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BRECKLAND COUNCIL

At a Meeting of the

CABINET

Held on Monday, 6 June 2022 at 9.30 am in
Attleborough Town Hall, Queen's Square, Attleborough NR17 2AF

PRESENT

Cllr Sam Chapman-Allen
(Chairman)
Cllr Paul Claussen (Vice-
Chairman)
Cllr Gordon Bambridge
Cllr Philip Cowen

Cllr Paul Hewett
Cllr Jane James
Cllr Sarah Suggitt
Cllr Alison Webb

Also Present

Cllr Timothy Birt
Cllr Keith Martin
Cllr Marion Chapman-Allen

Cllr Vera Dale
Cllr Terry Jermy

In Attendance

Claire Burton

Alison Chubbock
Jason Cole
Andrew Holdsworth
Stephen James
Rory Ringer

Rob Walker
Teresa Smith
Julie Britton

- Organisational Development Performance Manager
- Section 151 Officer & Assistant Director Finance
- Executive Director
- Assistant Director Economy and Growth
- Executive Director
- Democratic Services Manager (Deputy Monitoring Officer)
- Executive Director & Monitoring Officer
- Democratic Services Team Leader
- Democratic Services Officer

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49/22 MINUTES

Councillor Birt was disappointed that the previous Cabinet meeting had not been recorded or live-streamed and the minutes had not accurately recorded what had been said.

He referred to minute reference: 43/22 - HSAZ Swaffham Conservation Area Appraisal (CAA) Conservation Area Management Plan (CAMP) and Masterplan Final Documents; paragraph 9 and stated that his question should read: "why the report claimed in Section 5.1.2 that there were no direct adverse implications for our carbon footprint at the same time as restricting solar PVs".

He also referred to his question that he raised in respect of car parks in

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Swaffham where the Chairman had responded by saying it had been 'a loaded question' and was disappointed that this had not been reflected in the minutes.

The Chairman said that his response reflected his own personal point of view and felt that Councillor Birt's second question had been recorded accurately within the minutes.

In relation to Councillor Birt's first point in respect of Minute No. 43/22, Members agreed that the Minutes should be amended to support the question in relation to the solar panels.

Subject to this amendment, the minutes of the meeting held on 25 April were approved.

50/22 APOLOGIES

An apology had been received from Councillor Ian Sherwood.

51/22 URGENT BUSINESS

None.

52/22 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None.

53/22 NON-MEMBERS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE MEETING

The Chairman welcomed non-Members to the meeting.

54/22 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (IF ANY)

The Chairman thanked everyone across the district who were involved with the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations. The £12,000 of funding for events meant an enormous amount to people and it was fantastic to see so many smiling faces across the social media enjoying celebrations.

55/22 BRECKLAND COMMUNITY FUNDING APPLICATIONS (STANDING ITEM)

Councillor Webb, the Executive Member for Health and Communities had been honoured to attend some of the Jubilee celebrations and had received nothing but thanks for what Breckland Council had made possible.

Members were informed that applications for the match funding scheme available to Parish Councils, community groups and any projects would be closing on 17th June. There would be further rounds available throughout the course of the year.

In addition, Councillor Webb encouraged applications for the Bursary Scheme that had been made available for those returning to study who could request help towards equipment or study fees.

56/22 QUARTER 4 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2021-22

Councillor Phil Cowen, the Executive Member for Finance, Revenue and

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Benefits presented the report that provided information on the actual full year financial position of the Council as of 31 March 2022.

It was reported that in terms of the revenue outturn the Council would only require a contribution from the General Fund of £25k in order to balance the account. This was a significantly better position than was anticipated at Quarter 1 when it was anticipated that a contribution of £531k would be required which demonstrated the commitment to achieve efficiencies without the detrimental impact on service delivery.

The Evolve Programme would continue to deliver efficiencies in line with the corporate objectives to provide the best possible value for money to the residents and businesses throughout Breckland.

The Capital account had £2m carried forward to subsequent years and whilst it was not normally healthy to have such large amounts being carried forward there were areas such as ICT and the waste vehicles refresh which was not in a position to expend the sums involved.

Councillor Hewett commended the team for delivering what it said it would which was phenomenal given the current financial climate.

Councillor Jermy was pleased to see that there had been a significant reduction to reduced repair costs of the footway lighting. He had assumed that there had been a calculation made on the carbon saving and would like to see this reported on. He went on to say that the pathways owned by Breckland were in an appalling condition and asked if there was a programme of works as he felt that residents would like to see this. In addition, he noted that the housing register demand had increased by 30% and the housing benefit claims referenced an increase of 27% and asked if there was a correlation between increased demand and costs as well as costs and if the budget was sufficient for this year.

Councillor Hewett would report back to Councillor Jermy on the rolling budget and programme of footway repairs. He added that he had data relating to the carbon saving of street lighting which equated to 11kw since the new LED lights had been installed.

Councillor Cowen responded to say he believed there had been a correlation between increased demand and costs and would ask the Head of ARP to provide a written response.

Councillor Birt hoped to have seen a risk assessment based on pushing funding forward but as there was a high inflation rate and a lack of skilled workers he felt that this would be a risk to the Council and its ability to deliver on projects. It was confirmed that the report was based on looking back, rather than forward, and therefore increase in inflation would be considered in future reports.

Options

- 1) That the report and appendix be noted and Recommend to Full Council:
 - 1) That capital budgets (& associated funding sources) of £1,932,375 be carried forward into 2022-23 to support projects in progress.

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- 2) That the final capital out-turn and funding for 2021-22 as detailed in appendix B be approved.
- 3) That the revised capital budget and associated funding for the 2022-23 capital programme as detailed in appendix C be approved

2) Do nothing.

Reasons for Recommendation(s)

To provide timely information to Members on the overall financial position of the Council, enabling resource re-allocation to priorities where necessary and protecting the General fund balance.

To enable approved capital projects to continue to deliver in the new financial year.

RESOLVED that Cabinet note the report and appendices; and

Recommend to FULL COUNCIL:

- 1) That capital budgets (& associated funding sources) of £1,932,375 be carried forward into 2022-23 to support projects in progress.
- 2) That the revised capital budget and associated funding for the 2022-23 capital programme as detailed in appendix B of the report be approved.
- 3) That the final capital out-turn and funding for 2021-22 as detailed in appendix C of the report be approved.

57/22 QUARTER 4 PERFORMANCE REPORT 2021-22

Councillor Jane James, Executive Member for Customer and Corporate Services provided Members with an overview of the Council's performance for the period 1 January 2022 and 31 March 2022. The report had also been presented at the Overview and Scrutiny Commission meeting on 26 May where further information had been requested.

Claire Burton, Organisational Delivery and Performance Manager added that information would be forwarded to the Commission on the number of food businesses ratings from satisfactory and above and also the other points of clarification raised at Overview and Scrutiny.

Councillor Hewett said it had been an impressive set of Key Performance Indicators and was pleased to see the commercial property yield had been significantly higher than forecasted, a 6.7% return which paid significant benefits to residents of the District.

Councillor Birt added that it had been raised at the recent Overview and Scrutiny Commission as well as the Town and Parish Forum that the telephone number was not easily accessible and asked if it was, what effect that would have on the chatbot. He also asked for the success rate on the Chatbot.

Members were informed that the telephone number was accessible and that

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information on the Chatbot data would be provided.

Members noted the contents of the report.

58/22 NEXT MEETING

The arrangements for the next meeting on Monday 25 July at 9.30am in the Anglia Room, The Conference Centre, Elizabeth House, Walpole loke, Dereham were noted.

The meeting closed at 10.33 am

CHAIRMAN