

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, 9 November 2022

**Present: Councillor Wendy Fitzsimmons (Chair)
Councillors Pope (Vice-Chair), Ellis, Fairweather, Funnell, Hill, March, Neville and Ms Palmer**

Officers in Attendance: David Candlin (Head of Economic Development and Property), Mark O'Callaghan (Scrutiny and Engagement Officer) and Emer Moran (Democratic Services Officer)

Other Members in Attendance: Councillors

CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION

COM19/22

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

COM20/22 Apologies were received from Councillor White.

Councillor Everitt was not present.

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

COM21/22 No declarations of interest were made.

NOTIFICATION OF PERSONS WISHING TO SPEAK

COM22/22 There were no members of the public or visiting Members of the Council registered to speak.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING DATED WEDNESDAY 12 OCTOBER 2022

COM23/22 **RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting dated Wednesday 12 October 2022 be taken as a true record.

FORWARD PLAN AS AT 18 OCTOBER 2022

COM24/22 **RESOLVED:** That the Forward Plan as at Tuesday 18 October 2022 be noted.

CIVIC AWARD 2022

COM25/22 Mark O'Callaghan, Overview and Scrutiny presented the report as per the agenda.

Discussion and questions from Members and Officer clarification included:

- i. The report was taken as read.

RESOLVED:

1. That the recommendations to Cabinet as set out in the report be supported.

RURAL ENGLAND PROSPERITY FUND

COM26/22 David Candlin, Director of Economic Development and Property presented the report as set out in the report.

Discussion and questions from Members and Officer clarification included:

- i. In terms of the funding, Members were advised that it was a use it or lose it situation, with an expectation that you would spend the money in that financial year and a potential review at the end of the year.
- ii. The carbon reduction at the Weald had a budget, however there were additional funds that were required but that had not been budgeted for.
- iii. It was confirmed that the funds were for projects that benefited the rural community and those did not necessarily have to be new.
- iv. It was meant to build on the leader program however it was not the same priorities or interventions under that program and did not replicate the money available under leader.
- v. It was confirmed that the post at West Kent was an additional post and the budget for that was funded through funds retained by the West Kent Partnership budget retained for rural intervention.
- vi. Members understood the need for the Weald project to go ahead however they were concerned about the funds being used to assist in a shortfall in the decarbonisation of the Weald Leisure Centre rather than used for new projects levelling up in rural Communities.
- vii. Members were advised that although the Council owned the Leisure Centre, it provided a service to the Community.
- viii. It was suggested that a note went to Cabinet that Members were not convinced about the allocation of funds to the Weald project.

RESOLVED:

1. That the recommendations to Cabinet would be supported subject to a particular issue being addressed, that Members agreed with the Kent wide approach but not the allocation of funds outlined in the report for year 1 and year 2.

URGENT BUSINESS

COM27/22 There was no urgent business for consideration.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING WEDNESDAY 25 JANUARY 2023

COM28/22 The date of the next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday 25 January 2023.

EXEMPT APPENDICES TO CIVIC AWARD 2022

COM29/22 **RESOLVED** – The decision was made in public session and the exempt information was taken as read.

NOTES:

The meeting concluded at 7.09 pm.