

CABINET

MINUTES of a meeting of the Cabinet held on 2 March 2021 at Council Chamber, County Hall, Lewes

PRESENT Councillors Keith Glazier (Chair)
Councillors Nick Bennett (Vice Chair), Bill Bentley, Claire Dowling,
Carl Maynard, Rupert Simmons, Bob Standley and Sylvia Tidy

Members spoke on the items indicated

Councillor Bennett	- item 5 (minute 44)
Councillor Bentley	- item 5 (minute 44)
Councillor Godfrey Daniel	- item 5 (minute 44)
Councillor Philip Daniel	- item 5 (minute 44)
Councillor Field	- item 5 (minute 44)
Councillor Galley	- item 5 (minute 44)
Councillor Shuttleworth	- item 5 (minute 44)
Councillor Simmons	- item 5 (minute 44)
Councillor Standley	- item 5 (minute 44)
Councillor Tutt	- item 5 (minute 44)
Councillor Ungar	- item 5 (minute 44)

42 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 26 JANUARY 2021

42.1 The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 26 January 2021 were agreed as a correct record.

43 DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS

43.1 Councillor Sylvia Tidy declared a personal non-prejudicial interest in item 6 as a member of the Board of Conservators of Ashdown Forest.

44 COUNCIL MONITORING: QUARTER 3 2020/21

44.1 The Cabinet considered a report by the Chief Executive.

44.2 It was RESOLVED to:

1) note the latest monitoring position for the Council; and

2) approve the proposed amendments to performance measures as set out in paragraph 2.1 of the report.

Reason

44.3 The report sets out the Council's position and year end projections for the Council Plan targets, Revenue Budget, Capital Programme, Savings Plan together with Risks for 2020/21 quarter 3.

45 CONSERVATORS OF ASHDOWN FOREST - OUTTURN FOR 2020/21 AND INTERIM BUDGET FOR 2021/22

45.1 The Cabinet considered a report by the Chief Operating Officer.

45.2 It was RESOLVED to:

1. note the financial outturn position for the Conservators' Core Budget for 2020/21;
2. approve the provision of £69,792 as one-off financial support to meet the overall deficit in 2020/21, arising primarily as a consequence of the Covid-19 pandemic;
3. approve the Conservators' Core interim budget for 2021/22, noting that the Board of Conservators has provided assurance that the balanced budget is deliverable and there is no requirement for the County Council to provide additional funding in 2021/22; and
4. approve the annual grant for 2020/21 from the Ashdown Forest Trust Fund

Reason

45.3 While the County Council has a statutory obligation to meet the shortfall between expenditure and income of the Conservators, it also has the responsibility for approving the level of expenditure. It is recognised that the 2020/21 deficit in the Core budget has arisen as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic and was not foreseeable when the budget was agreed.

45.4 The interim budget for 2021/22 has been approved by the Board of Conservators. In doing so, the Board has provided assurance that the balanced budget is deliverable and there is no requirement for the County Council to provide additional funding in 2021/22. The Board has committed to providing quarterly update reports and work to deliver a Medium Term Financial Plan by September 2021, that will support the strategic objectives of the Conservators of Ashdown Forest.

46 ITEMS TO BE REPORTED TO THE COUNTY COUNCIL

46.1 It was agreed that items 5 and 6 should be reported to the County Council.
[Note: The items being reported to the County Council refer to minute numbers 44 and 45]