



CABINET

MEETING : Wednesday, 7th November 2018

PRESENT : Cllrs. James (Chair), Watkins, Cook, H. Norman and Organ

Others in Attendance

Cllrs Pullen and Coole

Managing Director

Corporate Director

Corporate Director

Head of Place

Head of Policy and Resources

Housing Officer

Solicitor

Democratic Services and Elections Officer

APOLOGIES : Cllr. Noakes

49. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

51. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (15 MINUTES)

A member of the public referred to a resolution of the meeting of 7th March 2018 concerning Local Air Quality Management (Minute 105) whereby an air quality action plan for the City was to be completed by autumn 2018 and asked the Cabinet Member for Environment when it would be produced. The Cabinet Member for Environment gave assurance that the matter would be raised with the relevant officers and a written answer provided.

The member of the public further asked if the plan would cover all areas of air quality policy such as creating a greener urban environment and tackling particulates generated by large-scale construction and demolition activity in the city. The Cabinet Member for Environment replied that the Council had recently joined a local air quality partnership between private and public sector organisations intended to give an overarching view of the issue. The Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods commented that she was working alongside the Cabinet Member for Environment to address the wider aspects of air quality. She drew attention to work being done by the Gloucestershire Health and Wellbeing Board and the Environment pages of the Council's website where advice for

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residents may be found. The Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy acknowledged that the growth of the city will impact air quality and commented that this was included in the Joint Core Strategy. He further highlighted Gloucester's relatively good position in the Centre for Cities' latest rankings for emissions but emphasised that this was regarded as a benchmark to be improved upon.

52. PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS (15 MINUTES)

There were no petitions and deputations.

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

There were no questions to the Leader or Cabinet.

54. SEVERE WEATHER EMERGENCY PROTOCOL (SWEP) 2018/2019

Cabinet considered the report of the Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods that sought to update Members on changes made to the Gloucestershire SWEP 2018/2019, including the inclusion of yellow weather warnings that will further support those who are rough sleeping during adverse weather conditions.

The Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods highlighted the key changes to the protocol and advised Members that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had expressed their support. The Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy further summarised some of the advantages to the extension of the facility. The Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods emphasised the importance of increasing general awareness of the SWEP, drew attention to its on-going review and stated that feedback would be welcomed.

RESOLVED that changes to the SWEP 2018/2019 definition of 'Extreme Weather' and the additional support and protection this will provide are endorsed and welcomed.

55. ACCESSING THE PRIVATE RENTED SECTOR FOR TEMPORARY & PERMANENT ACCOMMODATION

Cabinet considered the report of the Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods that sought support for revised incentives to be made to landlords to secure referrals from the local authority to prevent or relieve homelessness.

The Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods outlined the background to the report, some of the challenges that the Council faces and the importance of co-operation with the private sector. She thanked officers for their work, especially in building relationships with private landlords to resolve often complex situations. The Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy commented that the population of the city was rising adding to the pressure and that recognising the contribution of private landlords was vital. He advised Members that the scheme should be reviewed if necessary. The Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources emphasised the importance of doing the right thing for people so they have some stability in their lives. The Cabinet Member for

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Regeneration and Economy reminded members that the incentives were one of a raft of measures to get people out of homelessness and temporary accommodation and reiterated that they be reviewed at an early stage to ensure effectiveness.

RESOLVED that:

- (1) the range of options as outlined in paragraphs 3.3 to 3.7 of the report be approved
- (2) the Head of Communities, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods, be authorised to agree any variations to the scheme or the way in which deposits are protected.

56. BUSINESS RATES - REQUEST FOR WRITE-OFF APPROVAL OVER £100K

Cabinet considered the report of the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources that sought to write off three Non-Domestic Rate debts in excess of £100,000.

The Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources expressed disappointment that this action was necessary but stressed that there was no impact on current budgets and that all possible avenues to recover these debts had been exhausted. She advised Members that the write off would not prevent the debts being pursued should additional information come to light in future. The Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Economy commented that these cases had special circumstances and represented a small percentage of the overall revenue.

RESOLVED that the amounts detailed in paragraph 4.0 of the report be written off.

Time of commencement: 6.00 pm

Time of conclusion: 6.25 pm

Chair