

CABINET

At a meeting of Cabinet held on
16 November 2016

(Present)	Councillor Bowden (Chairman) Councillors Bell, Burns, Fulham, Gomez-Aspron, A Johnson, McCauley, L Preston and Quinn
(Not Present)	Councillor Grunewald
(Present as an Observer)	Councillors Baines, De'Asha, S Glover, J Jackson, Jones, Maloney and Mussell

63 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Grunewald.

64 MINUTES

- * **Resolved that the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 26 October 2016 be approved and signed.**

65 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS

No declarations of interest were made.

66 ISSUES ARISING FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

There were no Issues arising from Overview and Scrutiny.

67 BUDGET AND PERFORMANCE REPORT SEPTEMBER 2016

A report was submitted which informed Cabinet of Budget and Performance Monitoring for September 2016. Regular monitoring of both Council budgetary and performance information was provided in order to ensure the delivery of efficient, effective and value for money services that meet the needs and expectations of the customers and communities that it serves.

The report provided an analysis of budget and performance for each of the Council's Portfolios. The purpose of the report was to provide Cabinet with an overview of the budgetary position covering revenue and capital budgets along with key action being taken to ensure Portfolios remained within allocated cash limits. The performance section commented on significant issues around the delivery of services, the position of the Council's performance measures, and action required to address any identified concerns in relation to performance or service delivery.

- * **Resolved that the financial and performance positions of the respective Portfolios be noted.**

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68 SUPPORTING GROWTH THROUGH A NEW INVESTMENT APPROACH

A report was submitted which had been deferred from the Cabinet meeting held on 26 October 2016.

The report sought Members agreement to establish a control framework which would support the wider growth strategy whilst ensuring that the overall financial stability of the Council is maintained.

The report set out the key controls which would allow public investments to occur within a controlled environment which would take account of affordability, added value and risk.

* **Resolved that:**

- (1) **the following criteria for the control of Strategic Investments in support of the Council's Growth Strategy be agreed:**

- i. Overall Fiscal Benefit***

- The cost of the investment including interest and repayment and other related costs must be at least matched by additional net revenues, including related local tax revenues**

- ii. Added Value Analysis***

- The wider benefits of an investment can be added to the above in terms of job creation, environmental impact etc. however any net cost of investment must be capable of being funded within the overall Council Budget**

- iii. Benefits Over Time***

- Future revenues from investment can be taken into account as long as the risks are identified and quantifies and strategies are in place to manage these risks. In addition the short term costs must be quantified and funded within the overall resources of the Council**

- iv. Business Case Production***

- Each key investment would be subject to a rigorous financial assessment and a formal business case would be produced for each investment prior to any commitment and subsequent decision; and**

- (2) **an Investment Panel be established.**

69 ST HELENS LOCAL PLAN PREFERRED OPTIONS

A report was submitted which updated Cabinet that at its meeting held on 18 November 2015 Cabinet had resolved to proceed with a new Local Plan even though the Local Plan Core Strategy for St Helens was only adopted in October

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2012. This was based on Officers' recommendations and legal advice from Counsel.

The Council was now proceeding with a new single Local Plan for the Borough to replace the Core Strategy and incorporate the planned content of the Allocations and Sustainable Development Management Local Plans.

The housing and employment objectively assessed needs (OAN) studies undertaken in 2015 found that the growth needs for the Borough were very different to those in the adopted Core Strategy, in particular in relation to employment land where a much greater need was identified. This had implications for how much development should take place and where, and for the Council's plan making to meet these needs. Local authorities were required to plan positively to meet their identified local needs.

The Core Strategy identified that additional housing land would need to be found to meet the housing requirements from 2022 onwards through the Allocations Local Plan. This would have included amongst other things, releasing land from the Green Belt and therefore a Green Belt Review commenced in 2013.

In addition, since the Core Strategy was adopted national policy guidance now placed greater importance on demonstrating that sites included in the Council's housing land supply were in fact viable and deliverable within each Council's Local Plan period. The Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) was a review of the potential housing sites, including brownfield and greenfield sites, and was completed earlier in 2016. It demonstrated that the Council no longer had a five year housing supply, because some of the sites taken into consideration for the Core Strategy had to be discarded as they failed to come forward since the adoption of the Core Strategy and had no realistic prospects of being deliverable.

The Local Plan Preferred Options were outlined in the report.

Cabinet Members spoke in support of the Local Plan and its recommendations with particular emphasis for growth within the Borough, jobs and its contribution to a sustainable Borough for the future.

The Cabinet was informed that the decision was a Key Decision and details had been included within the Public Notice of Key Decisions published in accordance with the provisions within the Constitution.

* **Resolved that:**

- (1) the Local Plan Preferred Options recommendations as set out in the report be endorsed;**
- (2) a Borough wide consultation on the Council's Local Plan Preferred Options and Green Belt Review be proceeded;**
- (3) the Head of Regeneration be authorised to finalise the consultation documents for the Local Plan Preferred Options, including minor changes to the Consultation Draft of the Local Plan Preferred Options, Sustainability Appraisal, Habitats**

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Regulations Assessment, Proposals Maps and Green Belt Review; and

- (4) **the Head of Regeneration be authorised, in consultation with the Local Plan Member Steering Group, to make changes which may be considered to be of a more major nature.**

70 ST HELENS INFANT FEEDING STRATEGY 2016-2019

A report was submitted which informed Members of the St Helens Infant Feeding Strategy 2016-2019.

Breastfeeding was a public health priority that had been identified as a high impact area in the Healthy Child Programme, Sir Michael Marmot's review of health inequalities and by the World Health Organisation.

Breastfeeding provided both short and long-term health, educational and social benefits for babies, mothers and reduced inequalities. Breastfed babies have better neurological development, cholesterol levels and blood pressure. Their mothers have healthier weight and lower risks of breast and ovarian cancers, osteoporosis and hip fractures in later life.

Not Breastfeeding increases the risk of a range of infections, childhood obesity, asthma diabetes and sudden infant death. Artificial feeding was not equivalent to breastfeeding and was a myth that it is "nearly as good".

Members were informed that England had one of the lowest breastfeeding rates in the world and St Helens one of the lowest rates in England.

The report detailed that the Council challenge was to harness the positive support for breastfeeding to enable change in social norms that ensure that women have the information and support to feed their babies safely.

Priorities were to:

- build strategic awareness and support for the infant feeding agenda;
- build a social movement for change;
- provide appropriate information and support to women and their families; and
- ensure the training and data support this process.

Actions for the Council included engaging with partners to build alliances to support the infant feeding agenda, continuing to commission and provide infant feeding support services, working towards St Helens being a baby friendly borough and town centre and children's centres working towards Baby Friendly Status.

- * **Resolved that the St Helens Infant Feeding Strategy 2016-2019 be endorsed.**

71 LIVERPOOL CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY ORDER

The Chairman informed Members that the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Order was not available as the Government had failed again to meet its

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own deadlines for producing the final draft for consideration by constituent local authorities. The Chairman also stated that he intended to raise this with the Secretary of State, who he was due to meet with the following day. The Order was expected to be available for Cabinet on 7 December 2016.

* **Resolved that the item be deferred to the next Cabinet meeting.**

Note:

The Strategic Director of Environmental and Trading Services declared a personal, non pecuniary interest in Item 7 as Director of Red Bank Schools Ltd and remained in the meeting.

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