

Minutes of	Cabinet
Meeting date	Wednesday, 5 July 2023
Committee members present:	Councillors Paul Foster (Chair), Aniela Bylinski Gelder (Vice-Chair), Jacky Alty, Deborah Ashton, James Flannery, Clare Hunter, Matthew Tomlinson and Ian Watkinson
Officers present:	Chris Sinnott (Chief Executive), Asim Khan (Director of Customer and Digital), Victoria Willett (Director of Change and Delivery), Jennifer Mullin (Director of Communities), David Whelan (Head of Legal Services and Deputy Monitoring Officer) and Coral Astbury (Democratic and Member Services Officer)
Other attendees:	Councillors Will Adams, James Gleeson, Lou Jackson, Keith Martin, Colin Sharples, Kath Unsworth, Paul Wharton-Hardman and Haydn Williams and (attending virtually) Councillors Jane Bell, Damian Bretherton, Phil Smith, Caleb Tomlinson and Karen Walton
Public:	0

A video recording of the public session of this meeting is available to view on [YouTube here](#)

11 Apologies for Absence

No apologies were received.

12 Declarations of Interest

No declarations were made.

13 Cabinet Forward Plan

The Cabinet Forward Plan was noted.

14 Minutes of meeting Wednesday, 21 June 2023 of Cabinet

Resolved: (Unanimously)

That the minutes of the last meeting held Wednesday, 21 June 2023 were agreed as a correct record for signing by the Chair.

15 Key Contracts and Partnerships Update 2023

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Paul Foster, presented a report that provided an update on the performance of the council's key contracts and partnership arrangements.

Councillor Foster explained that the update was produced in accordance with the framework and sought to inform members of the performance of key partnerships against targets set for the current year.

Members noted that overall performance was progressing well and the Council's standing with key partners was strong.

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.

16 Adoption of the Biodiversity Action Plan

The Cabinet Member (Neighbourhoods and Waste), Councillor Deborah Ashton, presented the Biodiversity Action Plan and sought approval for the plan to be presented for adoption at full Council.

Councillor Ashton explained the Environment Act 2021 had been implemented and provided the Council with a statutory duty to publish a biodiversity report and update on its actions. The Council were also required, by condition, to ensure a 10% net gain on biodiversity for all planning applications above a single dwelling.

The Biodiversity Action Plan was first adopted by the Council in 2022 alongside the interim action plan for the first twelve months, a key action was to develop a longer-term action plan. Councillor Ashton advised that extensive consultation had been undertaken with staff, community groups, partners and other government bodies. This feedback had been considered and incorporated into the action plan.

Members of Cabinet endorsed the action plan and thanked the Lead Member for Climate Change and Officers for their work. Members acknowledged that South Ribble was leading the way in the North West for the work undertaken on climate change and for trying to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030.

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 it's duties.

17 Content Management System

The Cabinet Member (Customer and Digital), Councillor Ian Watkinson, presented a report that sought to agree the future for the Council's Content Management System (CMS).

Councillor Watkinson explained that officers would be trying to seek a new contract with favourable commercial terms for a five year term, if this could not be achieved a full procurement exercise would be undertaken.

Members not on Cabinet sought clarification that alternative suppliers would also be considered to ensure the website was fully accessible. In response, the Councillor Watkinson explained that both value for money and quality of service would be considered when obtaining new contracts.

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.

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

The Cabinet Member (Planning, Business Support and Economic Development), Councillor James Flannery, presented a report that provided the Cabinet's response to the final report from the Scrutiny Committee's review of Building Better Homes and Neighbourhoods.

Councillor Flannery outlined the key objectives of the report and explained that although the majority of recommendations were accepted, Cabinet were unable to accept recommendations four and five as it was important to retain flexibility on Section 106 and CIL monies.

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

19 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.

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

This item was considered earlier in the meeting.

21 Content Management System (confidential appendices to Item 7)

This item was considered earlier in the meeting.

22 Property and Assets Management System - Contract Award

The Cabinet Member (Customer and Digital), Councillor Ian Watkinson, presented a confidential report that updated members on the requirement for a property and assets management system, including aims, objectives and benefits of the system.

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.

23 Thanks

Members thanked the Director of Change and Delivery for all her hard work and wished her well in her new role as she leaves the authority for pastures new.

Chair

Date