

Crawley Borough Council

Minutes of Cabinet

Wednesday, 8 March 2023 at 7.00 pm

Councillors Present:

C J Mullins (Chair)	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Wellbeing
G S Jhans	Cabinet Member for Environmental Services and Sustainability
S Mullins	Cabinet Member for Public Protection and Community Engagement
A Nawaz	Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Development

Also in Attendance:

Councillors M L Ayling, T G Belben, B J Burgess, R D Burrett and D Crow

Officers Present:

Natalie Brahma-Pearl	Chief Executive
Amanda Kendall	Head of Crawley Homes
Carolin Martlew	Head of Corporate Finance
Chris Pedlow	Democracy & Data Manager
Nigel Sheehan	Head of Projects and Commercial Services

Apologies for Absence:

Councillor M G Jones and S Malik

Absent

Councillor S Buck

1. Disclosures of Interest

No disclosures of interests were made.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 1 February 2023 were approved as a correct record and signed by Councillor C Mullins.

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 item 9: *Waste and Recycling Contract Extension*.

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. Tenancy Policy Crawley Homes

The Cabinet considered report [CH/199](#) of the Head of Crawley Homes, who introduced the report to the Cabinet. The report sought approval for the amended Tenancy Policy.

Councillor T Belben presented the Overview and Scrutiny Commission's comments on the report [OSC/309](#) to the Cabinet following consideration of the matter at its meeting on 6 March 2023.

With the agreement of the Chair, Councillors Crow and Burgess also spoke on the item.

Councillor S Mullins spoke as part of the discussion on the report and asked the Head of Crawley Homes a number of questions over the proposed new Tenancy Policy, including seeking information over how the transition would work for flexible joint tenancies, mutual exchanges, downsizing and introductory tenancies. Following the response from officers, the Cabinet felt that the alacrity given had provided the confidence it needed to fully support the amended Policy.

RESOLVED

That the Cabinet:

- a) approves the Tenancy Policy (Appendix A to report [CH/199](#)) for adoption and subsequent publication.
- b) delegates authority to the Head of Crawley Homes, in consultation with the Cabinet member for Housing, to review and make amendments to the Tenancy Policy as further changes to legislation and statutory guidance are introduced.

(Generic Delegation 7 will be used to enact this recommendation).

- c) delegates to the Head of Crawley Homes the variation process required for introductory flexible tenancies under Section 103 of the Housing Act 1985

(Generic Delegation 3 will be used to enact this recommendation)

Reasons for the Recommendations

In line with the Localism Act 2011 and Regulatory Standards, it is a requirement for social landlords to have a policy in place which sets out their approach to offering tenancies and making best use of stock, as well as how they will manage and sustain tenancies.

The proposed tenancy policy sets out the Council's revised approach.

7. 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 item of business on the grounds that it 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 item.

8. Waste and Recycling Contract Extension

Exempt Paragraph 3

Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)

The Cabinet Member for Environmental Services and Sustainability presented reports HPS/034 and HPS/034a of the Head of Major Projects and Commercial Services. The reports requested approval to extend the contract to the waste and recycling service and the replacement of the refuse vehicle fleet. The Cabinet was informed that the additional information contained within report HPS/034a provided further context regarding the evaluation of options and rationale for the recommendation regarding the proposed type of new refuse collection vehicles.

Councillor T Belben presented the Overview and Scrutiny Commission's comments on the report [OSC/309](#) to the Cabinet following consideration of the matter at its meeting on 6 March 2023.

With the agreement of the Chair, Councillor Burgess, Burrett and Crow also spoke on the item and the Head of Major Projects and Commercial Services responded to their questions on the report.

Councillors Nawaz and S Mullins then spoke as part of the discussion on the item and in support of the report.

RESOLVED

That the Cabinet:

- a) approves the extension of the current Waste and Recycling Contract with Biffa Municipal for 26 months from 1st February 2024 until 31st March 2026, noting the resource implications set out in section 6 of report HPS/034.

- b) agrees to procure a new refuse vehicle fleet with a view to the new fleet coming into operation from 1st February 2024, and delegates the Head of Major Projects and Commercial Services to conduct the fleet procurement in accordance with the Council's Procurement Code.
- c) delegates the negotiation, approval and completion of all relevant legal documentation, of a new refuse vehicle fleet, to the Head of Major Projects and Commercial Services, Head of Governance, People and Performance, and Head of Corporate Finance, in consultation with the appropriate Cabinet member.

(Generic Delegations 2 & 3 will be used to enact this recommendation)

- d) requests Full Council to approve a supplementary capital estimate of £3m for the procurement of a new refuse fleet funded by:
- £1.6m from the Refuse Vehicle Replacement Reserve
 - £0.18m from the Waste and Recycling Reserve
 - £1.22m from the Capital Programme Reserve

Reasons for the Recommendations

The recommendations will enable continuity of the waste and recycling service in the coming years and will ensure the waste vehicle fleet is operating efficiently and fit for purpose. The recommendations will also enable the Council to assess options for making amendments to the local waste collection arrangements in response to the National Waste Strategy which the Government has indicated will be released in the 'near future'.

Closure of Meeting

With the business of the Cabinet concluded, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.12 pm

C MULLINS
Vice-Chair in the Chair