



CABINET

MEETING : Wednesday, 10th November 2021

PRESENT : Cllrs. Cook (Chair), H. Norman, Gravells MBE, Hudson and Morgan

Others in Attendance

Managing Director

Head of Policy and Resources

Head of Culture

Democratic and Electoral Services Officer

APOLOGIES : None

46. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

47. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 13th October 2021 are confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

48. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (15 MINUTES)

There were no public questions.

49. PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS (15 MINUTES)

There were no petitions or deputations.

50. LEADER AND CABINET MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME (15 MINUTES)

There were no questions to the Leader of the Council or Cabinet.

51. THE FUTURE OF THE TOURISM AND DESTINATION MARKETING FUNCTION

Cabinet considered the report of the Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure that provided a review of the work and impact of the tourism activity carried out by the Tourism and Destination Marketing Team, their role in supporting Gloucester's Visitor Economy, and sought that a decision be made on whether to keep the function within the Council beyond March 2022.

CABINET
10.11.21

The Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure expressed his pleasure in presenting such a positive report having been particularly impressed by the collaborative working demonstrated by the very small team. He reminded Members how important tourism is as an economic driver and drew their attention to the strong performance statistics especially those for the Gloucester Goes Retro festival (Appendix 1.2) and Visit Gloucester website which had doubled the number of users since 2019 (Appendix 1.5). The Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure further noted that stakeholder research had been undertaken (Appendix 1.7) and advised there remained areas for improvement that were being addressed.

The Cabinet Member for Environment reiterated that excellent progress had been made which reflected well on the team who had engaged with partner organisations across the city and county to support tourism in Gloucester. The Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy asked how such a precise number of domestic visitors to the City in 2019 had been calculated (Appendix 1.5). The Head of Culture reassured Members that he understood the total to be derived from bookings data supplied by the hotel sector and had been determined by The South West Research Company with robust methodology that met recognised industry standards.

RESOLVED that the Tourism and Destination Marketing Team should be kept within the City Council for the next three years.

52. GARAGE AUDIT

Cabinet considered the report of the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources that sought to recommend a strategy for the Council's garage stock.

The Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources referred to the Council resolution that prompted the report (18th March 2021 minute 88.13) and confirmed that the matter had been discussed with all three Councillors representing the Moreland ward. The Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure noted that the demand for garages had not diminished. He commented that investing in a Council asset to improve the offer to residents was the most sensible thing to do and that it was fair for rents to be reviewed. The Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy sought clarification on the impact of the recommendation regarding the number of cars parked in the roads. The Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources advised that the garages were too narrow for most modern cars and thus tended to be used for storage rather than parking. The Cabinet Member for Environment commented that as long as the investment was recouped it was good to help resolve residents' storage issues.

RESOLVED that subject to available funds our garages are invested in to improve the condition of our garage stock, reduce the waiting list and bring void garages back into use.

53. REVENUES AND BENEFITS SERVICE

Cabinet considered the report of the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources that sought approval for the Revenues and Benefits service to be insourced to the Council following a strategic decision by Civica UK Ltd to no longer provide Business Operations Services.

The Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources reminded Members of the circumstances concerning the award of the service contract to Civica (Cabinet 13th January 2021 minute 75) and noted that their decision to withdraw from the sector had impacted all of the local authorities they support. She advised that the recommendation of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (1st November 2021 minute 49) be accepted. The Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources highlighted the extra work done by the existing team under the extreme circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Cabinet Member for Environment commented that it would be right to keep the team close to the Council so that they could continue to do a great job.

RESOLVED that:

- (1) the Revenues and Benefits service is insourced with a commencement date of the 1st June 2022
- (2) the Head of Policy & Resources (in consultation with the Cabinet Member Performance & Resources and the Council Solicitor) is authorised to take such actions and make such arrangements as are necessary for the implementation of the above resolution including such legal processes and agreements.

54. REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT 2000 (RIPA) - ANNUAL UPDATE

Cabinet considered the report of the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources that updated Members on the Council's use of its powers under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA).

The Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources introduced the report and confirmed that the powers had not been used.

RESOLVED that the annual update on the use of RIPA powers is noted.

55. THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE AND LEISURE

Concerning the recent announcement that Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure would be stepping down, the Leader of the Council stated that he had done a brilliant job despite the difficulties presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. He expressed gratitude to the Head of Culture and officers for the excellent activities undertaken over that period but especially thanked the Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure on behalf of Cabinet.

**CABINET
10.11.21**

**Time of commencement: 6.00 pm
Time of conclusion: 6.18 pm**

Chair