

Eden District Council

Cabinet Minutes

Date: 22 February 2022 Venue: Council Chamber, Town Hall, Penrith Time: 6.00 pm

Present:

Chairman: Councillor V Taylor

Vice Chairman: Councillor M Robinson

Councillors: J Derbyshire L Sharp
K Greenwood M Tonkin
M Rudhall

Officers Present: Ian Frost, Interim Chief Executive
Paul Sutton, Interim Director of Resources
Marianne Bastille, Assistant Director Finance & HR
Lisa Tremble, Assistant Director Legal and Democratic Services
Fergus McMorrow, Assistant Director Development
Amanda Yellowley, Assistant Director Customers and Performance

Democratic Services Officer: Lewis Powell

CAB/89/02/22 Apologies for Absence

No apologies for absence were received.

CAB/90/02/22 Minutes

The Chair deferred the signing of minutes CAB/79/01/22 to CAB/88/01/22 of the meeting of Cabinet held on 18 January 2022 to the next meeting of Cabinet.

CAB/91/02/22 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made at this meeting.

CAB/92/02/22 Questions and Representations from the Public

No questions or representations were received from the Public under Rules 3 and 4 of the Executive Procedure Rules of the Constitution.

CAB/93/02/22 Questions from Members

No questions or representations were received from Members under Rules 5 of the Executive Procedure Rules of the Constitution.

CAB/94/02/22 Corporate Performance Report: Q3: 1 October 2021 - 31 December 2021

Members considered the attached Report DoR07/22 of the Interim Director of Resources which provided a summary of progress against the revised corporate performance targets for the period 1 October 2021 – 31 December 2021, and informed the Cabinet of any areas of concern or issues requiring attention, together with the action taken to remedy these.

Proposed by Councillor Taylor
Seconded by Councillor Robinson

and **RESOLVED** that the progress for Quarter 3 2021/2022 be noted.

Reasons for Decision/ Recommendation: To advise Members of progress against outcomes.

CAB/95/02/22 Quarter 3 - Budget Monitoring 2021/22

Members considered the attached report DoR11/22 of the Assistant Director Finance & HR which summarises the Council's current Revenue & Capital position and full year projections for the third quarter of 2021/22.

Proposed by Councillor Greenwood
Seconded by Councillor Derbyshire

And **RESOLVED** that the projected revenue position at December 2021 be noted.

Reasons for Decision/ Recommendation: To keep members updated on the Council's Revenue and Capital budget monitoring positions.

CAB/96/02/22 Final Budget Proposals 2022/23 and the Medium Term Financial Plan

Members considered the attached Report No: DoR16/22 of the Interim Director of Resources. The Council is required to produce a balanced budget for 2022/23 as the basis for calculating its level of Council Tax. It has to base that budget on its Corporate Plan priorities and service delivery requirements estimated for the year, recognising any changes in service demand that may arise in future years. The purpose of this report is to:

1. receive and consider responses to the Council's budget consultation, which was published on 21 January 2022; and
2. receive and consider feedback from the Finance Scrutiny Committee on the proposed budget.

Proposed by Councillor Taylor

Seconded by Councillor Greenwood

and **RESOLVED** that:

1. the balanced budget to Full Council as set out in Appendix 1 be approved and recommended to Full Council;
2. a Council Tax freeze to be approved and recommended to Full Council;
3. the proposed capital programme 2022/23 – 2025/26 be recommended to Full council as set out in Appendix 2;
4. the latest Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) for 2022/23 to 2025/26 be noted as set out in Appendix 3;
5. the impact of the proposed budget on reserves be noted and the reserves be recommended to full council as set out in Appendix 4; and
6. the budget consultation responses summarised at section 13 and detailed at Appendices 5 & 6 (Appendix 6 to follow on closure of the consultation 21 February) be noted.

Reasons for the Decision/ Recommendation: to meet the statutory timescales for the setting of the Council's budget and the Council Tax.

CAB/97/02/22 Inspiring Eden Economic Development Framework

Members considered Report No: DCE13/22 of the Assistant Director Development which presented for approval, the initial 3 Inspiring Eden Work Stream Prospectuses as the basis for undertaking consultation before final approval by Cabinet. The report also provides an update on the Inspiring Eden Economic Recovery Plan and the proposed Penrith Place Plan which is being developed as part of the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal.

Proposed by Councillor Robinson
Seconded by Councillor Rudhall

and **RESOLVED** that

1. The work stream prospectuses, as detailed in Appendix 2 to this report, are approved with authority delegated to the Assistant Director Development, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Economy and Enterprise, to finalise the documents and agree an approach to consulting with stakeholders as the basis for producing updated versions for consideration and approval by the Cabinet;
2. The update on the Inspiring Economic Recovery Plan detailed in this report be noted;
3. Approval is given to removing the current upper age limit as part of the Eden Apprenticeship Grant Scheme; and

4. The current version of the Penrith Place Plan, as detailed in Appendix 3 to this report, be approved with authority delegated to the Assistant Director Development, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Economy and Enterprise, to agree the final version and oversee the Council's input into the investment plan which will shape the detail for delivery.

Reasons for Decision/ Recommendation: To put in place an effective economic development policy and delivery framework that will drive the implementation of the Council's Corporate Plan and One Eden initiative in supporting local businesses within the current difficult economic climate and sustaining and developing this support through the local government reorganisation process.

CAB/98/02/22 Equality Objectives 2021-2025 under the Equality Act 2010 Act

Members considered Report No: DoR08/22 of the Interim Director of Resources in respect of setting Equality Objectives that outline how the Council plans to meet the requirements of the Public Sector Equality Duty. Setting four yearly objectives gives the Council an opportunity to show its commitment to Equality/Equity and the approach it plans to take. The adoption of the new objectives will form part of a wider piece of work being undertaken by the Council to improve its Equality, Equity and Diversity practices and understanding.

Proposed by Councillor Taylor
Seconded by Councillor Sharp

and **RESOLVED** that the proposed updated Equality/ Equity Objectives are adopted by the Council and published on the Council's website.

Reasons for the Decision/ Recommendation: It is recommended the proposed Equality/ Equity Objectives included in this report are adopted, for the reasons cited in Section 4.

CAB/99/02/22 Establishment of a Westmorland and Furness Joint Committee

Members considered Report No: CE1/22 of the Chief Executive which recommended that as one of the Councils making up the area which will be covered by the forthcoming Westmorland and Furness Council, a Westmorland and Furness Joint Committee is established.

Proposed by Councillor Greenwood
Seconded by Councillor Tonkin

and **RESOLVED** that Cabinet:

1. Agree to the establishment of the Westmorland and Furness Joint Committee as detailed in the report and to the terms of reference attached at Appendix 1; and
2. Delegates the executive functions within the Terms of Reference to the Westmorland and Furness Joint Committee.

Reasons for the Decision/ Recommendation: The Cabinet and Council are recommended to agree to the establishment of the Westmorland and Furness Joint Committee to comply with the statutory requirement of the forthcoming changes order and to facilitate as efficiently as possible, the ongoing Local Government Reorganisation

CAB/100/02/22 Business Rates Relief 2022/23

Members considered Report No: DoR13/22 of the Interim Director of Resources which advises Members of the two rate relief schemes that come into effect on 1 April 2022: the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Relief Scheme and the extension of Transitional Relief and Supporting Small Business scheme.

Proposed by Councillor Robinson
Seconded by Councillor Taylor

and **RESOLVED** that:

1. approval be given to the use of discretionary powers by the Council under Section 47 of the Local Government Act 1988 (as amended) to award Retail Discounts for Business Rates for the financial years 2022-2023; and
2. it be agreed that determination by the Council of awards of the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Relief Scheme and the extension of Transitional Relief and Supporting Small Business scheme be made having regard to the Guidance published by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities in December 2021 (attached at Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 in this report).

Reasons for the Decision/ Recommendation: Business Rates are often seen as a disproportionate overhead for ratepayers, especially those in the retail sector and those not eligible for full Small Business Rate Relief. This relief will provide financial assistance to ratepayers at no cost to the Council.

CAB/101/02/22 Any Other Items which the Chairman decides are urgent

There were no other items which the Chairman felt were urgent.

CAB/102/02/22 Housing Advice and Homelessness Services Contract

Members considered Report No: DoR15/22 of the Interim Director of Resources which sought approval for an extension of the Housing Advice and Homelessness Service contract with Eden Housing Association.

Proposed by Councillor Greenwood
Seconded by Councillor Derbyshire

and **RESOLVED** that Cabinet approves a two-year extension to the Housing Advice and Homelessness Services contract to 31 March 2024.

Reasons for the Decision/ Recommendation: To ensure that housing advice and homelessness services are provided beyond March 2022.

CAB/103/02/22 Exclusion of the Press and Public

RESOLVED that in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, members of the public (including the press) be excluded from the meeting during discussion of the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 to Schedule 12A of the Act.

CAB/104/02/22 Sale of Land at Eden Business Park

Members considered the attached report DCE15/22 of the Deputy Chief Executive which sought to approve the sale of land at Eden Business Park to facilitate economic development.

RESOLVED that Cabinet approves the sale of the land at Eden Business Park as set out in this report.

CAB/105/02/22 Date of Next Scheduled Meeting

The date of the next scheduled meeting of the Cabinet was confirmed as the 19 April 2022.

The meeting closed at 6.51 pm

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