

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, 12 July 2023

Present: Councillor Nancy Warne (Chair)
Councillors Rutland (Vice-Chair), Fairweather, Hill, Lewis, Morton, Munday, Ms Palmer and Webster

Officers in Attendance: David Candlin (Head of Economic Development and Property), Tobi Phillips (Affordable Housing and Enabling Officer), James Read (Senior Economic Development Officer), Hilary Smith (Economic Development Manager), Gary Stevenson (Head of Housing, Health and Environment) and Emer Moran (Democratic Services Officer)

Other Members in Attendance: Councillors

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

COM66/23 Apologies were received from Councillor Wilkinson.

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

COM67/23 There were no declarations of interest made.

NOTIFICATION OF PERSONS WISHING TO SPEAK

COM68/23 There were no members of the public, or visiting Members of the Council registered to speak.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING DATED 13 APRIL 2023

COM69/23 **RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting dated 13 April 2023 was a true record of the proceeding.

FORWARD PLAN AS AT 23 JUNE 2023

COM70/23 **RESOLVED:** That the Forward Plan as at 23 June 2023, be noted.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

COM71/23 Councillor Justine Rutland, Cabinet for Economic Development gave an overview and introduced Hilary Smith, Economic Development manager who presented the report as per the agenda.

Member questions and officer clarification included:

- i. Members took note of points made about renewable energy and transport.
- ii. It was advised that Net Zero was the first objective on the list and at the top of the action plan which aligned the economic development strategy with climate change.
- iii. Members took note of the point made about the text under the rural selection as well as adding more reference to the importance of agriculture and horticulture.
- iv. Boarded up buildings in Southborough need to be repaired to

improve the entrance to the borough. Listed buildings that are derelict need to be addressed. They were advised to take this to the town council about neighbourhood plans. Members took note but said they would think about this after the meeting.

RESOLVED:

That the recommendation(s) subject to the issues it has identified being taken into account by the Cabinet, be approved.

- i. To consider what work can be done with the CEAP that is relevant for businesses and the wider borough in terms of the addressing the climate emergency and carbon reduction. The impacts possible pathways included in the report towards impacts.
- ii. Parish Councils being partners in the carbon reduction actions
- iii. Rethinking how the focus on agriculture and horticulture in the rural areas the rural economies is addressed.

TENANCY STRATEGY

COM72/23 Gary Stevenson, Head of Housing, Health and Environment introduced Tobi Phillips, Affordable Housing and Enabling Housing Needs Officer who presented the report as per the agenda.

Member discussion and Officer clarification included:

- i. It was advised that the housing department had a relationship with most of the registered providers and most of them were within the Kent Housing Group.
- ii. It was advised that earlier intervention working with registered providers closely and gaining suggestions of what the Housing Authority can provide may to help alleviate the anti-social behaviour.

RESOLVED:

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

URGENT BUSINESS

COM73/23 There was no urgent business for consideration.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

COM74/23 The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday 6 September 2023

NOTES:

The meeting concluded at 7.05 pm.