSET MANAGEMENT UPDATE (PH&T4)

The Cabinet Member for Parks, Highways & Transport Services (Councillor Grace Baynham) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) detailing progress with regard to the Stockport Council Annual Flood Resilience Plan and describing the various roles and responsibilities of the Council with regard to flooding and flood resilience including its roles as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), Highway Authority and landowner both of greenspace and, working with Stockport Homes, its significant housing assets.

The following comments were made/ issues raised:-

- Proposals to plant more trees as a means of slowing the flow of water into drainage systems was welcomed.
- It was stated that councillors needed to be provided with contact information for use during flooding events to ensure that they could obtain and cascade information to residents promptly.
- It was noted that much of the drainage infrastructure owned and operated by the water companies across the country was designed to accommodate far lower levels of wastewater than was currently being generated and much of it was past the point that it should have been replaced.

RESOLVED - That the work undertaken to improve flood resilience in Stockport be noted and that the continued partnership working and investment in these areas be supported.

General Items

8. ACADEMY CONVERSION COST RECOVERY (NON-KEY)

The Cabinet Member for Children, Families & Education (Councillor Wendy Meikle) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) detailing a proposal for the Council to adopt a policy which enables it to recover the costs incurred through the conversion of a school into an academy trust.

RESOLVED - (1) That approval be given to the proposed cost recovery policy as detailed in the report.

(2) That authority be delegated to the Director of Education, Work and Skills, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children, Families & Education, to determine what works and costs may be charged to the school, indicated in Section 4 of the report.

(3) That authority be delegated to the Director for Education, Work and Skills to determine whether a school may be charged for a delayed or deferred conversion.

9. ANNUAL REPORT - ARMED FORCES COVENANT 2023 (NON-KEY)

The Cabinet Member for Communities, Culture & Sport (Councillor Frankie Singleton) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) outlining the purpose of the Armed Forces Covenant and providing an overview of key achievements against the identified priorities during 2022-2023 and an update on the Armed Forces Act 2021.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted and endorsed.

10. ANNUAL REPORT REGARDING COUNCILLOR CONDUCT 2022/23 (NON-KEY)

The Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources (Councillor Jilly Julian) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) detailing the 2022/23 Annual Report regarding Councillor Conduct.

RESOLVED - That the Council Meeting be recommended to note and formally receive the report.

11. RESPONSE TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SCRUTINY REVIEW INTO 'LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL AND GOVERNANCE SUSTAINABILITY' (NON-KEY)

The Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources (Councillor Jilly Julian) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) inviting the Cabinet to agree its response to the recommendations of the Scrutiny Review with regard to Local Government Financial and Governance Sustainability.

RESOLVED – (1) That the response to the recommendations contained in the 'Local Government Financial and Governance Sustainability' scrutiny review carried out by the Corporate, Resource Management & Governance Scrutiny Committee be approved.

(2) That the Cabinet's gratitude and appreciation be recorded for the excellent work undertaken the Scrutiny Review Panel and its contributors.

12. GMCA DECISIONS

The Leader of the Council (Councillor Mark Hunter) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) setting out decisions taken by the GMCA at its meeting on 29 September 2023.

RESOLVED – That the decisions be noted.

13. TO CONSIDER RECOMMENDATIONS OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

There were no recommendations to consider.

The meeting closed at 6.30 pm