

Date Published: 3 April 2024

Any decision in the minutes below will come into force, and may be implemented, on the expiry of three clear working days after the publication of the decision, unless a valid request has been received by the Head of Paid Service objecting to the decision and asking for it to be called in.

CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

CABINET

Minutes of a meeting held on Monday 25 March, 2024 at 7.00 pm in The Guildhall, St Peter's Place, Westgate, Canterbury

Present: Councillor Alan Baldock(Chair)
Councillor Charlotte Cornell
Councillor Chris Cornell
Councillor Mel Dawkins
Councillor Michael Dixey
Councillor Pip Hazelton
Councillor Connie Nolan
Councillor Alex Ricketts
Councillor Mike Sole

In attendance as observers:
Councillor Rachel Carnac
Councillor David Thomas

Officers: Tricia Marshall - Director of Corporate Services
Suzi Wakeham - Director of People and Place
Martin Hall - Senior Environment Manager
Bill Hicks - Service Director, Place
Nicci Mills - Service Director, Finance and Procurement
Vanessa Montgomery - Democratic Services Manager

654. Apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence

655. Declarations of interest by Members or Officers

Councillor Dawkins made a voluntary announcement regarding item 10 and 11 that she was a dog owner.

Councillor Ricketts made a voluntary announcement that he was a member of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB).

Suzi Wakeham and Marie Royle made declarations that they were Cancenco Board Members.

Tricia Marshall made a voluntary announcement that she was a member of the RSPB.

Bill Hicks made a voluntary announcement that he sits on the Business Improvement District (BID) Board.

Councillor Chris Cornell made a voluntary announcement that he was a member of Kent Cricket Club and that his family were members of Polo farm which are mentioned in the report under item 7

Councillor Sole made a voluntary declaration that he was a park runner and uses the site under item 10.

656. Announcements

Councillor Charlotte Cornell provided an update on the contaminated bin hangers as promised. The first week of issue on 15 January, 379 hangers were issued and the following week this over doubled the following week to 839. Since 22 January there had been a gentle reduction in the number of hangers issued. The figures were in order 431, 475, 270, 233, 161, 122 and 126. This was an encouraging sign that the hangers are working. There have been minimal complaints from the public and these have been investigated and advice offered. Sadly, there has been some abuse of Cancenco staff but these are also being investigated. It was confirmed the use of the hangers will continue as the educational benefits were being felt.

Councillor Dawkins, announced that the council had been successful in a bid from swimming pool support fund for the Whitstable swimming pool receiving £73,000 and this will be spent on solar panels on the roof of the swimming pool. It was estimated this would produce 52,525 kWh per year initially, which equates to more than 10,000 kg CO₂ saved per year. The funding will also pay for five new sub metres which identify any efficiencies that can be made.

She also explained she had been working with Councillor Charlotte Cornell about bringing together better communications to Cancenco and our own biodiversity policy after the eco declaration for the local plan had gone out to consultation. There has been an incident of mismanagement regarding Curtis Wood and many councillors were concerned, so senior officers and Cancenco Director have met

regarding the tree works and have learnt lessons from this. These will be put in place to prevent this happening again in the future.

Councillor Ricketts reported back following the Joint Transportation Board (JTB) meeting last week where the Transport Strategy was warmly received. The Board did receive a petition regarding the Herne Bay plaza and Kent County Council have convened a Working Group to discuss this and will report back to JTB and he will then feedback the results to Cabinet.

657. Change of order of the agenda

A request was made by the Chair and it was agreed to change the order so that item 10 (Dog PSPO outcomes) and item 11 (Long Rock management plan) be swapped.

658. Public participation

There were three public speakers heard at the commencement of item 7.

659. Minutes of the meeting held on 11 March 2024

The minutes were agreed as a true record by general assent.

660. References from Committees:

The minutes were NOTED.

PART A - Items to be considered with public participation

661 . BID ballot and voting

Councillor Alan Baldock, the Leader, introduced the report that set out the proposal for a third term Business Improvement District (BID) for Canterbury city, and the decisions required from Canterbury City Council to support and enable the BID to progress to a ballot

The Cabinet discussed the report and clarification was provided where needed by the Service Director for Place.

The following points were made:

- Clear that Canterbury was a better place with the BID than without, as a local authority we cannot accomplish all the BID does and many residents and visitors feel the benefit.
- Value BID for help and advice and they provide a very good read of local business.
- BID stepped in to continue the Christmas lights in Canterbury.
- BID provides not only a business purpose but also a democratic purpose.

- A query was raised regarding Board membership and the importance that this is diverse and represents many demographics.

It was proposed, seconded and when put to a vote RESOLVED:

1. As the local authority:

a: to receive the draft Business Improvement District proposal as detailed in the report;

b: delegate to the Director of Strategy and Improvement to approve the final version which will form the basis for the notification of the BID ballot submitted to the Secretary of State;

c: authorise the Returning Officer to conduct the BID ballot in 2024.

2. As a Non-Domestic Rates levy payer, delegate to the Director of Strategy and Improvement to cast the council's vote as 'Yes' in the forthcoming ballot.

Record of the vote:

For (9): Councillors Alan Baldock, Charlotte Cornell, Chris Cornell, Mel Dawkins, Michael Dixey, Pip Hazelton, Connie Nolan, Alex Ricketts and Mike Sole.

Against (0)

Abstained (0)

Reason for the decision: The advantages for the city and its economy have been proven during the first two BID terms. By supporting the proposal to ballot the council would allow levy payers to determine whether the third BID term will go ahead through a democratic process.

662. Canterbury Environment Company Service Delivery Plan for 2024/25

Councillor Charlotte Cornell the Cabinet Member for heritage, open space, waste and recycling introduced the report that outlined the Service Delivery Plan submitted by Canenco for 2024/25 for Cabinet to consider adopting.

The Cabinet discussed the report and clarification was provided where needed by the Director of Corporate Services.

The following points were made:

- The plan reflects an organisation that was moving forward
- It was suggested that Canenco should draw up a five year strategic plan to cover additional areas such as how to switch to electric vehicles and charging points.
- It was confirmed that the corporate plan was being finalised and once this is complete a longer term plan for some of the strategic points mentioned would be looked at.
- It was positive that the ground maintenance side of the business was receiving greater coverage and examining improvements that can be made.

It was proposed, seconded and when put to a vote RESOLVED:

That the Service Delivery Plan for Waste Collection & Street Cleansing and Grounds Maintenance & Associated Works for 2024/25 be approved.

Record of the vote:

For (9): Councillors Alan Baldock, Charlotte Cornell, Chris Cornell, Mel Dawkins, Michael Dixey, Pip Hazelton, Connie Nolan, Alex Ricketts and Mike Sole.

Against (0)

Abstained (0)

Reason for the decision: The Service Delivery Plan for 2024/25 meets the contractual requirements and ensures the Council's statutory obligations particularly on household waste collections and burial services are met.

663: Treasury Management Strategy, Investment Strategy and Capital Strategy for 2024/25

Councillor Mike Sole the Cabinet Member for Finance introduced the report that advised the council on the Strategies to be adopted for Treasury Management, Capital and Investments for 2024/25 including approval of the Prudential Borrowing Limits for 2024/25 – 2026/27 and the policy on Minimum Revenue Provision.

The Cabinet discussed the report and clarification was provided where needed by the Service Director for Finance.

It was proposed, seconded and when put to a vote **RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL:**

a) that the attached Treasury Management Strategy including the Minimum Revenue Provision policy for 2024/25 be approved.

b) that the attached Capital Strategy for 2024/25 be approved.

c) that the attached Investment strategy for 2024/25 be approved.

Record of the vote:

For (9): Councillors Alan Baldock, Charlotte Cornell, Chris Cornell, Mel Dawkins, Michael Dixey, Pip Hazelton, Connie Nolan, Alex Ricketts and Mike Sole.

Against (0)

Abstained (0)

PART B - Items for consideration with no public participation

These items have already been considered at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee with public participation. Therefore, there is no further public participation for the items listed in Part A of the agenda

664. Long Rock Management Plan

Councillor Charlotte Cornell the Cabinet Member for heritage, open space, waste and recycling introduced the report that outlined the Long Rock Management Plan for Cabinet to consider adopting.

The Cabinet discussed the report and clarification was provided where needed by the Senior Environment Manager.

The following points were made:

- Thanks was given for an excellent detailed report and support was given for the recommendations to protect the nature in the area.
- New signage had been successful and lots of support for it.
- In such a mixed use site we need to carefully consider public rights of way and these can be marked clearly, but how do we carry and collect surveillance up to 2026 to make an informed decision?
- A process has been started to gather evidence for KCC, working alongside a company who monitors mobiles phones to look at a heat map of movement in the area and will look at that data to see a reduction in footfall and dwell time in some of the sensitive areas. While we cannot wholly rely on this we can also rely on the duty of Environment Act and necessity to protect the area.
- The Cabinet Member and officer will monitor the information and ensure it comes back to Cabinet in a timely manner
- There was an opportunity to further publicise the plan once agreed.

It was proposed, seconded and when put to a vote RESOLVED:

That Cabinet adopt the Long Rock Management Plan.

Record of the vote:

For (9): Councillors Alan Baldock, Charlotte Cornell, Chris Cornell, Mel Dawkins, Michael Dixey, Pip Hazelton, Connie Nolan, Alex Ricketts and Mike Sole.

Against (0)

Abstained (0)

Reason for the decision: The Plan demonstrates the Council's duty to have regard to the protection and enhancement of the Site of Special Scientific Interest. This option is also consistent and sympathetic to the Council's declaration of a biodiversity emergency.

665. Proposed Dog Control Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) 2024

Councillor Connie Nolan the Cabinet Member for community, culture, safety and engagement introduced the report that included the results of the public consultation on the PSPO and outlined the requirements proposed to be included in the PSPO. It seeks the view of Cabinet on the proposals as part of the formal decision making process.

The Cabinet discussed the report and clarification was provided where needed by the Service Director for Place.

The following points were made:

- It was clarified that a request from Barham had been made to change to a complete dog ban on the green to dogs on the lead. The request came in very late and so did not form part of the consultation responses. Therefore the action could not be implemented as part of this process as it would need to go

back out to consultation, officers confirmed at Overview & Scrutiny that they would process this PSPO as it is and then carry out a fresh consultation on the area that Barham raised as a potential variation.

- An additional request had been received from Barham to a Cabinet Member for a dog ban on the football field, clarification would be sought from Barham and then a fresh consultation would go out.
- There were other areas other than Long Rock where dogs are restricted such as on Tankerton slopes
- There has been an improvement of signage at Tankerton and Herne Bay pier including additional maps.
- A dog ban in parts of Long Rock was necessary to protect the area
- Not passing the PSPO risks the commitment to biodiversity and ecology in the area
- The PSPO is being utilised in the smallest area possible to protect it

TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL

1. The adoption of a new Dog Control PSPO 2024 as set out in Appendix D which includes requirements relating to :

- Dog fouling
- Dog on lead of no more than two metres as per locations listed in Schedule 1 of Appendix D
- Direction given to place dog on lead
- Dog exclusion as per locations listed in Schedule 2 of Appendix D

2. To include the new site of Bridge Recreation Ground as a dog exclusion area (as set out in Schedule 2 of Appendix D)

3. To attach site maps to locations listed in Section 2 of this report, to ensure boundaries and areas that restrictions apply are clear.

4. To NOT include in the new order:

4.1 Dog lead restrictions at the following sites:

- a. Paths of the Riverside Walk
- b. The public footpath within Whitstable Cemetery Whitstable

4.2 Dog exclusion at the following sites:

- Play area The Maltings, Enclosed, Littlebourne
- Play area Black Griffin Lane, Canterbury
- Sturry Road Community Park Garden Area, Northgate

4.3 The requirement of a person in charge of a dog on land to which the order applies, to produce (if asked to do so by an officer) a suitable means to pick up, remove and appropriately dispose of dog faeces

Record of the vote:

For (9): Councillors Alan Baldock, Charlotte Cornell, Chris Cornell, Mel Dawkins, Michael Dixey, Pip Hazelton, Connie Nolan, Alex Ricketts and Mike Sole.

Against (0)

Abstained (0)

666. Date of next meeting

7pm, Monday, 22 April 2024

667. Any other urgent business to be dealt with in public

There was no business under this item.

668. Exclusion of the press and public

669. Any other urgent business which falls under the exempt provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 or the Freedom of Information Act 2000 or both

There was no business under this item.

Meeting closed at 20.48