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**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, 22nd April, 2024  
at 7.00 pm in The Guildhall, St Peter's Place, Westgate, Canterbury**

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

**In attendance** Councillor David Thomas (Observer)

**Officers:** Vanessa - Senior Democratic Services Manager  
Montgomery  
Tricia Marshall - Director of Corporate Services  
Suzi Wakeham - Director of People and Place  
Jan Guyler - Head of Legal & Monitoring Officer  
Nicci Mills - Service Director of Finance and  
Procurement  
Rebecca Booth - Senior Environment Officer

**697 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence.

**698 DECLARATION OF ANY INTERESTS**

Councillor Sole made a voluntary announcement he was Chair of the Womenswold Parish Council regarding item 10.

699 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councillor Dixey made an announcement that St Peter's Primary school had been looking at adopting the school street scheme which looks at limiting traffic for 40 minutes and is administered by KCC. Various officers, KCC and CCC members were present at a meeting to discuss the proposal and there was a lot of support for the programme. As a result, he asked Cabinet to consider adopting proposals into transport plan and it had been agreed it will be added to the draft Transport Strategy.

700 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There was one public speaker heard under items 8.

701 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a true record.

702 **REFERENCES FROM COMMITTEES**

There were no references from committees.

703 **ACCOUNTS TO WRITE OFF 2024**

The Cabinet Member for Finance introduced the report that details those debts to be written off as irrecoverable for the year 2023/24.

The Cabinet noted the report.

704 **RIGHT TO GROW MOTION**

(A public speaker Julia Kirby Smith was heard at the commencement of the item)

The Cabinet Member for heritage, open space, waste and recycling introduced the report in response to the motion on The Right to Grow considered by Council on 19 October. Officers have developed a recommended approach to the motion, which focuses on a proposed three year pilot of a Right to Grow scheme to allow the council to explore the implications of delivering the scheme before committing any additional resource to its implementation and this report detailed that.

The following options were considered:

Option 1: To finalise, implement and evaluate a three year pilot Right to Grow scheme across the Canterbury district.

Option 2: To restrict the pilot Right to Grow scheme to 12 months prior to its evaluation.

Option 3: Not to approve the Right to Grow pilot.

The following points were made, and the Cabinet Member and the Environment Senior Officer gave clarification where necessary:

- Amends need to be made to the scheme as Hales Place community group no longer wish to participate, so alternative sites in the Canterbury area were being sought with two or three groups interested.

- There was an option for a one year pilot scheme but it was felt there would not be enough time for sapling etc to mature, however three years would take this Cabinet to the end of the term, so a two or two and half year scheme was suggested.
- If additional sites come forward it there could be potential to include to get a true result from the pilot scheme
- The need for publicity was raised to enable us to hear from as many interested groups as possible at the appropriate time
- Potential for more experienced groups to mentor groups new to growing fruits and vegetable and the sharing of expertise is important.
- Query over the charge for a plot which was included in the report, it was clarified this was legal and property time for drawing up the contracts which are a cost to the council, there was general feeling that the charge should be held off for the purposes of the pilot scheme but it would be reviewed at a later date
- Enforcement on any existing guerilla gardening activities on council sites would be carried out on a case by case basis.

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

To deliver and monitor an initial two-year pilot 'Right to Grow' scheme across the Canterbury district in a limited number of locations and to delegate to the Service Director of Place the ability to make minor changes to pilot scheme in consultation with the portfolio holder.

Record of the vote:

For (9): Baldock, Chris Cornell, Charlotte Cornell, Dawkins, Dixey, Hazelton, Nolan, Ricketts and Sole

Against: None

Abstained: None

Reason for decision: The establishment of a pilot scheme enables both the council and the community to trial an agreed approach to test demand for right to grow, to establish the nature and extent of resources required to ensure the sites are managed well and in a safe manner, and to test how sustainable the approach is going forward. Having a discrete trial sites across the district demonstrates a positive but manageable response to the Right to Grow motion. A two year period would give enough time to establish results.

## 705 **STRATEGIC GRANTS: PRIORITY SETTING**

The Cabinet Member for community, culture, safety and engagement introduced the report that outlined the performance of the 2023/24 Strategic Grant process. Recommendations were be based on performance, local data and the Strategic Grants Panel which outlined the priorities and timelines for the grant programme going forward for the 2024/25 Strategic grants.

There were three options for Cabinet to consider:

Option 1 To accept and continue to run the Strategic Grants programme in the current form with the recommended priorities set by the Strategic Grant Panel.  
Option 2 To continue to run the current Strategic Grants Programme with amended priorities.

Option 3 To make changes to the Strategic Grant Programme and priorities

Thanks was given to the officers and panel for their hard work.

It was proposed seconded and when put to vote RESOLVED:

To continue to run the Strategic Grants Programme in the current form and agree the priorities and timetable put forward by the Strategic Grant Panel.

Record of the vote:

For (9): Baldock, Chris Cornell, Charlotte Cornell, Dawkins, Dixey, Hazelton, Nolan, Ricketts and Sole

Against: None

Abstained: None

Reason for decision: This option has been through the Strategic Grant Panel and will enable officers to go live with the grant process on the 26 April enabling organisations to apply and receive funding by mid-June.

## 706 **PARISH CHARTER**

The Cabinet Member for Tourism, Movement and Rural Development introduced the report that seeks approval for the adoption of the Charter on behalf of the council.

There were three options for Cabinet to consider:

Option 1 - To adopt the charter (recommended).

Option 2 - To adopt the charter with amendments - this would require further consultation with the parish council representatives as all of the commitments set out in the document have been mutually agreed by both parties.

Option 3 - To reject the charter

The Cabinet discussed the report and the following points were made:

- Relationships between parish councils and district councils can be fraught but this document is very welcome and communication is key.
- Credit was given to Alan Atkinson for his work on the document

It was proposed, seconded and when put to vote RESOLVED

That the revised Canterbury District Parish Charter be adopted and to delegate to the Head of Paid Service the ability to make minor changes in consultation with the portfolio holder and parish council representatives.

Record of the vote:

For (9): Baldock, Chris Cornell, Charlotte Cornell, Dawkins, Dixey, Hazelton, Nolan, Ricketts and Sole

Against: None

Abstained: None

Reason for decision: The council has worked with representatives of the Canterbury Association of the Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC) on revisions to the Parish Charter. This is in line with the charter commitment to review the document in the first year of each new political administration. This charter is a document that describes how the council and parish councils will work together in a way that is practical, measurable and promotes positive working relationships between the parties.

## 707 **BRIDGE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN ADOPTION**

The Leader introduced the report that following the referendum held on 28 March 2024 proposes that the council now adopt, or “make” the Bridge Neighbourhood Plan in line with legal requirements.

- The Cabinet discussed the report and the following points were made:
- This was the first neighbourhood plan for this district and Bridge Parish Council was commended for their work along.
- Other parish councils may be able to learn from the process and it was a positive step for Bridge and excellent plan which it is hoped may encourage further parishes to embark on the process

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

That the council make the Bridge Neighbourhood Plan (2022-2037) in line with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.

Record of the vote:

For (9): Baldock, Chris Cornell, Charlotte Cornell, Dawkins, Dixey, Hazelton, Nolan, Ricketts and Sole

Against: None

Abstained: None

Reason for decision: Following the referendum result, the council is required to make the Neighbourhood Plan and must do so within eight weeks of the referendum result.

708 **RECOMMENDATION FROM AUDIT COMMITTEE FOR AN EXTERNAL INVESTIGATION INTO**

The Cabinet Member for Finance introduced the report that asked Cabinet to consider the recommendation from the Audit Committee that reviewed the processes and procedures around the inclusion of the Milton Manor site in the previous draft local plan.

There were two options for the Cabinet to discuss to either agree to an external investigation of the conduct of three former councillors or reject the recommendation.

The following points were made and the Cabinet Member gave clarification where necessary:

- Reputation of the councillors and this council was very important
- Work that has been undertaken so far was likely to be representative of the same outcome if an investigation was undertaken
- We would not have ability to call the former councillors to give evidence

It was proposed, seconded and when out to vote **RESOLVED:**

Not to conduct an external investigation into the conduct of three former councillors in relation to their Disclosable Pecuniary Interests/Other Significant Interests.

Record of the vote:

For (7): Baldock, Chris Cornell, Charlotte Cornell, Dawkins, Hazelton, Nolan and Sole

Against: None

Abstained (2): Councillors Dixey and Ricketts

Reason for decision: Undertaking any further investigation would not be a beneficial use of Council resources.

709 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

7pm, Monday, 10 June 2024

710 **ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS TO BE DEALT WITH IN PUBLIC**

There was none

711 **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Not required

712 **RECOMMENDATION FROM AUDIT COMMITTEE FOR AN EXTERNAL INVESTIGATION INTO - ANNEX EXEMPT FROM PUBLICATION**

The annex was noted.

713 **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 none.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.30 pm