

CABINET

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 26 OCTOBER 2023

Present:

Councillor Nigel Barker (Chair) (in the Chair)
Councillor Pat Kerry (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Jayne Barry
Councillor Stephen Pickering

Councillor Joseph Birkin

Also Present:

L Hickin	Managing Director - Head of Paid Service
M Broughton	Director of Growth and Assets
J Dethick	Director of Finance and Resources & (Section 151 Officer)
S Sternberg	Assistant Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer
K Drury	Information Engagement & Performance Manager
D Parker	Joint Housing Strategy & Intelligence Officer
A Maher	Governance Manager
T Scott	Governance and Scrutiny Officer

CAB/ Apologies for Absence

39/2

3-24 With the agreement of the Chair, Councillor K Rouse contributed to the meeting virtually through the electronic Conference Call system. She did not participate in the decisions taken by Cabinet at the meeting.

CAB/ Declarations of Interest

40/2

3-24 None.

CAB/ Minutes of the Last Meeting

41/2

3-24 RESOLVED - That the Minutes of the meeting held on 21 September 2023 were approved.

CAB/ Equality Plan and Objectives 2023 - 2027

42/2

3-24 Cabinet considered proposals to adopt the draft Equality Plan 2023-2027 and to note the achievements and progress made under the last two years of the previous plan (2019-2023). Appendix 2 to the report included a review of the previous plan and set out the specific objectives which had been achieved.

Members heard that the Council was required under the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) to set equality objectives every four years. The new objectives had been set following extensive consultation with Members of the Council, the Citizens' Panel and the public. Email subscriber groups, the British Deaf Association (BDA) and other stakeholders had also been consulted.

Cabinet discussed the report. Members felt that the Council had made significant

progress towards achieving its Equality Objectives in recent years. There was a consensus that the proposed new plan would build further on this success and that it should be supported.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That Cabinet approved and adopted the Equality Plan and objectives for 2023-2027.
- (2) That Cabinet noted the achievements and progress made under the last two years of the previous plan (2019-2023).

REASONS FOR DECISION – To put into place the proposed Equality Plan and objectives 2023-2027, which will provide the framework for implementing the Council's obligations regarding the general and specific equality duties. The proposed Equality Plan and objectives have received broad support.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED – Not applicable as the Council is required under the Public Sector Equality Duty to set equality objectives every four years.

CAB/ 43/2 3-24 **Safeguarding Policy and Procedures - Protecting Children and Adults at Risk**

The report to Cabinet proposed that the final draft of the Derbyshire-wide Safeguarding Policy (Safeguarding Policy and Procedures, Protecting Children and Adults at Risk) should be adopted. This policy, it was explained, would replace the Council's existing Adult and Child Safeguarding policies.

Cabinet heard how the Derbyshire Safeguarding Leads Group had agreed that a Safeguarding Policy should be developed by all District and Borough Councils across Derbyshire together. This would, they argued, help to ensure consistency of the service offered in the County and help the Councils respond to new challenges, in what was an evolving Safeguarding environment.

Cabinet discussed the report. Members believed that Safeguarding was an important issue for the District, which would be becoming increasingly significant over time. They felt that the proposed Derbyshire-wide policy was precisely what was needed to help meet the challenges that the Districts and Borough Councils would face.

The Managing Director wished to place on record the Council's gratitude towards the Housing Policy and Intelligence Officer in developing the proposed policies.

RESOLVED – That Cabinet approved and adopted the final draft of the Derbyshire-wide policy (Safeguarding Policy and Procedures, Protecting Children and Adults at Risk).

REASONS FOR DECISION – The Derbyshire-wide policy will subsequently replace the current Adult and Child Safeguarding policies. The Policy complies with legislation and provides a framework for Safeguarding.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED – Not adopting the Derbyshire-wide policy and continuing to have two policies in place was considered but rejected, as the partnership approach provides consistency across Derbyshire for Safeguarding.

CAB/ Urgent Items

44/2

3-24 None.

CAB/ Exclusion of Public

45/2

3-24 RESOLVED – That the public be excluded from the meeting during the discussion of the following items of business to avoid the disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, (as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006).

CAB/ Purchase of 3 New Build Homes at Woolley Moor

46/2

3-24 Cabinet received a report which proposed the purchase of 3 new build affordable rent homes, recognising the need for affordable housing in the Woolley Moor area.

RESOLVED – That Cabinet approved the purchase of 3 new build affordable rent homes, recognising the need for affordable housing in this area.

REASONS FOR DECISION – Purchasing these homes will help to meet the housing need in this area, where there is a limited number of homes for rent at affordable levels.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED – The option of not purchasing these homes was considered but rejected for the reasons specified in the report.

CAB/ Urgent Items

47/2

3-24 None.