

MINUTES of a meeting of the CABINET held in the Board Room, Council Offices, Whitwick Road, Coalville, LE67 3FJ on TUESDAY, 28 MARCH 2023

Present: Councillor R Blunt (Chairman)

Councillors R Ashman, R D Bayliss, T Gillard, K Merrie MBE and A C Woodman

In Attendance: Councillors R Johnson

Officers: Thomas, Mr J Arnold, Mr A Barton, Miss E Warhurst, Mr G Hammons, Ms R Haynes, Mr J Knight, Mr M Murphy, B Walford and Mr P Wheatley

77. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor N Rushton.

78. PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

There were no questions received.

79. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no interests declared.

80. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 28 February 2023 were considered.

It was moved by Councillor T Gillard, seconded by Councillor K Merrie and

RESOLVED THAT

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 February 2023 be confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings.

Reason for decision: To comply with the constitution.

81. QUARTER 3 PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Leader presented the report, and drew attention to the time lag between the period covered and the publication of the report and noted that the process for the production of this report would be reviewed.

The delays in the housing repairs programme were noted as was the need to focus on new issues like mould and damp. It was highlighted that a new Head of Housing, with background in housing repairs, had recently been appointed and that issues with staffing in the department be addressed. However in the interim, contractors had been appointed to help deal with the backlog of repairs outstanding and a normal repairs programme would resume in 2023-24 and 2024-25.

The Housing, Property and Customer Services Portfolio Holder stated that that the Council had been ahead of target on the provision of new dwellings and the production of social homes. It was also noted that all deferred improvement works would be completed by the end of March 2023 and that customer services had been exceeding targets in most cases.

Chairman's initials

The Leader also addressed the visitor economy, although figures related to the previous year. From 2010-19 there had been a steady growth, however, the impact of the Covid pandemic on 2020 had been heavy. It was demonstrated that 2021 had been a year of solid recovery and that signs of improvement remained evident.

The Community Services Portfolio Holder noted that footfall for the Newmarket had been encouraging, that whilst memberships to the new leisure centre had somewhat levelled off they remained ahead of target and that actions had been taken to tackle fly tipping and procedures had improved. Litter pickers had been provided with more equipment and rates of recycling had improved.

Members wished to thank the planning service, who had exceeded local and national performance targets.

A discussion was had around the ongoing work to support local employers, with DSV creating more jobs in the area and it was mentioned that public transport options had been piloted.

It was moved by Councillor R Blunt, seconded by Councillor T Gillard and

RESOLVED THAT

The progress against the Council Delivery Plan Actions and Performance Indicators for Quarter 3 of the financial year be noted by Cabinet.

Reason for decision: That Cabinet notes the progress against the corporate objectives and performance indicators for Quarter 3

82. UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND

The Business and Regeneration Portfolio Holder presented the report and highlighted what positive news the award of a £2.4 million Department of Levelling Up grant to the Council had been. He noted that the 15 projects earmarked for the grant would be carried out over the next two years and members thanked officers for their hard work in achieving this funding for the heart of the National Forest.

It was moved by Councillor T Gillard, seconded by Councillor K Merrie and

RESOLVED THAT

1. The £2,414, 817 grant and £20,000 of development grant from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund be accepted.
2. Authority be delegated to the Strategic Director (Place) in consultation with the Business and Regeneration Portfolio Holder to review and amend the North West Leicestershire Investment Plan Project Proposals set out in the report where required to respond and adapt to the changing economic environment and/or local needs.
3. Authority be delegated to the Section 151 Officer in consultation with the Business and Regeneration Portfolio Holder to submit the required formal reporting to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

Reason for decision: For Cabinet to review and approve the recommended delegations to oversee the delivery of the NWL UKSPF Investment Plan.

83. COMMUNAL CLEANING PROCUREMENT FOR HOUSING SITES

The Housing, Property and Customer Services Portfolio Holder presented the report. It was noted that the Council's sites would be included in the tender exercise, along with Leicestershire County Council's and that these sites included properties such as sheltered housing or flats.

It was moved by Councillor R Bayliss, seconded by Councillor K Merrie and

RESOLVED THAT

1. The procurement route through Leicestershire County Council for the communal cleaning of housing sites be approved.
2. The delegation of authority to the Strategic Director to award a contract to Leicestershire County Council in consultation with the Section 151 Officer and Portfolio Holder when the procurement process has been completed be approved.

Reason for decision: The level of expenditure on the proposed contract exceeds the authority level in the Scheme of delegation.

84. COALVILLE SPECIAL EXPENSES WORKING PARTY MINUTES

The Business and Regeneration Portfolio Holder presented the report. It was noted at the last meeting of Cabinet that the development of a budget for the Coalville Special Expenses Area had proven challenging for the Special Expenses Working Party. A balanced budget has now been set and innovative thinking is being applied to ensure the best possible services can be delivered to the residents of Coalville within the funding available.

As part of its responsibility there will be a programme of events in the town this year paid for by Special Expenses beginning with marking the Kings Coronation and concluding with the traditional Christmas in Coalville and festive lights.

The Portfolio Holder wished to amend Recommendation 2 which is reflected below.

It was moved by Councillor T Gillard, seconded by Councillor R Ashman and

RESOLVED THAT

1. The minutes of the Coalville Special Expenses Working Party be noted.
2. The Coalville Events programme for 2023/24 be approved.
3. The recommendations made by the working party at its meeting on the 14 February 2023 in respect of Claremont Drive Play Area and the Bardon Road Verge Project be noted but further information was required in order to make a decision.

Reason for decision: So that the decisions of the Coalville Special Expenses Working Party can be considered.

85. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED THAT:

In pursuance of Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting on the grounds that the business to be transacted involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act and that the public interest in maintaining this

Chairman's initials

exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

Reason for decision: To enable the consideration of exempt information.

86. AWARD OF HOUSING ZERO CARBON WORKS CONTRACTS

The Housing, Property and Customer Services Portfolio Holder presented the report.

It was moved by Councillor R Bayliss, seconded by Councillor R Blunt and

RESOLVED THAT

The recommendations as set out on page 79 of the agenda be agreed.

Reason for decision: The level of expenditure on the proposed contract exceeds the authority level in the Scheme of Delegation.

87. EAST MIDLANDS DEV CO LIMITED

The Deputy Leader and Council and Infrastructure Portfolio Holder presented the report.

It was moved by Councillor R Ashman, seconded by Councillor R Blunt and

RESOLVED THAT

The recommendations as set out on page 88 of the agenda be agreed.

Reason for decision: Consideration by Cabinet required to respond to the Funding Notice as set out in the report.

88. OWEN STREET RECREATION GROUND

The Community Services Portfolio Holder presented the report.

It was moved by Councillor A Woodman, seconded by Councillor R Blunt and

RESOLVED THAT

The recommendations as set out on page 118 of the agenda be agreed.

Reason for decision: To allow Coalville Town Football Club to gain the funding it requires to progress the project. Detail within the report.

The meeting commenced at 5.00 pm

The Chairman closed the meeting at 5.38 pm