

Cabinet



St Edmundsbury
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Cabinet** held on
Tuesday 19 September 2017 at **5.00 pm** in the **Conference Chamber**
West, West Suffolk House, Western Way, Bury St Edmunds IP33 3YU

Present: **Councillors**

Chairman John Griffiths (Leader of the Council) (in the Chair)
Vice Chairman Sara Mildmay-White (Deputy Leader)

Robert Everitt
Ian Houlder

Alaric Pugh
Peter Stevens

By Invitation:

Sarah Broughton

(Chairman of the Performance and Audit
Scrutiny Committee)

Susan Glossop

(Vice-Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny
Committee)

In attendance:

Carol Bull

David Roach

358. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Joanna Rayner.

359. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 June 2017 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

360. **Open Forum**

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

361. **Public Participation**

There were no members of the public in attendance.

362. Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: 19 July 2017

The Cabinet received and noted Report No: CAB/SE/17/041, which informed the Cabinet of the following items discussed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 19 July 2017:

- (1) Annual Presentation by the Cabinet Member for Housing;
- (2) Effective Member Development;
- (3) Use of Directed Surveillance Powers by the Anglia Revenues Partnership; and
- (4) Work Programme Update and Suggestions for Scrutiny

In the absence of the Chairman of the Committee, Councillor Susan Glossop, Vice-Chairman, drew relevant issues to the attention of Cabinet, including that a very informative and enlightening presentation had been provided by Councillor Sara Mildmay-White on her Housing portfolio; and that the Committee had made a number of recommendations to the Joint Member Development Group arising from its scrutiny of the current Member Development Programme. It had been pleasing to note that some of these recommendations had already been implemented.

363. Report of the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee: 27 July 2017

The Cabinet received and noted Report No: CAB/SE/17/042, which informed the Cabinet of the following items discussed by the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee on 27 July 2017:

- (1) Balanced Scorecards Quarter 1 Performance Report 2017-2018;
- (2) West Suffolk Strategic Risk Register Quarterly Monitoring Report – June 2017;
- (3) Work Programme Update;
- (4) Annual Performance Report for The Apex 2016-2017
- (5) Financial Performance Report (Revenue and Capital) 2017-2018 - (Quarter 1) (April to June 2017); and
- (6) Annual Treasury Management Report 2016-2017 and Investment Activity (April – June 2017).

Councillor Sarah Broughton, Chairman of the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee (PASC) drew relevant issues to the attention of the Cabinet, including that the first three items listed above had been considered jointly with Forest Heath District Council's PASC during an informal meeting.

The Cabinet particularly noted that the Committee had been pleased to welcome each Assistant Director to the PASC meeting to present and respond to questions on the balanced scorecard for their respective services; and that a positive report had been presented on the performance of the Apex for the 2016/2017 year.

364. Recommendations of the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee: 27 July 2017: Annual Treasury Management Report: 2016/2017 and Investment Activity 1 April to 30 June 2017

The Cabinet considered Report No: CAB/SE/17/043, which sought approval for the Annual Treasury Management Report for 2016/2017.

Councillor Ian Houlder, Portfolio Holder for Resources and Performance, drew relevant issues to the attention of the Cabinet, including that the Annual Treasury Management Report for 2016/2017, which was attached at Appendix 1 to Report No: TMS/SE/17/003, summarised the interest earned during 2016/2017 on the various treasury investments held by the Council; investment activity during the year and the investments held as at 31 March 2017.

The budgeted income from investments in 2016/2017 was £277,484 (average rate of return of 0.90%). Interest actually earned during the year totalled £417,358 (average rate of return of 0.763%); an over achievement of interest of £139,876, but an under achievement of 0.137% on average rate of return. This was primarily due to higher cash balances being held during the year than originally budgeted for.

On 4 August 2016, the Bank of England reduced its base rate to 0.25%, where it remained for the rest of 2016/2017 and the bank's Funding for Lending Scheme also remained open during the year. Consequently, interest rates offered by institutions remained low which resulted in a lower average rate of return being achieved by the Council during 2016/2017 than originally predicted. The Council, in February 2005, agreed to establish the Interest Equalisation Earmarked Reserve to help smooth out these fluctuations in returns. The balance in this reserve, as at 31 March 2017, was £359,630.

Recognition was given to those involved in the production of the Annual Treasury Management Report 2016/2017.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL:

That the Annual Treasury Management Report for 2016-2017, attached as Appendix 1 to Report No: TMS/SE/17/003, be approved.

365. Decisions Plan: October 2017 to May 2018

The Cabinet considered Report No: CAB/SE/17/044, which was the executive Decisions Plan covering the period October 2017 to May 2018.

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

366. Revenues Collection Performance and Write Offs

The Cabinet considered Report No: CAB/SE/17/045, which provided the collection data in respect of Council Tax and National Non-Domestic Rates and

sought approval for the write-off of debts as contained in the Exempt Appendices.

Councillor Ian Houlder, Portfolio Holder for Resources and Performance, drew relevant issues to the attention of the Cabinet, including the current collection performance, as set out in Section 3 of the report.

RESOLVED:

That the write-off of the amounts detailed in the exempt appendices to Report No: CAB/SE/17/045, be approved, as follows:

- (1) Exempt Appendix 1: Council Tax totalling £7,304.23;
- (2) Exempt Appendix 2: Business Rates totalling £13,116.58; and
- (3) Exempt Appendix 3: Sundry Debt totalling £3,385.52

367. Exclusion of Press and Public

See minute 368 below.

368. Exempt Appendices: Revenues Collection Performance and Write-offs (paras 1 and 2)

The Cabinet considered Exempt Appendices 1, 2 and 3 to Report No: CAB/SE/17/045 under Agenda Item 9, however no reference was made to specific detail and therefore this item was not held in private session.

The meeting concluded at 5.13 pm

Signed by:

Chairman
