

Crawley Borough Council

Minutes of Cabinet

Wednesday, 15 January 2020 at 7.00 pm

Councillors Present:

P K Lamb (Chair)	Leader of the Council
I T Irvine	Cabinet Member for Housing
C J Mullins	Cabinet Member for Wellbeing
P C Smith	Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Development and Deputy Leader

Also in Attendance:

Councillor D Crow and R D Burrett

Officers Present:

Natalie Brahma-Pearl	Chief Executive
Ann-Maria Brown	Head of Legal, Democracy and HR
Karen Hayes	Head of Corporate Finance
Jo Newton-Smith	Procurement Manager
Chris Pedlow	Democratic Services Manager
Louise Skipton-Carter	Sustainability Manager
Clem Smith	Head of Economy and Planning
Kate Wilson	Head of Community Services

Apologies for Absence:

Absent

Councillor B A Smith

1. Disclosures of Interest

No disclosures of interests were made.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 27 November 2019 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Leader.

The Chief Executive provided the Cabinet with an update on Minute 16, 'Extending Gigabit Ultrafast Public Fibre Connectivity', noting that since the Cabinet meeting further negotiation had taken place over the Gigabit Ultrafast contract with West Sussex County Council and their provider and it has become more advantageous for the Council to sign a 7 year contract on better terms than the originally agreed 30 year contract. As a result the Chief Executive in consultation with Leader would be pursuing the 7 year deal under the previously approved delegation.

3. Public Question Time

There were no questions from the public.

4. Matters referred to the Cabinet and any report from the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission

It was confirmed that no matters had been referred to the Cabinet for further consideration.

5. Insurance Tender Appraisal

The Leader of the Council presented report [FIN/486](#) of the Head of Corporate Finance which sought a delegation to the Leader of the Council for the awarding of the Council's insurance contract and its Commercial Property insurance contract. It was noted that the Council was currently undertaking a procurement exercise for insurance placements using the Yorkshire Procurement Organisation (YPO) framework to ensure that the Council achieves the best value for money.

Councillor Crow was invited to speak on the item and in response to queries raised the Leader confirmed that the proposed delegation of the contract was a one-off delegation and ongoing change. He also confirmed that the reason for following this approach was that the local government mutual insurance scheme, of which the Council was a founding member, was not fully ready to trade and as such provide the Council with the required insurance provision. The Council therefore had to go out to tender for the two insurance contracts.

RESOLVED

The Cabinet

- a) notes the current work taking place on the Council's insurance contract and the Commercial Property insurance contract.
- b) delegates the one-off decision to award the contracts for the provision of insurance to the Leader of the Council, following the evaluation of the tender process.

Reasons for the Recommendations

In line with the Constitution, Cabinet would normally award any contract with a total value over £500,000. Due to tight implementation timescales, the report recommends that the best approach in order to meet the contract start date is to seek approval to

delegate the contract award decision. It is therefore recommended that the Leader of the Council makes the award decision.

6. Draft Crawley Transport Strategy

The Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Development presented report [PES/341](#) of the Head of Economy and Planning which sought approval to commence a period of public consultation on the draft Crawley Transport Strategy (Appendix A of report [PES/341](#)). The draft strategy was acknowledged as an aspiration document, as the Council did not hold responsibility for transport, but it did set out some clear direction that the Council and its partners should be working toward for the betterment of the Borough.

Councillor Crow was invited to speak on the item, commenting that he welcomed the intention of the document.

Councillors Irvine and Mullins spoke as part of the discussion in support of the report and the associated draft strategy.

It was noted that there would be some clerical corrections made to the draft strategy prior to it being released for consultation.

RESOLVED

The Cabinet

- a) review “New Directions for Crawley”, the borough’s new draft Transport Strategy (attached as Appendix A to report [PES/341](#)), and approve the draft for public consultation.
- b) delegates authority to the Head of Economy and Planning, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Development, to make minor amendments to the Crawley Transport Strategy in response to the consultation. (*Generic Delegation 7 will be used to enact this recommendation*).

Reasons for the Recommendations

To commence the process of establishing a Transport Strategy for Crawley, which:

- Seeks to provide a vision, rationale and framework to enable an integrated approach to improving access and transport throughout Crawley.
- Includes issues and options on how Borough wide transport provision can be improved and how the Council can respond in relation to its own service delivery
- Presents priorities for scheme delivery as the first phase towards delivery of the strategy’s vision
- Seeks to make the case for further external funds to invest in Crawley’s sustainable transport infrastructure.

Closure of Meeting

With the business of the Cabinet concluded, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 7.20 pm

P K LAMB
Chair