

Crawley Borough Council

Minutes of Cabinet

Wednesday, 16 March 2022 at 7.00 pm

Councillors Present:

P K Lamb (Chair)	Leader of the Council
I T Irvine	Cabinet Member for Housing
G S Jhans	Cabinet Member for Environmental Services and Sustainability
M G Jones	Cabinet Member for Public Protection and Community Engagement
P C Smith	Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Development

Also in Attendance:

Councillors D Crow, R D Burrett and T G Belben

Officers Present:

Natalie Brahma-Pearl	Chief Executive
Chris Pedlow	Democracy & Data Manager
Lynn Hainge	Economic Development Manager
Nigel Sheehan	Head of Projects and Commercial Services
Nigel Tidy	Towns Fund Programme Officer
Kate Wilson	Head of Community Services

Apologies for Absence:

Absent

Councillor C J Mullins

1. Disclosures of Interest

No disclosures of interests were made.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 2 February 2022 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Leader.

3. Public Question Time

There were no questions from the public.

4. Further Notice of Intention to Conduct Business in Private and Notifications of any Representations

It was reported that no representations had been received in respect of agenda items 14 or 15: *Crawley Towns Fund – Project Business Cases* or *Metcalf Depot and Workshop – Redevelopment* respectively.

5. Matters referred to the Cabinet and 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.

6. Proposed Changes to the Essential Car User Allowance Scheme

The Leader of the Council informed the Cabinet that the report on the “Proposed Changes to the Essential Car User Allowance Scheme” would no longer be considered as an item for business at the meeting. Unfortunately, a collective agreement with the Unison union could not be reached and the report had been deferred.

7. Town Centre Regeneration Programme Third Edition

The Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Development presented report [PES/397](#) of the Head of Economy and Planning. The Town Centre Regeneration Programme (TCRP) was first published in February 2016, updated in 2018 and significant progress has been made since then in terms of programme delivery. The report presented a summary of that progress and sought approval of a revised, updated version of the TCRP.

Councillor T Belben presented the Overview and Scrutiny Commission’s comments on the report to the Cabinet following consideration of the matter at its meeting on 14 March 2022, which included:

- Recognition that the Town Centre Regeneration Programme included a number of partner organisations whose contributions had been significant in delivering successful outcomes of the Crawley Growth Programme and Town Centre Regeneration Programme.
- With more residential accommodation, it was important to review the demand of other provision within the area such as GP surgeries or dental practices and amenities including improved public toilet provision.

Councillors Irvine and Lamb spoke as part of the discussion on the report.

RESOLVED

That the Cabinet

- a) approves the updated Town Centre Regeneration Programme (Appendix A) prior to a period of stakeholder consultation as set out in section 7.1 of report [PES/397](#).

- b) delegates authority to the Head of Economy & Planning in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning & Economic Development to approve the final version of the Town Centre Regeneration Programme, noting and considering any responses or representations received following the period of stakeholder consultation and undertaking minor modifications, if required.

Reasons for the Recommendations

To update the TCRP prior to a period of targeted consultation with stakeholders, partners and businesses.

8. Allocating Monies Collected Through CIL

The Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Development presented report [PES/388](#) of the Head of Economy and Planning. The report provided Cabinet with an update on the collection and administration of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) monies. It was explained that as of January 2022 the Council had collected £2,017,565.75 in CIL contributions. It was noted that the proposed CIL strategic infrastructure spend priorities to the end of March 2025, was set out in section 7 of the report. The report also provided the Cabinet with an update on the fourth year of the pilot scheme for crowdfunding - Crowdfund Crawley.

RESOLVED

That the Cabinet

- a) endorses the Annual Review findings in this report, the CIL funds received to date and the overall anticipated CIL contributions, to be received by 2036/37.
- b) approves the proposed CIL strategic infrastructure spend priorities to end March 2025 (Section 7.4 of report [PES/388](#)), (unchanged from last year's review).
- c) approves that the Infrastructure Business Plan (Appendix A of report [PES/388](#)), including the funding programme, will continue to be reviewed on an annual basis to take into account any changes in strategic infrastructure priorities and fluctuations in CIL receipts compared to the forecast. The next review is proposed to take place in March 2023.
- d) agrees to continue the Crowdfund Crawley project for a further year with the administration costs associated with the site being paid for from the CIL contributions.
- e) agrees to increase the funding allocated to the Crowdfund Crawley project for 2022-23 to £50,000 of CIL monies.

Reasons for the Recommendations

To provide clarity on the way forward for Crawley's Infrastructure Business Plan and the priority schemes for the CIL Strategic Infrastructure strand spend.

To ensure best practice for the ongoing distribution of the Neighbourhood Improvement Strand CIL monies, in line with government regulations. The “Crowdfund Crawley” initiative will be reviewed over 2022/23 to assess the impact that Covid and reduction of additional funding sources has on the use of the site.

9. Leisure Contract – Extension of Variation Order

The Leader of the Council presented report [HPS/30](#) of the Head of Major Projects and Commercial Services. The report sought approval to extend the Leisure Contract Variation Order to cover the period 1 April 2022 – 30 September 2022.

RESOLVED

That the Cabinet approves the extension of the contract variation with Everyone Active under the terms set out in Section 5 of report [HPS/30](#).

Reasons for the Recommendations

The recommendation facilitates the continued re-opening of the leisure centres providing the opportunity to grow customer base and membership numbers while adhering to the Government’s Procurement Policy Note 02/20 (Supplier Relief Due to Coronavirus).

10. West Sussex County Council and Crawley Borough Council Agency Agreement in relation to Civil Parking Enforcement

The Cabinet Member for Environmental Services and Sustainability presented report [HCS/39](#) of the Head of Community Services. The report sought approval for the renewal of the West Sussex County Council and Crawley Borough Council Agency Agreement in relation to Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE). The current 5 year agency agreement would expires on 31 March 2022, and West Sussex County Council had proposed that the agreement be extend for a further three years.

RESOLVED

That the Cabinet

- a) approves in principle the negotiation and securement of the continuation of the Agency Agreement between West Sussex County Council and Crawley Borough Council in relation to Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) for a further 3 years from April 2022 to April 2025.
- b) delegates the completion of all negotiations and relevant legal documentation to the Head of Community Services in consultation with the Head of Legal, Governance and HR, and appropriate Cabinet Member.

Reasons for the Recommendations

To enable the continuation of on-street parking enforcement to be carried out by Crawley Borough Council on behalf on West Sussex County Council within the borough.

Failure to renew the agency agreement would mean that the Council would be unable to carry out civil enforcement on behalf of WSCC in Crawley.

11. Exempt Information – Exclusion of the Public (Subject to Agenda Item 5)

RESOLVED

That in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act by virtue of the paragraph specified against the items.

12. Crawley Towns Fund Project Business Cases

*Exempt Part B - By Virtue of Paragraph 3
Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person
(including the authority holding that information)*

The Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Development presented report PES/399 of the Head of Economy and Planning. The report sought approval of the business cases for various Town Fund projects as set out in the Crawley Town Investment Plan Heads of Terms (confirmed by the Government in July 2021).

Councillor T Belben presented the Overview and Scrutiny Commission's comments on the report to the Cabinet following consideration of the matter at its meeting on 14 March 2022, which included the acknowledgement that the substantial Towns Fund monies awarded to the Council to deliver the Town Investment Plan included a number of transformative regeneration schemes, including those with a specific focus in the town that would unlock jobs as there was a need for a range of skills and technology. The business cases enabled the Council and partners to deliver on opportunities, aspirations, future and investment and would boost economic activity within the town.

RESOLVED

That the Cabinet

- a) approves in principle the Towns Fund projects listed in section 1.1 of report PES/399 for which the business cases for each project are summarised in Appendix A of report PES/399, subject to the completion of due diligence checks on the full business cases by officers to the satisfaction of the Council's S151 Officer.

- b) delegates authority to the Head of Economy and Planning and the Head of Corporate Finance in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Development to:
- I) assess the full technical business cases for each project and make any technical modifications required to their wording and content, and
 - II) produce summary versions of the business cases and to submit those summary versions to the government for review

The Full Council is recommended to agree to:

- a) add the following new capital schemes to the capital programme and the respective capital allocations to each project as set out below, worth a total of £18.1m, subject to a viable business case and to the receipt of the Towns Fund government funding.
- 1B – “Invest in Skills for Crawley” - Skills training facilities - £4.4m
 - 1C – Green Tech Business Grants / Business Premises green retrofit - £2m
 - 2A – Crawley Bus Station Transformation - £2m
 - 2B – Town Centre-Manor Royal-Gatwick cycle route - £2m
 - 3A – Manor Royal “Gigabit” connectivity / business park - £1.95m
 - 4A – Crawley Town Centre Cultural Quarter design - £250,000
 - 4B – Manor Royal Business Environment Improvements £1.5m
 - 4C – “Green Retrofit” decarbonisation of homes in Crawley - £4m
- b) allocate up to £500,000 of Towns Fund revenue funding to the following Towns Fund projects, subject to a viable business case and to the receipt of the government funding.
- 1B – “Invest in Skills for Crawley” - Skills training facilities - £100,000
 - 1D – Commercial Eastern Gateway design - £150,000
 - 3A – Manor Royal “Gigabit” connectivity / business park - £50,000
 - 4A – Crawley Town Centre Cultural Quarter design - £200,000

Reasons for the Recommendations

To enable the Council to finalise and confirm approval of the business cases for a total of £18.6 million of Towns Fund monies to be allocated to the nine projects listed above.

The Full Council approval of the projects will enable submission of summary versions of the business cases to the government for ratification by their deadline of 24th April.

To enable the allocation of £18.1 million of Towns Fund monies to the CBC capital programme, subject to:

- The Full Council approval
- The viability of each of the individual project business cases satisfying the Council’s S151 Officer
- Confirmation of the funding from the government

To enable the allocation of up to £500,000 of revenue finances from the Towns Fund, subject to the requirements as set out above in section 3.3 of report PES/399.

13. Metcalf Way Depot and Workshop - Redevelopment

*Exempt Part B - By Virtue of Paragraph 3
Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person
(including the authority holding that information)*

The Leader of the Council presented report HPS/31. The report sought agreement for progressing the redevelopment of the depot and workshop at Metcalf Way, project analysis and feasibility, together with the finances required.

Councillor T Belben presented the Overview and Scrutiny Commission's comments on the report to the Cabinet following consideration of the matter at its meeting on 14 March 2022, which included:

- Acknowledgement that the option proposed enabled the Council to deliver on opportunities, whilst protecting, consolidating, and enhancing the development of a key site.
- Recognition that the Metcalf Way Depot was currently under-utilised, and Neighbourhood Services intended to continue the move to a more dispersed model of smaller neighbourhood patch depots. The recommendations supported the move to more localised depots and facilitated redevelopment of the Metcalf Way site.

Councillors Irvine and Smith spoke as part of the discussion on the report.

RESOLVED

That the Cabinet

- a) endorses the redevelopment of the Metcalf Way Depot site, acknowledging that further funding is required to progress this scheme as highlighted in section 7 of report HPS/31.
- b) approves the principle of the relocation of the neighbourhood services activities from Metcalf Way to a number of local neighbourhood sites as set out in section 4 of report HPS/31.
- c) delegates to the Deputy Chief Executive authority to enter into a lease for alternative premises for the waste and recycling service, vehicle workshop and some residual neighbourhood services activities (if required).
- d) approves that a further report be brought back to the Cabinet late in 2022 with recommendations regarding the preferred option to redevelop the Metcalf Way site, is likely to include a request for a supplementary capital estimate to proceed with construction.

The Full Council is recommended to approve:

- a) the increase the capital programme by £995,000 funded from the capital programme reserve to fund the next stage of the scheme. In so doing, support the endorsement of the redevelopment of the Metcalf Way Depot.

- b) that £300,000 be transferred from the General Fund Reserve to the Transformation and Project Delivery reserve and the rental in the short term is funded from this reserve.

Reasons for the Recommendations

The Metcalf Way Depot is currently under-utilised and Neighbourhood Services intend to continue the move to a more dispersed model of smaller neighbourhood patch depots. The recommendations will support the move to more localised depots and facilitate redevelopment of the Metcalf Way site. The scheme will make productive use of this Council site and provide a long term revenue stream for the Council.

Closure of Meeting

With the business of the Cabinet concluded, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 7.16 pm

P K LAMB
Chair