

TUNBRIDGE WELLS BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

MINUTES of the meeting held at the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells, TN1 1RS, at 10.30 am on Thursday, 13 January 2022

**Present: Councillor Tom Dawlings (Chairman)
Councillors Scott (Vice-Chairman), Bailey, March and McDermott**

Officers in Attendance: William Benson (Chief Executive), Lee Colyer (Director of Finance, Policy and Development (Section 151 Officer)), Paul Taylor (Director of Change and Communities), Gary Stevenson (Head of Housing, Health and Environment), Nigel Bolton (Interim Service Manager), Claudette Valmond (Head of Legal Partnership and Interim Monitoring Officer) and Caroline Britt (Democratic Services Officer)

Other Members in Attendance: Councillor Hamilton

APOLOGIES

CAB113/21

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Fairweather. Councillor Hamilton joined the meeting at 10:45am.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

CAB114/21 There were no disclosable pecuniary or other significant interests declared at the meeting.

NOTIFICATION OF PERSONS WISHING TO SPEAK

CAB115/21 There were no visiting Members who had registered as wishing to speak.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING DATED 2 DECEMBER 2021

CAB116/21 Members reviewed the minutes.

It was requested and agreed that the penultimate bullet point on page 4 did not accurately reflect the discussion and should therefore be removed.

RESOLVED –

1. That CAB98/21 be amended to remove the penultimate bullet point.
2. Subject to the above amendment the minutes of the meeting dated 2 December 2021 be approved as a correct record.

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

CAB117/21 There were no questions from members of the Council.

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

CAB118/21 There were no questions from members of the public.

CONSIDERATION OF THE FORWARD PLAN AS AT 17 DECEMBER 2021

CAB119/21 Members considered the plan. No amendments were proposed.

RESOLVED – That the Forward Plan as at 17 December 2021 be noted.

GROUNDS MAINTENANCE SERVICE

CAB120/21 Nigel Bolton, Interim Services Manager introduced the report set out in the agenda.

Following the Communities and Economic Cabinet Advisory Board (CAB) held on Tuesday 11 January 2022, additional comments included:

- In response to the environmental and biodiversity issues raised at the CAB, including Kent's Plan Bee and the gathering pace of the concept of 'rewilding', the CAB recommended and agreed that a further recommendation be considered by Cabinet
- With reference to the Cross Cutting Issues:
 - o Staffing Issues – There were no staffing implications associated with Option 1 but there may be TUPE implications with the other options.
 - o Finance and other Resources – If the contract was extended, the additional cost could be accommodated within the budget and the medium term financial strategy.

Discussion and questions from Members included the following:

- The importance of environmental measures, 'rewilding' etc. was welcomed. In addition the need to ensure there was regular engagement with members of the public.
- Discussions with various sports clubs had taken place and there had been positive responses from them about taking on additional responsibility for their grounds.
- The additional 2-year extension would allow the Council the time to have in-depth discussions with clubs and organisations about the requirements of taking on additional responsibility for the maintenance of their own grounds.
- Additionally, it was noted, the procurement process would take approximately 18 months.
- The additional recommendation read 'That the Head of Housing, Health and Environment works with Tivoli to identify further environmental enhancements for the service and to increase public awareness of the actions being taken.'
- The CAB raised issues related to biodiversity, 'rewilding' and Kent's Plan Bee.
- There was currently no option for zero carbon reductions on the equipment used. The same issue was applicable to the current waste contract. It was noted it was the Council's intention to move to zero emission vehicles but that it was currently being constrained by the lack of technology.

RESOLVED –

1. That the Head of Housing, Health and Environment in consultation with the Monitoring Officer and S151 Officer be given delegated authority to enter into a further 2-year contract extension with Tivoli to

- end 31 December 2024 be approved.
2. That the Council's Monitoring Officer and S151 Officer be given delegated authority to undertake all legal and financial requirements necessary to complete the extension of the Grounds Maintenance Contract be approved.
 3. That the Head of Housing, Health and Environment works with Tivoli to identify further environmental enhancements for the service and increase public awareness of the actions being taken be approved.

REASON FOR DECISION:

To give certainty of cost and minimise risk for the Council for a period of 3 years.

URGENT BUSINESS

CAB121/21 There was no urgent business.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

CAB122/21 The next meeting would be held on Thursday 10 February 2022 commencing at 10:30am in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall, Tunbridge Wells.

NOTES:

The meeting concluded at 11.05 am.