

Report of Cabinet

1. Any Cabinet recommendations on the reports that require a decision by full Council appear as separate items on the agenda.

GENERAL REPORT OF THE MEETING OF CABINET HELD ON WEDNESDAY 16 DECEMBER 2020

Refresh of Communications Strategy

2. Cabinet approved a new Communications Strategy, which was one of the actions outlined in the annual governance statement. Cabinet had also taken the opportunity to update the media protocol to provide more clarity for officers.
3. The detail of the Strategy was formed as part of a review of the Communications Team over the summer. There were various approaches to how the Council would develop its communications included in the Strategy.

Next Steps Accommodation Programme

4. Cabinet approved the expenditure of £70,000 capital from section 106 money, specifically from the monies allocated for Housing, which will enable the Council to support the Next Steps Accommodation bid.
5. Cabinet also approved partnership working with the Progress Housing Association to deliver this proposal. This enabled the Council to work in partnership with Progress Housing Group to deliver 2 specific units of accommodation to house individuals at risk of rough sleeping, and to provide the support required to sustain that accommodation.

Infrastructure Funding Statement

6. Cabinet approved the Infrastructure Funding Statement for display on the Council website for the next year. It also requested that the Director of Planning and Property prepare a policy for spending Developer Contributions.
7. The statement replaced the current regulation 123 list that had been in place since the adoption of Community infrastructure Levy (CIL) in July 2013. It was a requirement to publish an infrastructure funding statement annually by 31st December.
8. The Regulation 123 List was a requirement in the CIL Regulations whereby a Charging Authority was required to display a list of projects that would be either funded in part or wholly by CIL.
9. In addition to the CIL infrastructure list the Statement also provides a financial summary setting out developer contribution receipts, allocations, expenditure and any unspent or unallocated receipts collected from section 106 agreements and CIL.

Pearson House, Station Road, Bamber Bridge

10. Subject to clearance from the street naming and numbering process, Cabinet approved the renaming of Pearson House to Tom Hanson House.
11. The redevelopment of Pearson House is currently ongoing and due to complete in 2021 with handover to Community Gateway on a lease arrangement. Local ward members requested a change in the name of the property to honour former Borough Councillor Tom Hanson.

Worden Hall Project

12. Cabinet gave its approval for the next stage of the Worden Hall project which included delegating authority to the Cabinet Member (Finance, Property and Assets) in consultation with the Chief Executive to commence a procurement exercise to identify a contractor and professional services to implement the Worden Hall Project.
13. Cabinet welcomed the progress of the Worden Hall project and noted the formal submission of the project to Planning. It requested that a further report be brought back to Cabinet outlining proposals as to how the refurbished Worden Hall would be run in the future to the benefit of all including local communities and visitors alike.
14. The rationale behind the decision was to identify the most effective way forward both in terms of best value and deliverability in taking the Worden Hall project through to completion. This was about have the right level of professional services in place to support the Council in tendering for and managing the construction phase of the project.
15. This is an exciting project which will transform the look of Worden Hall. The proposals outlined will allow the ambitions of the Worden Hall project to be realised which is for the hall to be re-born as the vibrant heart of Worden Park enabling a hive of community activity, drawing local residents and visitors from across the region to the Park and hosting a myriad of local events.

COUNCILLOR PAUL FOSTER

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL