

Cabinet

Wednesday, 5 July 2021

Decisions

Set out below is a summary of the decisions taken at the meeting of the Cabinet held on Wednesday, 5 July 2023. The wording used does not necessarily reflect the actual wording that will appear in the minutes.

5 Key Contracts and Partnerships Update 2023

Decision Made:

Cabinet note the report.

Reasons for decision:

To ensure effective monitoring of the Council's key contracts and partnerships.

Other options considered and rejected:

No other options were considered as the report is for information only.

6 Adoption of the Biodiversity Action Plan

Decision Made:

1. Cabinet note the report.
2. Cabinet agree the report can be presented for adoption at Full Council.
3. The Cabinet Member (Neighbourhoods and Waste) will write to the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change to express concern over speculated government proposals to abolish the International Climate Finance pledge.

Reasons for decision:

Across the world biodiversity is under threat, either from pollution, development or changes in the climate. The lives we currently lead compromises our biodiversity. Habitats are being lost or fragmented, isolating plant and animal communities into ever smaller areas.

Under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, and recently updated by the Environment Act 2021 public authorities in England are under a legal duty to have due regard to the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity in the exercise of its functions. The Environment Act 2021 requires the creation of 48 'Local Nature Recovery Strategies' (LNRS) to cover all areas of England to reverse the ongoing decline of nature.

LNRS, alongside the requirement for Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) from development, means that Local Authorities have a proactive role to play in nature recovery.

Public bodies must also determine what action is required to conserve and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of its functions and must determine such policies and objectives as appropriate to achieve this.

They must also publish biodiversity reports providing a summary of the action taken and planned and detailing the resulting biodiversity gains achieved.

Other options considered and rejected:

Do nothing, this would negatively impact on the biodiversity of the borough and result in the council failing in its statutory duties to consider, conserve and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of its duties.

7 Content Management System

Decision Made:

Cabinet to agree:

1. A direct award to GOSS through a compliant procurement framework, only if favourable commercial terms can be agreed including transparency on future costs for a period of up to 5 years from July 2024, for a joint GOSS iCM platform with Chorley Council.
2. In the absence of the above i.e., not obtaining favourable commercial terms directly with GOSS, the council will undertake a full market procurement exercise which will include open-source software currently being explored.
3. To approve the delegation of the outcome and final sign off for either recommendation (a) or (b) to the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member (Customer and Digital).

Reasons for decision:

To ensure that the council maintains and develops its online presence and delivery of online services to residents.

Other options considered and rejected:

Other options to be considered are detailed within the report.

8 Scrutiny Review of Building Better Homes and Neighbourhoods Enhancing housing standards in South Ribble - Response to Recommendations

Decision made:

That Cabinet noted and agreed the response to the recommendations of the Scrutiny Review of Building Better Homes and Neighbourhoods.

Reasons for decision:

As part of the governance arrangements of the Council and Scrutiny regulations, Cabinet are required to respond to recommendations referred to it by the Scrutiny Committee.

To ensure that the Council continues to place the health and wellbeing of residents at the forefront of its work and to support the Council's vision for good homes, green spaces and healthy places.

Other options considered and rejected:

No options were considered

9 Exclusion of Press and Public

Resolved: (Unanimously)

That the press and public be excluded for the following items of business on the ground that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

10 Key Contract and Partnerships Update 2023 (confidential appendices to Item 5)

12 Property and Assets Management System - Contract Award

Decision made:

1. To approve the award of contract to Civica Property Management (CPM) via a direct award utilising the Crown Commercial Services Framework on a five-year contract term.
2. To note the requirement for the creation of two new temporary shared posts within the Commercial Services directorate to support data validation, data capture, data entry and overall adoption of the Property and Assets Management system

Reasons for decision:

South Ribble Borough Council and Chorley Council Property and Assets teams now operate within the Shared Service model.

To make further improvements in the efficiency and effectiveness of the service across both Councils there is a clear need to introduce a property asset management solution. Currently each authority operates with a series of stand alone databases utilising different systems of records management. The benefits a single property management system are detailed later in this report.

A report to both South Ribble Borough Council and Chorley Council Executive Cabinet meetings in November 2022 sought approval of the procurement routes for numerous ICT software solutions, including the procurement route for a Property and Assets Management system.

Discussions have now taken place with Crown Commercial Services (CCS) regarding a direct award utilising their framework. CCS have confirmed that a direct award via their framework is permissible and a compliant route to market.

Other options considered and rejected:

A further competitive procurement exercise was considered but rejected.