

TUNBRIDGE WELLS BOROUGH COUNCIL

COMMUNITIES AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CABINET ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES of the meeting held at the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells, TN1 1RS, at 6.30 pm on Wednesday, 24 January 2024

Present: Councillor Nancy Warne (Chair)
Councillors Rutland (Vice-Chair), Hill, Lewis, March, Ms Palmer, Webster and Wilkinson

Officers in Attendance: Ian Hirst (Head of Digital Services and Communications), Sue Oliver (Private Sector Housing Manager), Tobi Phillips (Affordable Housing and Enabling Officer), Paul Taylor (Director of Change and Communities), Gary Stevenson (Head of Housing, Health and Environment) and Emer Moran (Democratic Services Officer)

Other Members in Attendance: Councillors Chapelard, Dawlings, Ellis, Pound and Roberts

CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION

COM106/2 The Chair opened the meeting and outlined procedural matters of the
3 meeting.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

COM107/2 Apologies were received from Councillors Fairweather and Hill.
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Councillor Morton was not present.

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

COM108/2 There were no declarations of interest made.
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NOTIFICATION OF PERSONS WISHING TO SPEAK

COM109/2 There were no members of the public, or visiting Members of the Council
3 registered to speak.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING DATED 15 NOVEMBER 2023

COM110/2 It was noted that Councillor Warne was in attendance and Chaired the
3 previous meeting of the Communities and Economic Development Cabinet Advisory Board on 15 November 2023.

RESOLVED: That subject to the above amendment the minutes of the meeting above dated 15 November 2023 was a true record of the proceeding.

FORWARD PLAN AS AT 9 JANUARY 2024

COM111/2 **RESOLVED:** That the Forward Plan as at 9 January 2024 be noted.
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AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMUTED SUMS - LAND TO EAST OF HIGHGATE HILL AND SOUTH OF COPTHALL AVENUE, HAWKHURST

COM112/2 Councillor Hugo Pound, Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning gave an
3 overview and introduced Tobi Phillips, Affordable Housing and Enabling Officer who presented the report as per the agenda.

Questions from Members and Officer clarification included:

- i. It was confirmed that there was Local Connection Plan in place, therefore residents with a local connection to Hawkhurst were given priority for the properties.
- ii. The Local Connection Plan was in place for the first 3 months and once that time period lapsed the properties were released to the residents of Tunbridge Wells for bidding.
- iii. It was confirmed that the properties in question were housing stock for Tunbridge Wells and not for anywhere else in the Country such as Croydon or other London boroughs.
- iv. Thanks were given to Officers from Members on behalf of the people of Hawkhurst.
- v. Members welcomed the proposal and were pleased that they were assured the commuted sums were proposed to be spent in the manner they were intended, especially in rural areas where it was desperately needed.

RESOLVED:

1. That the recommendations in the report, be supported.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS BOROUGH COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN

COM113/2 Councillor Ben Chapelard, Leader of the Council gave an overview of the
3 emerging Strategic Plan for Tunbridge Well and introduced Ian Hirst, Head of Digital Services and Communications who presented the report as per the agenda.

Questions from Members and Officer clarification included:

- i. It was confirmed that the ward projects were to be decided after May 2024 however, it was to be assessed whether financial considerations should take precedence over what they delivered.

RESOLVED:

1. That the recommendations in the report, be supported.

AWARD OF PARTNERSHIP SERVICES CONTRACTS

COM114/2 Sue Oliver, Private Housing Manager presented the report as per the agenda
3 which included exempt Appendix A.

Members queries and Officer clarification included:

- i. A detailed explanation was provided as to why there was no score information in the report related to a second supplier, among the reasons listed was non provision of key documentation and information. It was suggested that the explanation could be provided to Cabinet for clarification.
- ii. Officers agreed to provide written clarification as to why there was no interview conducted for the potential supplier.
- iii. It was noted that the exempt information as set out in the agenda was taken as read.

RESOLVED:

2. The recommendations in the report be supported subject to further information being provided to Cabinet about how the service provider that did not go through to the next stage, failed that process.

URGENT BUSINESS

COM115/2 There was no urgent business for consideration.
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DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

COM116/2 The next meeting was scheduled for 7 March 2024.
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NOTES:

The meeting concluded at 7.10 pm.