

# Cabinet



**Forest Heath**  
District Council

**Minutes** of a meeting of the **Cabinet** held on  
**Tuesday 4 April 2017** at **6.00 pm** at the **Council Chamber, District**  
**Offices**, College Heath Road, Mildenhall, IP28 7EY

Present: **Councillors**

**Chairman** James Waters  
**Vice Chairman** Robin Millar

David Bowman  
Stephen Edwards

Lance Stanbury

**By Invitation:**

Ruth Bowman

(Vice Chairman of the Overview and  
Scrutiny Committee)

299. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Andy Drummond.

300. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 February 2017 were unanimously confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

301. **Open Forum**

No Non-Cabinet Members in attendance wished to speak under this item.

302. **Public Participation**

There were no questions/statements from members of the public.

303. **Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: 16 March 2017  
(Report No: CAB/FH/17/015)**

Councillor Ruth Bowman, Vice Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, presented this report which informed the Cabinet of the following items which had been discussed by the Committee on 16 March 2017:

- (1) Annual Presentation by the Portfolio Holder for Resources and Performance.
- (2) Decisions Plan: April 2017 to May 2017.
- (3) Work Programme Update.

Councillor Bowman also drew relevant issues to the attention of the Cabinet.

With the vote being unanimous, it was

**RESOLVED:**

That the content of Report No: CAB/FH/17/015, being the report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, be noted.

**304. Core Strategy Single Issue Review (CS SIR) and Site Allocations Local Plan (SALP) - Next Steps (Report No: CAB/FH/17/016)**

Councillor Lance Stanbury, Portfolio Holder for Planning and Growth, presented this report which was formally requesting the Planning Inspector appointed to Examine in Public the Core Strategy Single Issue Review (SIR) and the Site Allocations Local Plan (SALP), to make any necessary modifications to make the Plans 'sound' under Section 20 (7c) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

The Portfolio Holder explained that Planning Inspectors no longer make modifications unless specifically asked to do so by the Local Planning Authority. It was important that the Inspector be formally requested to do so, otherwise, if he found the Plan not to be sound, he would have no choice but to recommend that the Plan not be adopted and the Local Authority would have to start the Plan making process again. Therefore, to meet all the legal requirements and in accordance with paragraph 6.5 of the procedural practice in the Examination of Local Plans, a further resolution was requested under Section 20 of the 2004 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act.

With the vote being unanimous, it was

**RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL:** (26 April 2017)

That the Planning Inspector be requested to make any necessary main modifications under Section 20 (7c) of the 2004 Planning and Compulsory Purchases Act that he/she judges necessary, to make all submitted Local Plan documents 'sound'.

**305. Development of a New Partnership Agreement with Abbeycroft Leisure (Report No: CAB/FH/17/017)**

Councillor Robin Millar, Portfolio Holder for Families and Communities, presented this report, on behalf of the Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Culture (Councillor Andy Drummond), which sought approval for entering into a new Partnership Agreement with Abbeycroft Leisure Ltd.

This new Agreement had been developed in line with the previously approved principles and commitments of Cabinet and Council, as set out in Section 2 of Report No: CAB/FH/17/017 and, therefore, satisfactorily supported the objectives and priorities of the Council and Abbeycroft regarding the promotion of health and wellbeing by supporting people to engage in physical activity. As part of the new Agreement, Abbeycroft had also committed to deliver a zero management fee to the Council by 2025.

Whilst discussing this report, Councillor Millar also proposed that there should be an addition to Recommendation (2) of the report and that within the Performance Management Framework there should be an appropriate

indicator to measure the impact of Abbeycroft Leisure in the promotion of the role of community groups/the use of community sites in the provision of health and wellbeing.

With the vote being unanimous, it was

**RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL:** (26 April 2017)

That:-

1. A new Partnership Agreement be entered into with Abbeycroft Leisure for a period of 15 years, with options to extend for 5 + 5 years, subject to the protections included in the Partnership Agreement.
2. The Partnership Agreement be finalised in line with Report No: CAB/FH/17/017 and the Heads of Terms attached at Appendix 1, subject to the inclusion of an additional indicator within the Performance Management Framework to measure the increase in participation at community events, run by other partners, but supported by Abbeycroft Leisure Ltd.

**306. Establishing a Mechanism for Investing in our Growth Agenda (Report No: CAB/FH/17/018)**

Councillors Lance Stanbury (Portfolio Holder for Planning and Growth) and Stephen Edwards (Portfolio Holder for Resources and Performance) both presented this report which set out a proposed approach for establishing a mechanism for investing in the Council's growth agenda.

The Council had previously committed (with St Edmundsbury Borough Council) in its Medium Term Financial Strategy 2017-2020, its intention to facilitate sustainable growth that benefitted its communities, including through investment, over the period of the strategy. This was in order to deliver the Council's growth objectives, as well as moving towards its goal of self-sufficiency.

As part of the February 2017 Budget and Council Tax Setting report, a £20m revolving capital investment fund was created as a pending item within the Council's capital programme, funded from external borrowing. Report No: CAB/FH/17/018 proposed an approach to govern that fund and the creation of a £1 million (plus £1m from SEBC) revenue reserve budget to facilitate the fund's next steps in delivering growth and investment opportunities in West Suffolk.

The Portfolio Holders explained that the creation of the revenue reserve budget, which was proposed to be funded through a reserve transfer from the Strategic Priorities and Medium Term Financial Strategy Reserve utilising existing delegations of the Assistant Director (Resources and Performance), would be used to support delivery of the capital fund on such items set out in Section 5 of the report.

The Cabinet recognised the vision and forward thinking of the proposals, which fully supported the Council's strategic priorities and themes of the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2017-2021. Subject to the relevant checks

and balances as addressed in the report, the Cabinet agreed that the proposed governance would enable the Council to act more nimbly, swiftly and commercially to progress its growth agenda through the towns and rural areas of the District and West Suffolk.

Members also noted that further approval would be required on certain elements of the overall approach in relation to the development of an overarching investment strategy, which would be presented to Cabinet and Council in due course.

With the vote being unanimous, it was

**RESOLVED:**

That:-

1. The strategic approach to investment planning (as outlined in Report No: CAB/FH/17/018 and at Section 3) and the development of an overarching investment strategy for Council approval in due course be supported and approved.
2. The principle of the Cabinet's role in the leadership and decision-making in relation to the investment fund (outlined in Report No: CAB/FH/17/018 and at Sections 4 and 5) be supported and approved.
3. The transfer from reserves as detailed in paragraph 5.2 and 5.3 of Report No: CAB/FH/17/018 for the creation of a £1m revenue budget to support the capital investment fund, be noted.
4. It be noted that prior to the adoption of the overarching investment strategy, referred at 1. above, the current constitutional decision mechanisms will continue to operate.

**307. Decisions Plan: April 2017 to May 2017 (Report No: CAB/FH/17/019)**

The Cabinet considered Report No: CAB/FH/17/019, which was the Cabinet Decisions Plan covering the period April 2017 to May 2017.

Members took the opportunity to review the intended forthcoming decisions of the Cabinet, however, no further information or amendments were requested on this occasion.

The Meeting concluded at 6.20 pm

**Signed by:**

**Chairman**